

A Visit to the Officers and "Boys"

of the First Newfoundland Regiment at Bustard Camp, Salisbury Plains.

Last week was the first opportunity I had of visiting our "boys" on Salisbury Plain, fortunately I received information a few days previous that they had moved from Pond Farm Camp to Bustard Camp, otherwise I should have gone by the G. W. Railway to Lavington, the station for Pond Farm and wasted time and temper. Salisbury is the nearest city to Bustard Camp, to which London cars make about 4 trips daily, distance 11 miles, fare 2s. 6d. each way. On my arrival at Salisbury last Friday, I proceeded to Amesbury, a market town about 6 miles from Bustard—presuming it would be more convenient, but alas! not. I had to be had for love or money, so had to return to Salisbury. While at Amesbury, while waiting the time waiting for the train, the Bustard Camp touring car drew up, landed a passenger and just as it started I saw Mr. Edwin Murray, just a passing glance, no time to speak, he remained at the Camp that night and left the next day before I arrived so did not see him again.

Returning to Salisbury I secured a room at the Red Lion Hotel. After I had dinner I strolled into the White Hart Hotel where to my surprise I met five of our officers. It was a pleasant surprise. Handshakes all round and a most enjoyable hour was spent, after which they led me to the Camp in a large and luxurious motor-ette, placed at the officers' disposal. I understood that Mr. F. Bowring, Al the wheel was one of our well known citizens and expert drivers, accompanied by Mr. R. B. R. and Mr. L. G. B., and here I may say an expert driver is necessary, as the roads are fearfully cut up by the heavy transports.

The following day (Saturday) I arrived at the Camp about one o'clock and before I was clear of the car I was hailed by Capt. A. with "have you had lunch." Replying in the negative I was escorted to the Officers' mess and made welcome. Having finished lunch I started for the Camp situated about 600 yards from the other side of the road. At the roadside our Regiment had a picket, the sentry spotted me, not with a bullet, but with the greeting: "No trucks to be had here, Mr. ———." From this remark you may surmise he handed me from the Custom House, into a motor-ette to the Camp. I was most heartily welcomed by the officers and personal friends as well as many others, and also introduced to Major Burton, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment. I spent a very pleasant afternoon, returning to Salisbury about 4.30.

The next day, favoured with fine weather, I arrived at the Camp about noon. The Carthaginian's mail had arrived, their letters and papers. Again I had the pleasure of accepting the Officers' hospitality to lunch after which I visited the Commissariat Department and had a chat with Lieut. M. F. S., the Quartermaster. I spent the afternoon with many of the "boys" all of whom I can assure you I was glad to see. Scattered here and there on the exposed parts of the Plain are small clumps of fir trees, the Plain itself being mainly grass land, except in the fertile localities where villages are situated. Just at the back of the Camp is one of those clumps of fir trees. If the "boys" had a good pond alongside they could have a stretch of imagination picture themselves camped by Quidi Vidi again. One of the drawbacks in Camp life is to get a bath where water is only available from a tap, still I saw, on Sunday morning some of the "boys" stripped to the waist having a good wash which is the nearest approach to it. They are still in tents, but wooden huts are being built as fast as possible on another part of the Plain into which they will move later. This is the rainy season consequently a little muddy. About a fortnight ago we had a sharp frost for a few days. This was the weather they preferred although under canvas.

Having so many friends to see, it was necessary I should visit them on Saturday and Sunday these being "off duty" days, but I would like to have seen them at drill, not being a full battalion, in many manoeuvres, they are associated with the Canadians. I have been in conversation with many of the latter at the hotel, and in every case, unsolicited, they have said our regiment were a fine "bunch" and may add in that they did not err in their khaki uniform they present a fine appearance, are in good spirits, perfectly happy and some of them remarked, if we do not get to the front after coming this far there will be disappointments. That is the spirit and when their opportunity comes to go, they need have no fear but that they will do their duty to their King and in honor to the Old Colony.

