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An Incident.

War is a terrible business, as our Canadian boys in South Africa have only too surely learned, but even war has its humorous incidents, and a story told by a correspondent of the Montreal Witness with the first Canadian contingent, affords a case in point, though the humor of the incident, it must be admitted, is a trifle grim. It was at the town called Springs, which was being held by a British force of which the Canadians formed a part. One foggy morning a mounted patrol of twelve men was sent out before daylight in one direction, and, shortly after, another party of four was despatched in another direction. Owing to the fog they moved out of their proper direction, one inclining to the right and the other to the left, and as daylight broke and the fog partly lifted, they came in sight of each other about half a mile apart. After eyeing each other a few moments they exchanged a few shots, and then the larger party made a dash for the smaller one, who promptly put spurs to their horses and headed for the town. About a mile out an outpost of four men of the R. C. R. were stationed on top of a huge pile of coal 60 feet or so high. They watched the chase coming in their direction, anxious to help their friends, but owing to all wearing black great coats, could not decide which of the two parties was friend and which was enemy. The fleeing four, as they rode past, called upon the Canadians to fire on their pursuers. This seemed to settle the question and the R. C. R. on the coal heap promptly fired on the pursuing twelve, causing them to rein up and take shelter behind a rise of ground. A few minutes later the sergeant in charge rode out, waving a white handkerchief, and under protection of this advanced to the foot of the dump, and in a terrible voice, embellished with much profanity, demanded what they were firing on his party for. 'Why,' replied one of our fellows, 'we thought you were Boers.' 'Boers!' replied the irate sergeant, 'couldn't you tell us by our helmets?' 'Where are these four Boers we were chasing gone?' 'Boers!' retorted the Canadian, 'those were four men of your own squadron, couldn't you tell them by their helmets?' The laugh was fairly on the sergeant, and he acknowledged it by joining heartily in the hilarity which followed.

Goldwin Smith. Professor Goldwin Smith of Toronto reached the seventy-seventh anniversary of his birth on Monday of last week. Alluding to the fact the Toronto Globe says: 'For the moment he is suffering from a fractured arm, but his general physical health is good, and we have very conclusive evidence that his intellect retains all its early vigor. It has been his fortune for many and many a time to speak in the teeth of a dominant sentiment of this country, and his later political labors have borne no considerable fruit. But with the stern courage of that English school to which he belongs he has gone on his way, and refused to surrender to any hostile outcry or to compromise with his views for popular applause. Mistaken as we may think he has been on some questions, we can afford to respect his courage and pay reverence to his learning. He has the world's homage as one of the great masters of the English tongue, and his American and British histories will be his enduring monuments. We can afford to look beyond the great controversial questions on which he has boldly fronted popular opinion, and remember his unostentatious charities, his gracious hospitalities, his keen concern for the higher municipal and educational interests of the community, and congratulate him on his birthday, and wish for him still length of days and vigor of body and youthfulness of mind.'

Colonel Ryerson. Surgeon Lieut. Colonel Ryerson, Canadian and Red Cross Commissioner in South Africa, has recently returned to Canada and naturally has much to tell that is of interest concerning the war, and

especially respecting the hospital work with which he was so actively connected. Dr. Ryerson does not confirm Mr. Burdett-Coutts' statements as to the utter and criminal lack of adequate means of caring for the sick and wounded soldiers. On the contrary Dr. Ryerson pronounces those statements utterly unwarranted. At Bloemfontein Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Colonel Ryerson says, made no complaints to him, but seemed perfectly satisfied with the arrangements, and he preferred not to make his charges until he was 7,000 or 8,000 miles away from the officials who could be injured by them. Colonel Ryerson considers that, under the inevitable circumstances connected with war and the difficulties of transportation, the care given the wounded and sick was admirable. No one was neglected and he heard no complaints. It was his special work to look after the Canadian sick and wounded, the resources at his command were liberal and he saw to it that the Canadians were well cared for and wanted for nothing. But Col. Ryerson admits that they had a terrible time at Bloemfontein, two thousand soldiers dying there in six weeks of wounds, dysentery and enteric fever, and among them eighteen Canadians. He speaks in terms of the highest praise of the Canadian nurses, nor does his experience bear out the charges made by some newspaper correspondents against certain English ladies who went to South Africa to assist in the nursing, that they were guilty of heartlessness and frivolous conduct. There was no "plague of women." Many of the ladies of the finest families in England were in the hospitals and were of the greatest assistance. Lady Roberts and her daughters while in Bloemfontein, established in their own house a hospital of 36 beds, and the furnishings were supplied by Dr. Ryerson from the stores of the Canadian society. "It is an open secret," Col. Ryerson says, "that at first the majority of British army officers had a very hearty contempt for all colonials, but now it is pretty generally recognized that, without the Canadians and their fellow colonials—numbering all told some 29,000 men—the British arms would have had a pretty hard time. The brilliant and effective work performed by the irregulars, both in scouting and in the line of battle, caused a great re-orientation in the minds of both officers and men, and now a colonial has most anything he wants." "It is universally admitted that positively the best scouting of the war has been done by the Canadians and the New Zealanders, and we Canadians have no reason to be ashamed of our representatives."

