

## CANADIAN OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION CORPS



THIS contingent, commanded by Lt.-Col. C. W. P. Ramsay, formerly Engineer of Construction for Eastern Lines of Canadian Pacific Railway, recently landed safely in England on the way to the front where they will be principally engaged in railway construction work. The corps consists of specially selected men from the ranks of the C. P. R. Hon. Lt.-Col. F. L. Wanklyn, who is also General Executive Assistant of the Canadian Pacific, is seen in the foreground, and to the right is the Commander-in-Chief of the Corps.

## WAR ATTITUDE IN SPAIN SEEMS TO CHANGE DAILY

Writer Says Country Pre-  
fers to Remain Neutral  
Although Sympathetic  
With Allies — Germany  
Makes a New Move.

(By a special correspondent of The  
Christian Science Monitor.)

Madrid, Spain—A thin stream of travellers engaged upon various missions, or upon no mission at all, beyond that of personal and private satisfaction, continually trickles round the western corner of Pyrenees from the north of Spain, and others by Barcelona in the east, and some up from the southern ports. They invariably express a certain relief when they come into the country, feeling that they are then immune from the rougher shocks of war, and may live tranquilly in an atmosphere of peace. In a certain sense it may very well be said that Spain is now the most comfortable country in Europe, and even Spain is by no means as comfortable as it was a year ago.

But those travellers who come into Spain soon begin to realize, as has been so often indicated in these columns, that that tranquillity of the country is by no means so complete as may appear upon the surface. It is not only that what is very well called the strain of neutrality is being severely felt, as nowhere else, except in the United States, but that, with the mobile qualities of faults of the Spaniards, the feeling and attitude of the country towards the war appear to change almost daily. When the Spaniards are blamed for flightiness in this way, they retort by asking how one can expect perfect constancy and settled convictions from them, when all Europe from day to day changes its views upon the prospects of the war, with which prospects Spain must inevitably be concerned. There are three absolutely fixed ideas governing Spanish association with the European problem. The first is that, so long as completely practicable and profitable, Spain much prefers to remain neutral and not to

do any fighting or show special sympathy with any of the belligerents, although in the main she is very well disposed to the cause of the Allies. The second is that, after all, she is ambitious, she realizes that from this European chaos there will emerge victors with great territorial and other aggrandisement, and in her present stage of development she yearns for advancement with them.

"The awakening of Spain" has been a reality I have urged for many years, and here there are circumstances which plunge the leaders of the country into a great state of uneasiness and restlessness. Is not this a tide to be taken at the flood? Such as Senor Lerroux, the bold Radical, is for taking it, and, however much he may be condemned for the danger of his words, there are thousands of good Spaniards who are at heart strong sympathizers with him. Mean while, pangs against him which have been started in different places are discouraged. Here in Madrid there has been a circulation of leaflets and the like in a semi-secret way against him, and this has been publicly denounced, even by those who are by no means of his way of thinking. So with the best patriots there is in these days a continual conflict between prudence and desire, and that must be understood by those who might otherwise be somewhat bewildered by what might appear to be continual changes in the Spanish attitude. The third factor in the situation, accounting often for sudden changes, is the strong pressure of economic circumstances, the shortage of work, the cost of food, the war difficulties with regard to exports and imports, and the serious money problems.

An echo of anxiety is heard beyond the statement recently made by the premier that if the treasury bonds in connection with the recent loan of 750,000,000 pesetas are not fully taken up by private financiers, the Bank of Spain will make up for any deficiency. This is well enough in its way, but looks as if these bonds, which were issued to cover the budget deficiency and other national needs, were not in that request which a prosperous state would like them to be. Then, though there is frequent information of Spanish military successes in Morocco, this business in north Africa does not please the country by any means as it used to do, and there is satisfaction with a statement just made that 10,000 men of the army in Morocco are about to be granted leave to come home to Spain. It does not matter why. "To what will this war in Morocco lead?" the Madrilenos ask. "We shall gain nothing that might not be given to us later with the help of some of the present European belligerents."

