

Mentioned in Despatches

Sir Roger Casement, the Irish agitator, and pro-German advocate, has just been arrested in Berlin. Ever since the outbreak of war Casement has been most violent in his attacks on Great Britain, but as he made these from Berlin he thought himself safe from any kind of justice. The Germans apparently doubt his sincerity for they have arrested him and put him in gaol, where the British people generally wish he would remain for all time. Casement was born in 1864 and for a number of years acted as British Consul in various outlying portions of the Empire.

George W. Peck.—The author of "Peck's Bad Boy" is no more. George W. Peck, although twice Governor of Wisconsin, and a big man in politics in the United States, will always be known as the author of "Peck's Bad Boy." Peck was born in New York State in 1840, and as a young man served through the Civil War. At the end of the war he went to Wisconsin and entered journalism, editing a number of small papers in that state until he finally established Peck's Sun in Milwaukee, which became noted for its humorous sketches. Later Peck compiled these sketches to a series of books the best known of which was "Peck's Bad Boy." He was a former mayor of Milwaukee and was twice Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

The Hon. J. R. Stratton, whose death has just occurred at Hot Springs, was for many years one of the outstanding political men in the Province of Ontario. He was born at Mill Brook in 1857, but spent practically his entire life in Peterboro, where he was editor and publisher of the Peterboro Examiner, and also represented the city and county in the Ontario Legislature. He was first elected to the Legislature in 1886 and for several years held the position of Provincial Secretary. Some years after the defeat of the Ross Government he entered Federal politics, but was defeated in 1911 and retired from public life. Mr. Stratton was also connected with a number of financial and industrial corporations, but was best known through his political associations.

Sir Sam Hughes.—Canada's War Minister. Sir Sam Hughes, is probably the most talked of man in the country at the present time. Sir Sam has been very much in the limelight ever since the outbreak of hostilities as he is a warrior by nature and training. Sir Sam was born at Darlington, Ont., sixty-two years ago and was educated at the Toronto Normal School. As a young man he taught school where it is presumed he wielded the birch rod with telling effect. He then engaged in another kind of warfare from behind an editor's desk at Lindsay, keeping in the pink of condition by playing lacrosse and other outdoor games. The doughty warrior then took part in the Fenian Raid of 1870 and got an additional baptism of fire in the South African War. Sir Sam was first elected to the House of Commons in 1892 and has been "on the job" ever since, being made Minister of Militia and Defence by Sir Robert Borden in October, 1911. The Minister of Militia is an ardent Imperialist.

Lord Brassey.—Stories are now being told about the father of Lord Brassey, who himself came into the limelight owing to his decision to give up his yacht, "Sunbeam," and quit cruising around the world. The late Thomas Brassey, who started life as a navy or laborer, and died a multi-millionaire railroad contractor, furnishes one of the most romantic tales in the history of British industrial life. Old Tom Brassey, as he was known to everybody, was absolutely without side or affectation, despite the fact that he rose from the ranks and accumulated a vast fortune. He used to tell with a great deal of delight about how he first met his wife, then a barefoot girl selling matches in the streets of Liverpool. At that time he was a poor boy, sick, unable to find work, and on the verge of starvation, when his future wife, touched by his misery, bought him a meal with the few pennies she was able to save from her match selling. The acquaintanceship thus formed ripened into friendship and eventually into love, and Brassey afterwards married the little barefoot girl who had befriended him in his hour of need. The couple retained their simplicity to the end despite the fact that they were the possessors of millions.

John Hays Hammond, Jr., promises to be as famous in his way as his father, who is one of the world's best known mining men. Young Hammond is an inventor and has just sold to the United States Government an invention for the wireless control of torpedoes. This invention, it is said, will revolutionize submarine warfare and make a navy possessing this secret immune from attack. Hammond, junior, was born in California in 1888 and educated at Yale. The United States Government paid him \$750,000 for his radio torpedo.

Robert Gray.—A case of true heroism comes from the United States. A young American named Robert Gray has just made the supreme sacrifice, giving his life in a truly unselfish manner. The young soldier was on duty in the trenches when wounded men from the firing line were being carried through them to the field hospital in the rear. The trenches were so narrow that there was not room enough for the stretcher bearers to pass, and the officer in command called for volunteers to stand out and make room. Young Gray was the first man to volunteer, stepping out on a parapet only to be shot down. Previous to this he had made an enviable reputation for himself as a fearless, conscientious soldier.

Lieut. P. L. Browne, who was mentioned by the Official Eye-witness as a result of the work he performed at St. Eloi, comes of a fighting family. Young Browne, who is a native Montrealeur, although only twenty-one years of age, was an officer in a rural battalion before going overseas with the 22nd French Canadian Battalion. His father lives in Montreal and age alone prevents him from joining his son at the front. The family, however, is well represented. An uncle of the young man is in command of troops in Calcutta; another uncle is an officer somewhere at the front; a cousin was wounded a short time ago in France. The young man's grandfather was an army veteran.

The Hon. Josiah Wood, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, recently celebrated his seventy-third birthday. The Lieutenant-Governor was born at Sackville, N.B., on April 18th, 1843, and educated at Mount Allison University. He was called to the Bar in 1866, but shortly afterwards withdrew from the practice of law and joined his father's business, which included ship building, farming and stock-raising. He represented Westmorland for several years in Parliament, later occupying a place in the Dominion Senate, from which he resigned in 1912 to take his present position. He is a director of the Record Foundry Company and the Eastern Trust Company, and a member of the Board of Regents of Mount Allison University.