Information of a military character is not permitted by the authorities, but I do not think I am transgressing to say I heard that since their arrival on the Plain they have made such progress that their general bearing and efficiency have been noted at the War Office. Some of them had the privilege of going to London to represent the Contingent at the Lord Mayor's Show on the 9th November, and at the funeral of the late Lord Roberts. I have refrained from mentioning names, if I commenced I would not know where to stop. If possible I hope to pay them another visit later.

Large Audiences at the Crescent

Quite large audiences attended the Crescent Picture Palace at both the afternoon and evening shows yesterday, the nicely arranged programme delighted everybody and Mr. Farrell's song was loudly applauded. "The Tale of a Lonely Coast" is a beautiful sea drama, Margaritha Fisher and Bob Leonard play the principal roles supported by the Rex stars. "Harmony and Discord" is a western melo-drama with all the scenes laid in the wild western country, the photography of this drama is the best kind that the Frontier people always produce.

A travelogue film gives us a few minutes in historic Bremen, viewing the beauty spots of that great city. All the most interesting topical subjects are shown in a full reel of Universal Animated Weekly.

"In the Year 2014" is a lively Joker comedy, Max Asher and Joker Comedy Co. gives us a hint of what might happen.

J. O'Neill Farrell, Baritone, has a change of song to-day and the Crescent should have a large patronage this evening.

Have You an Itchy Spot?

Somewhere on your body? If so, attend to it at once. In Eczema—and itchy spots, whether dry and scurfy, or moist and inclined to "weep," are generally eczematous—delays are foolish, allowing the disease to spread and affect more of the good skin. Your best chance for a cure is to use Zylex, which will give almost instant relief, and if used in the earlier stages of the trouble will almost certainly bring a cure, and in any event will greatly ameliorate the trouble. Ask your druggist about it. Price 60c. a box. Zylex Soap, 25c. a cake.

Prospero Reached Scene of Wreck.

Regarding the sch. St. Elmo, which was wrecked off Tickle Cove, as referred to in yesterday's issue, the following message was received last night from Capt. Donmy to Mr. Job Roberts, owner of the craft: "St. Elmo abandoned 7 miles off Bonavista Cap. Crew landed at Tickle Cove. Prospero took me from her to-day."

HAS CEDED SAKHALIN ISLAND. Japanese Embassy Confirms Report of Russian Action.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Japanese Embassy to-day received official advices from Tokyo that Russia has ceded to Japan its half of the Island of Sakhalin for some heavy guns. The island was officially Russian until September 1905. The southern half was ceded to Japan by the terms of the treaty of Portsmouth.



"Take a good look at the above cut." If you are suffering from a Cough or Cold, don't make any difference how slight it is, go to Stafford's Drug Store and ask for a 25 cent bottle of Phoradone Cough Cure, take it according to the directions on the bottle and you will find it a good preparation. If you keep neglecting a slight cough or cold it will gradually develop into the "Cough" that you will not very easily get rid of. Thousands of people are dying every year from neglecting what they called a slight cough or cold.

Phoradone Cough Cure is prepared only by Dr. F. Stafford & Son, St. John's, Nfld. Price 25 cents. Postage 5 cts extra. Manufacturers of the "Three Specialties" STAFFORD'S LINIMENT, STAFFORD'S PRESCRIPTION 'A', STAFFORD'S PHORADONE COUGH CURE. No advance in the prices.

Big Winter Sale of Dry Goods!

Sale Now On

We are selling the following list of goods at greatly reduced prices to clear. It will pay you to have a look. All our stock of

- LADIES' FURS, LADIES and MISSES' COATS, FELT HATS,
- GOLF JERSEYS, COAT SWEATERS, WOOL CAPS,
- CHILD'S WOOL CAPS, SILK MOTOR SCARVES, DRESS GOODS.
- GENTS' and BOYS' OVERCOATS, WINTER CAPS, SWEATER COATS, SWEATERS,
- BOYS' JERSEY SUITS, SILK and WOOL MUFFLERS,
- MATS and RUGS, BLANKET CLOTHS, CARACULS, SEALETTES,
- GREY ASTRACHANS, WHITE COATINGS,
- BLOUSE FLANNELETTES, WADDED QUILTS,
- WHITE WOOL BLANKETS, \$3.25 for \$2.85 pair.