or taken away from us by them. This is not a time for an attempt to establish new rights independent of warring Europe. And, big as it may seem to us, this business in Morocco is a very little thing in comparison with what is going on to the north and east of us and elsewhere. In this vein of thought the Spaniards have little patience with the war in Morocco, and is almost ashamed of it. He begins to wonder, sometimes, what is the meaning of certain military activities that he sees about him that have clearly nothing to do with Morocco. The government always says that of course they mean nothing, but why, asks our Senor Madrilenos, is it considered to be such a matter of special satisfaction that the army is in line-order now, and why is General Echagüe, the minister for war, going about the country looking at things and strutting up all who have anything to do with arms? The other day he was down at Seville, inspecting the big gun foundry there, and declared he was very pleased with the activity and order that prevailed. At Seville they make Schneider guns, 75 m.m. Schneiders, the dimensions of France's famous "soixante-quinze."

Meantime Germany is clearly anxious about the tendencies in Spanish feeling. She has just made a new move which is perhaps hardly tactful. A notice has been published in the Madrid papers, signed by the German ambassador, stating that the ambassador is prepared to lay before the Spanish public information which will convincingly demonstrate the justice of the German cause. A special department has been organized in the embassy for the accommodation and satisfaction of those who are curious in this matter. There is an office there where the inquisitive may have all the necessary information and documents presented to their inspection. Spaniards are invited to call at the embassy, never, again to have any more doubts! seems simple.

Meanwhile the special commission which was appointed some time ago, to inquire into the alleged execution of Spaniards at Liege by German troops at the beginning of the war, report that they have collected documents and photographs which prove conclusively that five Spaniards were killed by the Germans when that city was occupied, and the German government has now explained the matter to the satisfaction of the Spanish government, undertaking to pay compensation. The amount, it is understood, will be over 200,000 pesetas. Apparently, one may mention, the Spanish legation in Brussels informs the government here that there are still received at the former, innumerable tokens of the Belgian regard for Spain, and the affection that the Belgians feel for the Spanish monarch. The Spanish flag, it is said, is displayed on many public buildings, and the greatest appreciation is shown for the work done by Spaniards in the way of assisting in the clothing of Belgian prisoners.

The question of imports and exports, prohibitions and permissions in regard thereto, is modified by real decrees and intimations from foreign governments almost daily, and it is no easy matter to say without an exhaustive examination of documents what one can get into Spain and what must not be sent out of it. One of the latest royal decrees published in the Gaceta prohibits the exportation of raw cotton, aluminum goods and skins. The Spanish ambassador in Paris telegraphs that the French government has agreed to the unhindered transit of sulphate of potash between Austria and Spain.

### MARRIED.

TOOLE-TITUS—In this city on Thursday, July 15, at the home of the bride, 126 Chesley street, by Rev. J. Charles B. Appell, Gertrude M. Titus to Walter T. Toole.

### DIED.

McFARLANE—At Sussex Corner, on the 15th inst., Myrtle Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McFarlane, leaving her parents, four sisters and two brothers. The funeral took place on Tuesday at 3 p. m. The remains were laid in the Kirk Hill cemetery, Sussex.

WETMORE—Suddenly, in the General Public Hospital, on July 14, Stanley Prescott Wetmore, second son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Wetmore, of Bloomfield Station, N. B. Funeral Friday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock from his father's residence, Bloomfield.

## THIS FROM GOETTINGEN, IN GERMANY

Story from Prison Camp  
Says Only 37 of a Canadian  
Regiment Survived,  
and These were Captured

Goettingen, Germany, July 1—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

—Late in February the Fifth Royals, one of the crack Canadian regiments, eleven hundred strong left Montreal, en route for England and the great European war. Less than four months later, after weeks in the trenches, at Ypres, only thirty-seven of these eleven hundred men were known to remain alive and they are prisoners in the great military camp here.

Overpowered by the gases wafted toward their positions, deserted by colored troops, supposed to come to their support, all but a handful of the dead German fire, the little band of four non-commissioned officers and thirty-three privates was easy prey.

Before they regained consciousness they were in captivity. The thirty-seven men of the Fifth Royals, though not all of us were prepared to believe all we had heard and read about them. The worst thing about being in a prison camp is the inactivity. The men of the Fifth Royals are not responsible.

"The food is fair, though as a matter of course monotonous. I for one haven't any complaint, though I manage to get a good many extra things from England to place out with. I imagine that the man who has not any friends and who does not get any extras does a certain amount of suffering."

