

The Union Advocate

VOL. XLVIX

NEWCASTLE, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 1916

NO. 6

LETTERS FROM BOYS WITH THE FORCES

Several Northumberland Boys Write of Their Experiences Overseas

Following is part of a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Beckwith from their son Joseph, drummer in the 4th Platoon of a Co. 26th Battalion, B.E.F., somewhere in France or Flanders.

Bear Mother and Father. Just a short letter to let you know I got the parcel O. K. I am well and hope you are the same.

We have moving pictures here now and everything is bright when we are out of the trenches.

You want to shake some of the boys up and tell them to get over here to help us out, as I think the war will soon be over. The Germans are getting sick of it. They halloo at us and tell us to stop shooting, but there is no let up to the Canadians.

We had a good Christmas—lots of plum pudding and tobacco given us—we enjoyed ourselves.

Somewhere in France

Dec. 27, 1915

Dear Mother:—

Received yours and father's letters a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you once more. I am well and am having good luck so far. Well, there isn't very much to write about, only this last week we were holding the lines back. I was on guard most of the time and there was terrific bombardment mostly at night. I had a grand view of it all, hundreds of shots from both sides screaming over our heads and several burst within a hundred yards of our old brick house. Christmas Day passed off very quietly on the battle front, there was hardly a shot fired, only in the far-off lines, where we could hear the rumbling of guns continually all day. For a few days we had a little shelling but fortunately no casualties. The weather is pretty cool and lots of rain and plenty of mud. At present I am in an old mill knocked down farm house, my knee for a writing desk, still we are fairly comfortable. We have lots of clothes, socks and everything we want just now. Am getting all your letters and parcels. Do not send any more socks or mitts but send all the fudge you can. It goes good. This war is sure a terrible one and you may count on it running quite a spell yet. I will write in a few days again. Hope you got my letter and souvenirs. Now don't worry but write often to your loving son.

NEWTON

Sergeant Howard D. Bryenton, 55th Battalion, and Pte. Newton D. Bryenton, in France, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bryenton, of Bryenton, writes to their parents, as follows: Bramshot Camp, England.

Dec. 25, 1915

Dear Father:—

I intended writing you before this, but I kept putting off till the morning, so now I will try and tell you about my trip to London. I left camp on Tuesday afternoon and had a pass to go to Glasgow, but the fellow I was going with didn't get his pass so I started alone to London. When I got off at Waterloo Station I did some figuring on where to go. I got a cab and the first palce brought me up was Regent Street. I started from there and went around all the principal streets, Strand, Pall Mall, Piccadilly, crossed Waterloo Bridge, Trafalgar Square (Nelson's monument) and next day went to the Tower of London. I will send you views of what I saw there. I went through cells there that almost made me shiver. Next I went through a museum with all kinds of war weapons and guns, and plans of all the great battleships, also plans of all the great battles that have been fought in English history. Saw part of the mast of the "Victory" with a cannon ball in the centre, just as it was after the battle. Then I saw the carriage used by Wellington at Waterloo, also his uniform, sword, and medals, also Nelson's. All kinds of souvenirs of this war, from German helmets to big cannons, captured in Flanders. Yesterday I went through the museum where all the war figures of all the famous people in the world are. I think the nicest is Queen Victoria, and another is Edith Cavell, the English nurse murdered by the Germans. Then I went into the Chamber of Horrors, saw the execution of Lady Jane Grey with the execution block, and the executioner with the axe in his hands; saw some terrible looking criminals there. One in the electric chair, the

Lt.-Col. Percy A. Guthrie Speaks in Newcastle

The War Situation Vividly Described.—Strong Local Women's Committee Formed to Help Stimulate Recruiting. Stirring Addresses by Other Speakers.

Friday, Jan. 28th, was a red letter day for Newcastle, the occasion being the visit of Lt. Col. Percy A. Guthrie to the town on recruiting business.

Col. Guthrie was met at the station in the afternoon by Lt. Col. Geo. W. Mersereau of the 132nd, and C. Company of that Battalion, commanded by Capt. Barry, and headed by the Military Band, a large number of influential citizens accompanying them and escorting the gallant hero to his hotel.

Col. Guthrie made a short address to the soldiers, and citizens, warmly thanking them for their co-operation.

At 8 o'clock in the evening the Town Hall was filled and a number of intensely patriotic addresses were heard.

The chair was very acceptably occupied by Mr. Charles E. Fish.

Five young men of the 132nd supplied splendid music during the evening. They were Corporal Robt. Cassidy and Privates Geo. Landry, Jas. Chambers, Wm. McGrath and Kingston.

As soon as the meeting was called to order and the National Anthem sung, three rousing cheers and a tiger were given for Col. Guthrie.