A few lines of Ladies' and Gent's RUBBERS and Boots to clear.

STEER Brothers.

Start Right This Year.

If you are a cigarette user buy the package with the Coupons in. You have over 200 Premiums to select from. Among these there is sure to be one or more articles you need; or that would be useful to you.

If you are a pipe user buy the plug with the valuable Premium Tags attached. For the pipe smoker's benefit we expect to offer several new Premiums during the present year, full particulars of which will be advertised in a few weeks' time. In the meantime we are still offering our Mayo's Clock for 850 Premium Tags.

Help to protect England's Oldest Colony by using local made Cigarettes and Tobacco.

Imperial Tobacco Co. Newfoundland Ltd.

Why Pay the Penalty

Of having your ears frost-bitten, when you can keep them warm, cosy and comfortable all this winter by getting a

DANDY WINTER CAP

For 70c., 75c., 85c., 90c., \$1.10, 1.20 and 1.40,

At A. & S. Rodger's

Advertise in the Evening Telegram

Safeguarding the Health of Fighting Men

AGAINST INSIDIOUS FOES. (By John Leyland in the London Chronicle.)

The "Eye Witness" whose pictures and narratives and descriptions are issued at uncertain intervals through the Press Bureau, recently gave a true and timely picture of the situation of our troops at the front. Snow had fallen in large soft flakes, which had melted and the conditions of the trenches became "wretched beyond description." Contending with half-frozen slush, the men had to sit or stand in a mixture of liquid mud. Nevertheless, so far, their health has continued good. Cold and damp are not the worst enemies of the soldier. But the terrible slaughter of the battlefield made it impossible to bury all the enemy's dead, and their trenches were in places filled with putrefying bodies, while countless others lay buried in shallow pits in the sodden soil. In Flanders the situation is static, with fluctuations in one direction and another, and large bodies of men live on soil which their sedentary presence has sometimes rendered unfit for occupation. Some trenches have had to be abandoned because the foul odour of putrefaction in their vicinity made them uninhabitable. The officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps and of the French and Belgian forces are exerting every effort to cope with the evil, and to safeguard the troops from the consequences of the evils to which they are exposed. The organization is fortunately highly efficient and far better than it was in the dark days of South Africa. Even in the most unfavorable circumstances much can be done to safeguard an army from the scourge of disease. When, for the first time, medical officers and hospitals were attached to the army in the Peninsular War—regiments taking care of their own sick, for transport was not provided—only 5,000 were sick on the eve of the battle of Vittoria, though during the previous ten months, 95,348 had passed through these hospitals.

TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS.

It is very necessary that nothing should be spared to secure the safety of the troops from the insidious foe, Parliament and the country must be very watchful on this point. Sanitary engineers can do much to secure proper drainage and to provide pure water supplies. Medical officers can make chemical and bacteriological examinations of water and suggest means for removing disease-producing organisms. We must not repeat the terrible experiences and failures of South Africa, when our losses, in proportion to the number of men engaged, were really frightful. We are raising armies of millions of men, and their normal condition of health must be maintained. They must not be sacrificed to disease. In the winter weather there must be protection, for comparatively few of the men are injured to hardship and exposure. Troops accustomed to live in barracks or cottages, sleeping in bad weather in the open, speedily become subject to disease. So great is the danger that during the fighting on the Lysine in 1871, von Werder marched his troops some miles daily from the battlefields, in order that they might sleep under cover. When a German division joined Napoleon at Wina in 1812, and bivouacked one night in the open, the snow covered 6,000 corpses before the dawn. It is therefore imperative that no delay should occur in providing the troops with hutments of movable character, which can accompany them as the campaign carries the army forward.