"But mail, money and packages did not have to breathe the obnoxious fumes in their full strength."

Many of them have as yet not been able to establish communication with their families in far-off Canada, and are not sure whether mothers, wives and sisters know that they have escaped death.

Here is the little roll of survivors. Except where otherwise indicated the men are privates:

J. Trainor, C. M. S., A. F. Lee (corporal), A. Sullivan (dance corporal), C. S. Ogilvie (dance corporal), J. Anderson, Harry Anning, J. Beggs, F. J. Binoy, G. C. Bolan, S. Campbell, S. Cameron, W. Cowek, W. Cuth, J. H. Carr, G. Davidson, J. Dunn, L. Dewar, P. Duce, R. Evans, W. Grant, C. D. Goldsmith, H. F. Green, C. Holdway, H. Barker, W. Holden, C. Hare, M. Knight, S. Matheson, A. McGregor, G. McEldownie, J. O'Keefe, L. Patterson, J. Rankin, M. Snowden, A. Streford, H. Templeman, L. Wynn.

The men portray the fight at Ypres as one of indescribable horror; they chafe at the confinement and the lack of assurance that England is winning; they express in varying degrees surprise that the Germans are not the "barbarians" they had believed them to be.

Harry Anning, a Montreal boy, serves as well as any other member of the little group to describe their feelings as they now loaf about in captivity.

"There is not any question," he said, "but that we all have had to revise our opinion about the war. We thought not all of us were prepared to believe all we had heard and read about them. The worst thing about being in a prison camp is the inactivity. The men of the Fifth Royals are not responsible."

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came regularly and reasonably quick.

We all have to admire the thoroughness of the German system in vogue here. Those of us who are able to take matters philosophically appreciate that, though being prisoners of war is far from being a joke, we are well treated on the whole. Those who are the least unhappy are the ones who are able to sit back, confident that England is going to win and that this cannot last forever."

Another member of the Fifth Royals gave a brief glimpse into the relations among the allies. He said:

"Let me tell you that the French as fighters have proved a big disappointment to us. Whenever the two have been together—French and English and Canadians—it has been the latter two who have had to bear the brunt of the work."

"The Belgians on the other hand, have proved the finest little fighters in the world. If the French were anywhere near as good with their numbers, the war would be over."

"What do you people think of the colored troops?" the Canadian was asked, as two odd old soldiers, black as ebony, and speaking a horrible jargon of French, sauntered by the barracks.

"They're cowards."

"At Ypres they sent up a lot of those so-called soldiers to relieve us, and they promptly turned and ran. We had to shoot a lot of the beggars ourselves to prevent demoralization."

Aside from the Fifth Royals, the Canadian troops now imprisoned at Goettingen belong to the 48th Highlanders of Toronto, and the Second Buffs. There are 135 of the former left out of the original 1,700, and less than that number of Buffs.

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comprised the Thirteenth Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The Second Buffs are the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, which is affiliated with the Buffs, a British regiment. It made up the Third Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The 48th Highlanders of Toronto, composed the Fifteenth Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Officials in the Militia Department characterized the story as part of the pro-German propaganda and stated that the losses credited to the Fifth Royals by the Germans were not anywhere near the mark. The regiment suffered severely, but is still in its place in the firing line. One official said this was probably the sort of news the German people were given and branded as improbable the assertion that a Canadian soldier had spoken disparagingly of the valor of the French, the courage and brilliance of which has been highly praised by every returning officer and soldier.

After a twelve days' trip from Toronto in an auto Miss Ethel Martin, step-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Winchester of Waterloo street, and Miss Vera Camp of London, England, arrived in St. John on Wednesday evening. By the route traversed the distance covered was in the vicinity of 1,800 miles. There were several mishaps to the auto during the trip, but the ladies say they had a very enjoyable time, and were warmly received at farm houses and other places where they stayed. It is the intention of Miss Martin, who, by the way, is a trained nurse and anxious to help at the front, to make another tour at an early date. She proposes to start out from New York for the Panama Canal, thence to San Francisco and back via Salt Lake City.

There are so many attractions at the garden fête at Robinsay on July 21, besides the band, that we couldn't begin to tell you of them. Come and see, and bring your friends.

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