Mr. A. Bramley Moore.—The death of Mr. A. Bramley Moore, of the Princess Patricia's and a former member of the Alberta Legislature, calls fresh attention to the fine type of men going overseas. Mr. Moore was formerly member of the Provincial Legislature for Lloydminster, but did his most effective work as a member of the commission which investigated relief problems in the United States and Europe. He specialized on the subject of agricultural credits, was the author of several books and many pamphlets and was generally regarded as one of the keenest and most wide awake men in the West. The Alberta Legislature by a standing vote passed a resolution of condolence to his widow and children.

The Right Reverend William George Peel, Bishop of Mombasa, Africa, is dead. In itself this announcement may not be of very much interest, except to the individual in question and his friends, but to the world it marks the passing of a man who was courageous enough to defy the customs and practices of the Church of England. Some years ago the Bishop of Mombasa and other Church of England missionaries in East Africa committed the heinous offence of taking communion with Non-conformists. For this they were brought to trial on the charge of heresy, some of the more narrow-minded Church of England officials holding it to be a serious offence for a few Church of England missionaries away out in Africa to have any friendly relations with other missionaries. To the credit of the Anglican Church the Bishop of Mombasa was found not guilty. Bishop Peel was a son of a captain in the British Army and was born in India sixty-three years ago, and educated in London, but spent most of his life in mission fields in Africa.

Dr. Alfred Thompson, M.P. for the Yukon, has just been gazetted a lieutenant-colonel and has been assigned for duty to the Military Hospital Committee which has charge of all the soldiers' convalescent homes and hospitals in Canada. Dr. Thompson was born in Hants County, N.S., in 1869, and educated at Dalhousie. He went to the Klondike in the gold rush of 1899 and was elected to the House of Commons for Yukon in 1904 and again in 1911. He is regarded as an authority on the far North.

"Big Jim" McDermott, as he was known to the New York financial world, has just died. McDermott was the doorman for the Morgans, and visitors anxious to see the New York Croesus had to satisfy McDermott that they were all right before he let them pass. In the ten years in which he was with the Morgan firm he has shaken hands with practically all the wealthy men in the nation, never asked for a tip on the market, and so far as was known, was never offered one. He was in the New York financial district but never of it.

Mr. Alexander MacLaren, of Buckingham, Que., has been elected a director of the Bank of Ottawa, succeeding the late David MacLaren. The new director is vice-president of the James MacLaren Company, Ltd., and president of the North Pacific Lumber Company, of Barnham, B.C. Mr. MacLaren was educated at the School of Science, Toronto, and then entered his father's lumber firm, with which he has since remained. He is known all over the continent as a breeder of high class trotting horses and as a yachtsman.

Count Von Haesler, who is now said to have charge of the German operations before Verdun, is over eighty years of age. He was living in retirement, but when the Crown Prince found it too hard to get through at Verdun he looked around for help and chose the old veteran as the man best qualified to help him get through. This is Von Haesler's fourth great war. As a young man he fought in the war of 1864, then in the campaigns of 1866 and 1870. He is a typical Spartan, living an extremely simple life and refusing to touch alcohol or tobacco. Here's hoping he meets his Waterloo at Verdun!

Mr. H. B. Mackenzie, general manager of the Bank of British North America whose annual report has just been made public, succeeded to the general managership on the 1st of December, 1912, following the resignation of Mr. H. Stikeman. Mr. Mackenzie was born at Ingersoll, Ont., in 1867 and as a boy in his teens joined the Bank of Commerce. Three years later he transferred to the Bank of British North America, with which he has remained ever since, seeing service at London, Victoria, Winnipeg and Montreal. As his name indicates Mr. Mackenzie is of Scottish extraction and possesses all that nation's traditional leanings towards financial matters.

Mr. Henry Birks, who gave \$10,000 to the Overseas Army Work of the Young Men's Christian Association, is one of the outstanding philanthropists of the country as well as being one of the nations' great merchant princes. Mr. Birks was born in the city of Montreal over seventy-five years ago, and in the half century in which he has been in business for himself has built up the biggest jewellery business in Canada. Mr. Birks has never sought civic or political honors, but is ready with purse and by personal service to aid every worthy cause, national, civic, religious, educational or philanthropic. In Y. M. C. A. and church work he is probably the largest individual giver in the Dominion.

Marquis Garroni.—Many diplomatic heads are being lopped off as a result of the present war. The latest ambassador to be dismissed is Senator the Marquis Garroni, Italian Ambassador to Turkey. The cause of his disgrace is attributed to the fact that he knew all the intrigues of Germany and Austria and that he failed to notify his sovereign or his government of what was taking place. It now transpires that he was told by the German and Austrian ambassadors at Constantinople of the proposed note to Servia some eight days before it was actually forwarded. The only explanation the dismissed ambassador can give is that he was on terms of intimacy with the German and Austrian ambassadors and that as his country was at that time a member of the Triple Alliance he had no other thought than that his own country knew all about the proceedings and would act with Germany and Austria in the coercion of Servia. His dismissal was caused by Baron Sonnino, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs.