

# THE CANADIAN

# RED CROSS SPECIAL.

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## COTTAGES MAKE CONQUERORS.

### MODEST ORIGINS OF THE MEN WHO MATTER IN THE GREAT WAR.

The biggest war in the world's history is being run—on the side of the Allies—largely by people of obscure origin.

Sir William Robertson, for instance, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and the greatest strategic organiser that Britain has ever produced, was the son of a village shop-keeper.

He enlisted as a private in the 16th Lancers—"Alfonso's Own"—thirty years ago, when the Army was generally regarded by people in his walk of life as the last refuge for the destitute.

Lloyd George, again, was born of quite humble parentage, and got no more education than was provided at the village school in the remote Welsh hamlet where he was brought up. Then there is General Alexieff, often and aptly described as "The Sir William Robertson of Russia." Barring the Tsar himself, no man wields greater power, or shoulders more responsibility, than does the Chief of Staff of the Russian Field Armies. He it was who conducted the great retreat last autumn, extricating our gallant ally's forces from an impossible position; and he it was, too, who organised the splendid offensive of the summer just past.

Yet General Alexieff comes of peasant stock, and began his army career as a conscript with his group in 1877. His father was serving at the time as a sergeant in a line regiment; and his mother had been, prior to her marriage, a washerwoman in the big municipal laundries at Odessa.

General Smuts, who is engaged just now in wresting from Germany her last remaining and most valuable colony, spent his early years tending cattle on his father's farm near Stellenbosch, South Africa. With the money obtained by the sale of two cows, presented to him by his dad in lieu of wages, he paid for the first quarter's "schooling" he ever had.

General Joffre's father was the village cooper at Rivesaltes, in the extreme south of France, sent to the little school there, the lad developed a remarkable talent for mathematics, won a couple of scholarships, and eventually worked his way up, until, at the early age of sixteen years, he was able to enter the "Ecole Polytechnique," the famous French preparatory school for both civil and military engineers.

Eventually he was given his commission as lieutenant by MacMahon for his work on the fortifications of Paris after the war of 1870-71, in which he had served as a private soldier.

These instances point to the fact that, no matter how lowly the birth of a man, no matter how handicapped he may be in his younger days, by lack of money and opportunity, brains will tell.

## AN ALL STAR PROGRAMME.

### USUAL LARGE CROWD PRESENT.

The fact that the performers who took part in the concert in Recreation Hall last Friday night were comparatively small in number did not detract in any way from the excellence of the entertainment. In a great number of high-class programmes it would be a rather difficult matter to single out any one as being the best, but certain it is that the affair of Friday evening was fully up to the standard. There were only eight numbers, each one being a star attraction, and at the conclusion those present found nothing to be desired.

The first number, as usual, was a selection from the orchestra, "To-night's the Night," rendered in excellent style, was followed by Mr. Marples, of the Hippodrome, who delighted the audience with a number of mystifying tricks, many of which were new and greatly appreciated. He proved himself to be a prestidigitator of rare ability, and at the conclusion of his turn received hearty applause. Sergt. Scott maintained his reputation as a songster of rare ability in his rendition of "Tom O' Devon" which he sang with perfect control. Another selection by the orchestra in two parts entitled "Melodies" received proper recognition, when the Marvellous Days, in a demonstration of mind reading and mental telepathy, held the audience enthralled from start to finish. Although the act is an old one, it was none the less good and was well received. They were followed by the orchestra in another double selection, (a) "Rendezvous," and (b) "Out for a Night." Then came what was practically the hit of the evening, a comical sketch entitled, "The Boatwain's Mate," the characters in which were as follows:—

Mrs. Waters (landlady at the "Beehive")... Mrs. Carpenter.  
George Benn (an ex-Boatswain) ..... Pte. A. S. Jones.  
Ned Travers (a returned soldier) ..... S.M. F. N. Carpenter.

Few persons who know the lady had any idea that she possessed equally as much ability in the line of amateur theatricals as does her husband, but such proved to be the case. With perfect poise and a fine stage presence she carried out the part of the landlady of the "Beehive" as though "to the manner born." Pte. A. S. Jones was decidedly good, although it is understood he is not by any means new to the game. The Sergeant-Major, as usual, was "there with the goods." Mrs. Allan Milton, in an entertaining monologue, was the last number in a delightful programme, which was closed by the singing of the customary "O, Canada," "The Upland Leaf," and "God Save the King." The affair, which was given by kind permission of Major Frederick Guest, O.C., will long be remembered by most of those present when they are many miles away from the confines of the town of Buxton and the Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital.