C. E. Fish

The chairman said he was more than pleased to see such a large audience. It not only showed Newcastle's patriotism, but also its desire to honor one who had been in the trenches and now brought from them the call to come over and help.

Anything he (the chairman) might say about the big war would be a waste of time, for doubtless all so followed the papers and every other source of information as to keep perfectly well informed. But it was clear that, as a race, we had been lax. We had thought ourselves so secure that we had deemed impossible such a state of affairs as at present exists. But we are now up against it. Our institutions are threatened by a most barbarous and most scientific foe, who are out to deprive us of our liberties and make us slaves. If we should let them do it, he had much mistaken the spirit of our people. Here the chairman eulogized Col. Guthrie who had done his part to preserve our freedom. And Col. Mersereau

and his battalion would one day bring fame to the North Shore. He had the utmost confidence in him, and felt sure he would do his part in defending Canadian homes.

Hon. John P. Burchill

Hon. Mr. Burchill felt it a great honor to be present to shake hands with and welcome his old friend, Col. Guthrie. Newcastle did well to honor a man who had made such tremendous, social, financial and political sacrifices as had Col. Guthrie. If Newcastle had allowed such a man to pass through unheeded the very stones would have cried out in shame. He knew of the sacrifices Col. Guthrie had made, and he felt sure that when the time comes—God forbid that it may come—that Col. Mersereau and his battalion are needed at the front, they will give as good an account of themselves as any who had preceded them. He congratulated all men in uniform, and felt sure none of them would ever do anything to make their friends ashamed of them. The people here were just beginning to be aroused to the fact that the Empire was in danger. We had been plodding along in fancied security under British protection, and could not feel any danger. We believed the British army and navy unassailable. A gentleman from up river had, at the beginning of the war, assured him it would be all over in a few months. But now in a year and a half it seemed no nearer over than ever.

No man nor woman, continued Mr. Burchill, need any hesitation in taking a stand by Britain. The records even of Germany show that the war was forced upon Britain by other parties who broke their treaties. All Americans he had met were in favor of the Allies. One of them had told him that had Roosevelt been president he would have notified Germany at once that violation of Belgium would mean war with the United States and there'd have been no war.

He could see a silver lining in the war, however. It was cementing, as nothing else could have done so quickly, all the different parts of the Empire together as never before. All were, no matter what their previous differences, determined to conquer the common enemy. In our own country everyone seemed united. He was proud of the ladies of Northumberland and the ladies of Newcastle for the work they had done for the Red Cross, Soldiers' Comfort, etc. He was proud of the Northumberland County Council for their grant of \$30,000 to protect the widows and the children of those who had enlisted. The people would heartily endorse that grant.

Hon. D. Morrison

Hon. Mr. Morrison said he had come, not to speak, but to honor Col. Guthrie. The war was a serious matter. We are part of the Empire and must do our part. The Australians were, so far, ahead of us, but we were catching up. At the beginning of the war he had ventured to intimate to the Government that this country was willing that Canada should raise 100,000 men. He had been laughed at and severely criticized, but not only 100,000 but 250,000 had already been raised and 250,000 more promised. There was no doubt of Canada's loyalty. She sent men to South Africa who covered themselves with glory and made the redoubtable Cronje surrender. And now her sons were covering themselves with glory in Europe.

These wars had advertised Canada more than all political parties had been able to do. Col. Guthrie had thrown down a splendid practice and had gone to war. We followed him carefully, noted that when up against it he led his men—sent them nowhere he did not go himself.

What shall we do in Northumberland, asked Mr. Morrison. The people will back up the Council's patriotic grant. A little while ago we had met on the North Shore and decided to have a battalion of our own, selecting Col. Mersereau to lead, and there was no reason for regret. The Miramichi man had always been found taking his place.

Col. Guthrie—Yes, and sometimes other people's places, too.

Mr. Morrison—This is our fight as well as England's—to beat down the huge monstrous thing that is trying to subdue the world. We have been very proud of our flag since childhood. It means protection. We will raise a battalion to help and defend our rights. Every man in this country will rally round the grand old flag and help keep it flying.

Geo. Landry

Private Geo. Landry of the 132nd then gave an excellent reading from "The Habitant," reciting the strenuous deeds of the Canadian voyagers on the River Nile.

C. J. Morrissy

Ex-Mayor Morrissy, chairman of the Patriotic Fund, said he came only to hear Col. Guthrie. He was glad to be there to add his quota of praise to his friend the Colonel. When he had heard of Col. Guthrie resigning his commission as a Major to get a chance to reach the trenches quicker as a Lieutenant, he knew he would do something to make a name for himself. And all Canadians had made names for themselves. If he (Morrissy) were able to pass the medical examination he would be in the 132nd. If Germany should beat Britain she would beat Canada also—Newcastle—New Brunswick. He did not want to come under Germany, he wanted the British flag of freedom to continue waving over him. He was glad so many had turned out to meet Col. Guthrie—the bravest of the brave.