THE ILLVOIC DISEASE.

There has scarcely been a campaign of any duration during the last 200 years in which at least four men have not perished from disease for every one who has perished by the weapons of war. In six months of the Crimean campaign the Allies lost about 50,000 men from hardships and disease and only 2,000 who were killed by bullets. In the Russo-Turkish war 80,000 died from disease and 20,000 from wounds. In the American Civil War three men died of disease to each one from bullets, and in our South African War the situation was worse. During the American campaign in the Philippines, Porto Rico and Cuba there was about one death from war casualties to fourteen from disease, and at Porto Rico, where only three men were killed, no fewer than 262 perished from disease.

These campaigns are terrible warnings against any failure in the present war. It was reserved for the Japanese in the war with Russia to demonstrate that good discipline, medical science, engineering skill and inextinguishable care could reduce enormously the ravages of the fell enemy disease. They reversed the proportion exhibited by all other campaigns for during the whole campaign, 60,111 perished from battle casualties, while only 35,563 died from disease. This conquest of the silent foe was "The Real Triumph of Japan," which Dr. Louis J. Seaman,

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30 kegs Cluster Grapes
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Late Surgeon Major of the United States Army, very ably sets forth in a volume bearing that title, published in 1908 by Messrs. Appleton, in New York, which all who care for the welfare of our army on the Continent should read now. The Japanese attributed a large part of the infectious diseases from which their men suffered to the enforced occupation of camps and quarters vacated by the Russians. In this present war the Russians seem to have learned a lesson from Japan, for all accounts show that their military hospitals are a pattern of what such establishments should be.

A MANUAL OF HEALTH.

It is important that the soldier should play his part in maintaining the health of the army. He must realize that his body is a fighting machine, and just as important as, or more important than his rifle. Dr. Seaman tells us that the Japanese soldier bathed every night, and before going into action, in order to make himself medically clean, and thus to render wounds less dangerous. He had a manual which told him the character of infectious diseases, frost bite, sunstroke, and other injuries; how these were to be avoided, and what to do when they occurred; and gave instructions as to sanitation in the march and in the camp, and what articles of food and drink should be avoided. The British soldier is not without instructions on these matters, though discipline to give effect to precautions may not be carried quite so far as in the army of Japan.

Perhaps the greatest requirement of all is to provide pure water. In Manchuria the Japanese medical officers examined every well and source of supply, and by each was placed a placard telling the troops whether the water was pure for drinking purposes, could be boiled or filtered for that use, or was only fit for washing purposes. It is not necessary to tell our Army Medical Officers to examine the source of water supply, but it may be questioned whether the means are everywhere adequate. Some years ago a distinguished officer of the service proposed the creation of a special Royal Water Corps, which was to have the single duty of providing pure water, but the proposal remained without result. A suggestion has been made that ultra-violet rays might be used to purify water by some simple process, but this may prove impracticable or too costly. The great precaution is to boil water, but this cannot be done in the trenches without risk of disclosing the exact position of troops. There must be proper apparatus in the rear of the positions where men may fill their water-bottles. A system is required, but still more required is the discipline of knowledge and self-restraint. In the Russo-Japanese War, the Japanese often endured the pangs of thirst rather than drink water that had not been sterilized. It is to be hoped that our own troops will recognize the vital importance of this matter. The Army Medical Officers can be depended on to do the rest. Our hospital arrangements leave little to desire, and the introduction of the motor ambulance has placed new and beneficial means at the disposal of those who are responsible for the health of the army and the treatment of soldiers who are wounded in war.

Sick Captain

Landed at LaHave.

The sch. J. N. Rafuse reached port yesterday from New York with a cargo of anthracite coal to A. Harvey and Co. Shortly after leaving New York Capt. Parke took seriously ill on board and was landed at LaHave. Mate Haughton then took charge and brought the vessel to this port.

Ward's Lullamet Cases, Diphtheria.