The Peking Legations Relieved.

The news which reached this country on Friday last, and was confirmed by official despatches published on Saturday, of the rescue of the foreign legations at Peking on the 15th inst., was such as might well cause the world to heave a sigh of relief, for though the Chinese Government was professing friendliness and was evidently manifesting it in so far as to prevent bombardment of the legations and permitting some supplies of food to reach them, yet the fact that the legations were still subject to rifle fire and night attacks, showed that there were dangers to the foreign residents at Peking which the Chinese authorities either could not or would not control, and the uncertainty as to what might result when the Chinese troops defeated by the allied forces at Yang Tsun should reach the capital, caused the gravest apprehensions as to the fate of the legations. It is therefore most gratifying to be assured that the wrath of the fanatical anti-foreign element has been so far restrained as to permit the rescue of the foreign residents at Peking from the terrible suspense and peril which for so many weeks they had endured. At present writing details are not at hand. It is known that the allied forces occupied Ho Si Wu about 35 miles from Peking, on the 9th inst. Between that point and Tung Chau little or no opposition appears to have been met. This point which is the river port of Peking, and some ten or twelve miles distant from it, was reached on the 12th. Three days later Peking was entered and the

relief of the legations was effected. . . . It appears from later despatches that the allied forces encountered vigorous opposition from the Chinese at the gates of Peking, but the city was entered after a day's fighting and the legations were found in safety. The Japanese blew up the Chiao Yang gate and the Tung Chih gate of the Tartar city, while the British and Americans forced an entrance by the Tung Pien gate. The Japanese report a loss of over a hundred and the American general reports eight wounded. The losses of the other foreign forces are not reported. The Chinese loss is computed at 400. From Japanese sources it is reported that the Empress Dowager is still in Peking, having been prevented from leaving by some one—apparently a Chinese general—though his name is in doubt, but the statement is entirely discredited by the Chinese Minister at Washington, who claims to have information that both the Emperor and the Empress Dowager had left Peking before the arrival there of the foreign forces. The Japanese also report that fighting between the foreign and Chinese troops continues in Peking and that part of the city is on fire. . . . It is reported that the British have landed 1,700 Indian troops at Shanghai, a movement which is regarded with extreme jealousy by France, Russia and Germany. . . . What course will now be pursued for the settlement of the difficulties between China and the foreign Powers is uncertain. A Hong Kong despatch to a London paper states that the Mandarins in the southern provinces of China have issued a proclamation, recognizing the capture of Peking as a just punishment of the officials and warning the people not to interfere with foreigners, but also pointing out that the sole object of the Powers should be the punishment of the Boxers, and then the restoration of peace, confining their operations to the north.

The Acadian Convention.

A noteworthy event of the past week was the Convention of the Acadian French at Arichat, C. B. The Acadians of the Maritime Provinces now number more than 100,000. Their increase in material prosperity and education as well as in numbers has been very considerable in recent years, and there is evident a growing disposition to assert themselves and push their claims to recognition more vigorously both in Church and State. In connection with the appointment of Roman Catholic Bishops recently in this Province, there were quite audible murmurings that the claims of the Acadians were not accorded due recognition, and there appears to be an increasing demand that in the Legislatures and the Executive of the country the Acadians shall be represented by men of their own race. At the Convention in Arichat, according to trustworthy reports, there were present from different parts of the Maritime Provinces and from outside sources, a delegation about 600 strong, while the local contribution caused the numbers in attendance to run up into the thousands. A number of members of Parliament, including the Premier of Canada, were present to do honor to the occasion. Senator Poirier, as President of the Convention, presented an address to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who replied, speaking first in French and afterwards more briefly in English. The Premier recognized the fact that the gathering was entirely non-political in character. He was not present, he said, as a politician but as a member of the French race, to pay his tribute to the Acadian celebration. Referring to the sad history of the Acadians, he said that it was not the time to recall the past or to open old wounds, but rather to look toward the future. Their mission, as Acadians and as Canadians, should be the upbuilding of a united nation. We should bend our energies to make Canada one of the foremost nations of the earth. Nova Scotia, he said, was the banner Province of the Dominion, not in territory or in population, but in the absolute absence within its borders of racial prejudice. At a later session of the Convention the following resolution moved by Prof. LaNes, of Halifax, and seconded by Judge Landry of Dorchester, was adopted to be cabled to Queen Victoria: "That we, the French Acadians, assembled in general convention at Arichat, Cape Breton, protest our unflinching loyalty to the British crown, and as a token of our love for Her Majesty, offer her our condolence on the recent death of His Royal Highness the Prince of Saxe-Coburg."

In connection with the adoption of this resolution the Convention sang God save the Queen. Caraquet was selected as the meeting place of the next Convention.