Lt. Col. Mersereau

Col. Mersereau said he liked the chairman's reference to "our" battalion. He was glad to know that Newcastle realized that this Battalion belonged to the people of the North Shore. In C Company he had some of the very finest young men that could be found in this or any other country. Goodness was natural to them. There were lots of good men on the Miramichi, and the 132nd got only the best after two or three sittings by the doctor. He and his officers and recruiting committees held meetings and asked the young men, "Do you not want to come and help us win this war?" Only the best came without urging. When a young man made up his mind to go to the defence of his country he be-

(Continued on page 4)

THE GRIM REAPER HAS BEEN BUSY

Many Homes Visited by the Angel of Death and Loved Ones Called Away

MARY BLACK

The death of little Mary Black, the fourth daughter of Odbur K. Black, the well known carriage manufacturer and undertaker, of Richibucto, occurred on the 24th ult., after a few days illness. Little Mary, who was six years of age, was an exceptionally bright girl, but had never been very robust. She was seized with a bad attack of grip and her strength was not sufficient to combat the disease. Deceased was a niece of Mrs. D. W. Stothart of Newcastle.

PRIVATE ORA W. POND

Private Ora W. Pond, of C Company 104th Battalion, died at the Victoria Hospital, Fredericton Saturday afternoon after a brief illness with pneumonia. The deceased was aged twenty three years. Service was held at 5 p.m. Monday by Rev. A. F. Newcombe, and the remains were taken to Ludlow, the home of the deceased, where interment was made yesterday. A military escort accompanied the remains.

MRS. JOSEPH KERR

The death of Mrs. Joseph Kerr, of Chatham, occurred at her home there on Thursday at the age of 38 years. She was formerly Miss Bessie Jardine, of Chatham. Deceased leaves her husband; two daughters—Margaret and Elizabeth—one stepson—Gordon, two sons—Walter and Alexander Jardine of Chatham; and one sister, Mrs. Bert Weldon, of Newcastle. The funeral was held Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. Mr. McLean of St. Andrew's church, conducting services, interment in Riverside Cemetery.

MARGARET BELL

The death of Margaret Lillian, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bell occurred Friday morning of bronchial pneumonia. Deceased was but one year and twenty-four days old, and was ill only a few days. Besides her parents, two brothers and one sister survive. The funeral was held on Saturday afternoon, interment at Derby.

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep. From which none ever wake to weep. A calm and undisturbed repose. Unbroken by the last of foes.

Asleep in Jesus! O how sweet To be for such a slumber meet! With holy confidence to sing That death hath lost its venom'd sting

(Continued on page 4)

ELIZABETH McCAFFERTY

The death of Elizabeth McCafferty occurred on Saturday, of complications following an attack of la grippe. The funeral was held on Monday morning, interment in St. Mary's Cemetery. Deceased was 85 years of age, and well known. She leaves a brother, Cornelius McCafferty of Newcastle, several half brothers and sisters, and a large circle of other relatives.

WM. DUNNETT

The death of Wm. Dunnett, a prominent citizen of Trout Brook, and a member of the Methodist Church and the Orange Order, occurred yesterday from pleuro-pneumonia. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1.30, under Orange auspices. Deceased was a member of Empire L. O. L. No. 125, Newcastle.

Deceased leaves two sons, Douglas at home, and Weldon, of C. Co., 132nd Battalion, and three daughters—Annie, Dorothy and Elizabeth, at home.

EDMUND MUTCH

The death of Mr. Edmund Mutch, a highly respected resident of Silliker, occurred at his home there early yesterday morning after a few days illness from pneumonia. The deceased's mother died about ten days ago. He was married and leaves a wife and several children, and the following brothers and sisters—Harvey of Bangor, Me.; Onia (Mrs. John White), Shilo, Me.; Charles, Samuel and David, of Silliker; Zilpha (Mrs. Fred Chambers) of Halcomb. The deceased's father also survives.

MRS. ALLAN DAVIDSON

The death of Mrs. Sarah Ann New man Davidson, nee Firth, wife of Allan Davidson of Upper Derby, occurred on Wednesday morning, at the great age of 84. She had been a great sufferer, being blind the last five years and confined to her bed for about two years. She was a respected member of Quarryville Presbyterian Church. Besides her husband she is survived by the following children:—Mrs. Jessie Schofield, of Blackville; Miss Jessie A., and Allan Jr., and Miss Edna, nurse, at home; Alexander, Upper Derby; and Gordon with the Miramichi Farm Implement Co., Newcastle. Deceased was a native of Upper Nelson. The funeral was held on Friday afternoon, Rev. Alex. Rennie conducting services at the house and grave, interment in the Ferguson Cemetery. The pall bearers were Messrs. Albert and David Bryenton, Benjamin and James Jardine and Wm. and Christopher O'Brien.