HOW THE NEWS SPREAD. (WE LEAVE YOU TO GUESS WHAT THE WORLD SAID.)

## CANADIAN NEWS.

### ONTARIO PROVINCE.

OTTAWA.—About \$12,000,000 is expected to be raised from the business tax adopted by the Dominion Government.

An order for munitions to the value of \$60,000,000 has been received. Since January 1 orders have been placed amounting to \$185,000,000, and the total since the war began has been \$550,000,000.

The Customs revenue of the Dominion for October shows an increase of \$3,750,000 over that for the same month in last year. The gain for the first seven months of the present fiscal year amounts to \$29,500,000.

TORONTO.—Only 214 arrests for drunkenness were made in Toronto during the first six weeks of prohibition. Similar arrests in the same six weeks last year were 1,059.

Fifty thousand motor-car licences granted by the Ontario Government this year will give the Province an income of \$700,000.

The aggregate loss in the Northern Ontario fires is put at \$2,134,349 by the Fire Marshal, Mr. E. P. Heaton, while the insurance recovered or claimed is computed at \$1,045,583. The loss in excess of insurance is \$1,088,764. According to the statement of the claims upon insurance companies, \$654,922 is borne by the regular licensed companies and the difference by unlicensed companies.

Under specified conditions the Provincial Government has granted an "open season" for otter and beaver in Ontario from November 1 to March 31 next. This is the first open season for these animals in this Province for nearly 20 years. The order places a royalty of 50 cents per skin on otter and \$1 on beaver. The only persons allowed to take the animals are resident licensed trappers and farmers who obtain a permit from the department to trap upon their own land.

NIAGRA FALLS.—The whirlpool and rapids may now be viewed from an air cable car which crosses the whirlpool on a span of 1,800 feet, 150 feet above the water. The car carries 36 passengers, and the journey across takes six minutes.

### QUEBEC PROVINCE.

QUEBEC.—The wife of M. Lavigne, Mayor of this city has given birth to her twenty-eighth child.

The quinquennial reorganisation of the constituencies in this Province includes the absorption of Assumption and Montcalm into one and Laval and Two Mountains into another.

In addition to the zinc and lead mines at Nottingham, and the valuable deposits of Gatineau zinc recently discovered at Burbidge Station, development is systematically going on in all the zinc and lead ore mines throughout the Province.

### NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX.—A proposition is being considered to inaugurate a monthly steamship service between here and St. Nazaire, France, by Mr. W. Garthwaite, of Paris, and the Marine Navigation Co., Ltd.

The Halifax Tramway Company intends to reconstruct its lines and replace a large part of its equipment at a total cost of \$1,500,000.

Mr. D. Johnson, the Dominion Fruit Commissioner, after visiting the Annapolis Valley and other fruit-growing areas, says that though the apple crop is short the quality is superior. He also praises the improved methods in packing and the care taken in cultivation in this Province.

### MANITOBA PROVINCE.

WINNIPEG.—The Attorney-General for this Province states that the members of the late Provincial Government, against whom charges of conspiracy were alleged, will be tried again on the same charge. In the first trial the jury disagreed.

The position this Province established last year as an exporter of butter has been well maintained this season. Between April and the end of August 31 car loads of creamery butter were sent out of the Province, averaging 499 boxes, each box containing 56 lbs. Most of the expert shipments have gone to Montreal. Very gratifying reports regarding the improved quality of the butter shipped from Manitoba have been received by the Dairy Commissioner.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA.—The salmon pack of this Province totals 200,000 cases, a third the average of recent years.

Mr. Samuel Ryder, head of the firm of Ryder and Son, St. Albans, England, who has been here investigating the possibilities of seed growing, closed a deal for 200 acres of land on this island, which, it is understood, will be utilised for seed growing.

The late Mrs. J. D. Pemberton bequeathed a fine oil painting of a former Lieut.-Governor, Sir Henri Joli de Lotbiniere, to the Provincial Government upon condition that it is placed in a prominent position in the Parliament Buildings.

VANCOUVER.—Now that the figures obtained in the recent registration of all male residents of the city have been compiled, it is revealed that there are about 12,000 men here between the ages of 18 and 45, in addition to those registered as medically unfit.

The Connaught Tunnel at Rogers Pass in the Selkirk will be formally opened about December 1, according to the chief engineer of the C.P.R., Mr. J. G. Sullivan. The tunnel will be five miles long, with a double track.