ELIJAH A. BELL

Mr. E. A. Bell, one of York Co.'s best known business men, died at his home in Fredericton, on Saturday. Deceased had undergone an operation for cancer, in Montreal, a few weeks ago. The late Mr. Bell was 65 years of age, and a son of the late Henry Bell, of Newfoundland. For a number of years he conducted a general store at Cross Creek, and retired from business about four years ago. Since going to Fredericton he had become connected with the contracting firm of McLaggan, McBean and Bell. He was a life-long Conservative and an energetic worker in his party's interests.

The late Mr. Bell is survived by a widow, three brothers, James and George, of Taymouth, and Charles, of Hood River, Oregon, and two sisters Mrs. Ludlow Young and Mrs. William Young of Taymouth. Mr. John A. Young, M.L.A., of Taymouth, is a brother in law of the deceased. The funeral took place on Sunday, services at the home and at the grave at Taymouth, by Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith.

Funeral of Mrs. Jessie Appleby

The funeral of the late Mrs. Jessie Appleby on Tuesday afternoon, 25th ult., was very largely attended. The services at the house and grave were conducted by Rev. A. Firth. The hymns sung were "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," and "Asleep in Jesus." The pall bearers were Wm. Shannon, Geo. Flett, Allan Flett, Alfred Bateman and Geo. Hubbard, and James Shannon.

Mrs. Appleby, having been always a kind and sympathetic neighbor, a frequenter of the house of the mourner and a ministering angel to those in trouble, will be very much missed.

Official Canadian War Films Coming

Will be at Opera House Matinee and Evening February Twelfth



CORP. WHITE, D. C. M.

who won his medal for heroism at the Battle of Ypres, where he rescued many wounded comrades under fire.

Northumberland County L. O. L.

Annual Meeting Yesterday—Roll of Honor Ordered for Members at the Front.

Northumberland County L. O. L. held its annual session here yesterday afternoon and evening, J. W. S. Babkirk, D. C. M., presided.

Delegates present were: Lodge No. 413, Loggieville—J. W. S. Babkirk, D. C. M.; A. L. Babkirk, P. C. M.; Jas. W. Johnston, P. C. M.; A. H. McKay, Wm. W. Hierlby and Arnold Wiseman.

No. 90, Chatham—F. A. Phillips, Douglastown, P. C. M.; A. T. Ross, P. C. M.; R. A. Walls, Co. R. S.; J. B. Bell, P. C. M.; Alex. C. Anderson, S. A. Frost, Chas. Cameron, H. G. McEwen.

No. 147, Chelmsford—Rev. Alex. Rennie, P. C. M.

No. 79, Redbank—Rev. J. F. McCurdy.

No. 142, Blissfield, Geo. Parker, Co. Lec.

No. 82, Douglastown—H. T. Atkinson, Co. Treas.; Willis McKenzie, No. 47, Newcastle—Hon. Donald Morrison, John Williamson, Wm. Corbett, Jr., and W. J. Sutherland, P. C. M.; Wm. McCullam, H. A. Taylor and Geo. T. Bethune, P. M.; H. H. Stuart, D. M.; D. C. Smallwood, Keith Anderson and Joseph Street.

The D. C. M. reported that during the year a District Lodge for the most westerly lodges—at Carroll's Crossing, Doaktown, Blissfield and Morehouse—had been organized, a new lodge (No. 166) at Coughlan,

and a new L. O. B. A., making three of the latter in the county, besides the 17 lodges. He referred most feelingly to the absence of County Master Major Cuthbert Donald and Co. Chaplain Private Stirling R. Wood at the front with many other members of the Order, of all of whom the Order was proud.

Addresses of welcome to the County Lodge was given, on behalf of the local members of the Order, by H. H. Stuart.

The report of the Correspondence Committee (Rev. Alex. Rennie and W. J. Sutherland) unanimously adopted, referred to many matters, among which were the following:

Sec. 1—Your Committee notes with approval the progress made by the organization in the western part of the County, of a District Lodge and trust that it will be for the advancement of our noble Order; further that this County Lodge is to be congratulated on the organization of a new Lodge at Coughlan, No. 166.

Sec. 2—Your Committee notes with deep satisfaction that two members of our Executive, namely, the W. Co. Master and Co. Chaplain have offered their services for King and Country, and the defence of Liberty, and we would recommend that this W. Co. Lodge secure a roll of honor, and that the names of the W. C. M. and

(Continued on page 5)