NORTH VANCOUVER.—Mr. A. Wallace, of the Wallace Shipyards here, states that his firm had the opportunity of tendering for the construction of from two to four steel ships for foreign register of a type similar to those being built in Seattle. But as the steel plates and propelling equipment are manufactured in the United States, and have to pay a duty of from 10 to 15 per cent on entering Canada, the local shipyards are completely out of the running.

## OMENS OF THE WAR.

### REMARKABLE PREDICTION WINS TWO GUINEAS.

From time to time one hears from various sources—especially since the beginning of the war—of people who have had strange dreams and visions predicting danger ahead for relatives or friends.

A few weeks ago a noted weekly paper offered a prize of two guineas to the reader from whom they received the most remarkable experience of this kind, together with smaller prizes for those whose happenings they published.

The two guineas has been awarded to Mrs. R. A. Berkeley, Chota Ghur, The Bourne, Briscoe, Glos., who has sent in the following dream:

My sister was returning to her husband in India—having been to England to see her children who are in a boarding-school—on the ill-fated Persia.

On Friday morning, December 31st, about 7 a.m., my mother woke up screaming. She said she had had a most vivid dream that she was standing at the top of a steep stairway, and that my sister was struggling to climb up to her, but could make no progress. My mother tried to go down the stairs to her assistance, but was quite unable to move, and could only shriek for help, till at last she awoke.

On the following Sunday morning, January 2nd, we heard the terrible news that the Persia was torpedoed, and later reports from survivors whom my brother-in-law met in Karachi, showed that there was a great struggle up the companion-way. The passengers were having luncheon when the ship was struck and all rushed for the deck. I regret to say my sister did not survive, but went down with the ship—a victim to "kultur."

Senders of the following incidents have each received consolation prizes:

On June 23rd, at Gallipoli, a comrade of mine—Private Reynolds, of the New Zealand rifles—woke up suddenly and said: "I shall have to go on listening post at midnight on the 25th of June, and I shall be shot through the head."

In the morning we asked him what he meant by so strange a prediction, and he replied: "I saw my mother reading in the paper that I was killed at midnight on June 25th while on listening post. The next day the order was put up for six men to go on listening post and Private Reynolds was included in the number; four days later only two of the men returned, and told the captain that they were surprised by the Turks, only one was taken prisoner and the rest shot. So his dream came true.—Private Pugh, c.o. N.Z.G.M.P., 84, Rochester Row, London, S.W."

I had a most remarkable dream in May, 1912, while staying with a sister in Wales. It seemed that I was taking part in a skirmish, and my side were being pressed back. Suddenly I was alone and confronted by two dark-visaged enemy officers, who clearly had the upper hand of me.

I managed to defend myself against the worst of the blows rained on me, but at last one of them thrust at me with his knife which made me cry out. I recollect that my assailants took my weapons from me and I was left. Then I started to limp heavily and appeared to be passing through my native village.

This dream left an impression on me for some time afterwards. My dream became realised on November 25th, 1915, at Green Knoll, Sulva, when we were attacked by the Turks, and I was left to the mercy of two Turks, receiving the bayonet wound which I imagined in my dream three years before.—Private William Roberts, 15580, Yorks and Lancs., A4 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, S.W.

My late son enlisted last year and went away to Chatham for training. On February 4th I dreamt that my boy's body was brought home in a coffin, and a man lifted the lid for me to identify it. The next day I received a telegram from the hospital, Chatham, saying that my son was seriously ill. On February 8th he died, and his body was brought home for burial as I had seen it in my dream.—Mrs. E. Parker, 61, Wakeman Road, Kensal Rise., Willesden, N.W.

## HOLIDAY SPENT ON THE OCEAN BED.

### A SUBMARINE BOAT THAT RUNS ON WHEELS.

A submarine cruiser, fitted with wheels which will enable it to run along the bottom of the ocean, has recently been invented by a prominent American who proposes to spend his holidays in this strange vessel.

The submarine cruiser will be connected with a ship on the surface of the water by a tube which is built in sections, and can be extended to over 150 feet. The boat is just like an ordinary submarine only it is much larger and more comfortable.

It is fitted with a motor, and will tow along the mother boat on the surface. It will be fitted with plate-glass windows through which the wonderful animal and plant life of the ocean bed can be observed, and moving pictures will be taken during the trip. This novel pleasure boat has an air-lock system so that a diver may step out of a door at the bottom of the boat and explore the bed of the ocean.

This type of boat may be employed in the future for salvaging wrecks, recovering treasure, and for many other useful purposes.