

**TONS OF CANADIAN BOOKS.**

Out of the vast storehouses of literature which were sent from Canada to further the work of the Khaki University among Canadian troops overseas, it was found that a considerable quantity of books could be spared to assist the educational work in progress in the British Army.

Several tons of books, including elementary works on agriculture, the history of Canada, etc., were therefore presented to the Imperial authorities.

The bulk of this literature found its way to the Second Army, and General Sir Herbert Plumer has written to Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, asking him to thank those who made such a valuable gift at a critical time in the educational scheme of the British Army.

General Plumer adds: "In addition to the great instructional value of the books themselves, I am sure that they will go far towards spreading among my troops that knowledge of the great Dominion which you represent and which is so necessary for the maintenance of the Empire."

**THE TITLE OF PREMIER.**

The term "Premier," to denote the chief of the Cabinet, is not very ancient. It is usually said to have been first applied to Sir Robert Walpole, and in a derogatory sense. But, in a book published anonymously in 1711, it is used to designate Roger Mortimer and Robert de Vere, "Prime Ministers" in the reigns of Edward the Second and Richard the Second. There is also a somewhat scarce pamphlet entitled "A Short History of Prime Ministers in Great Britain," dated 1783, in which the name is applied to

other royal favorites, and to them only—from Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, stepbrother of William the First, to Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Stafford. The author mentions that ten of his heroes died by the axe and three by the halter. In a speech made by Walpole shortly before his resignation in 1742 he complained of being called "Prime Minister" as an insult.

**ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF B.C.**

The economic resources of British Columbia are shown in an interesting statement just compiled. The value of forest products last year was 49 million dollars, an increase of 38 per cent. on the previous year. Agricultural production in the same period is valued at over 37 million dollars, or 17 per cent. more than in 1916, notwithstanding the large number of agriculturists serving with the army. The fishery production of the province was 40 per cent. of that of the entire Dominion, and its value last year was over 15 million dollars, or \$750,000 more than in 1916. The total pack amounted to 1,557,485 cases.

**FASHIONS IN PALESTINE.**

An officer serving with General Allenby's forces writes: "You will like to have some fashionable intelligence from this sultry spot—the day heat is now very great, and (sun) helmets are issued once more. But the Egyptian camel-men's attire is more interesting. They don't really care much for boots, yet it is a point of honor to possess a pair. An effective costume worn recently by an ebony-black Sudanese was as follows—an army gray-back shirt, a shrapnel helmet, and an enormous flapping pair of boots. Even

more striking in its way was the huge dark-blue overcoat in which I discovered a pale, coffee-colored camel-man muffled. Fascinated, I drew near and examined the buttons, to find that they bore the badge and legend, 'Metropolitan Police.' I tried to get a button as a souvenir, but the man wept profusely at the idea of parting with even one—so there was nothing doing."

**MORE MAPLE SUGAR.**

The Canada Food Board has called into conference leaders in the maple sugar industry to consider means for increasing the production of maple syrup and maple sugar this spring. Last year, as the result of a similar campaign, more producers went to work in the sugar bush than ever before, and the total production was increased by over 20 per cent. The exports of maple sugar increased from 2,800,000 lbs. in 1917 to 3,550,000 lbs. in 1918. Authorities declare that the mild winter will increase the run of sap this season, and it is hoped that the result of the 1919 operations will surpass that of last year.

**DETERMINED ON SOBRIETY.**

The sailor, returning a trifle fuddled from a peace celebration, found his hitherto respected and respectable ship newly camouflaged in the most modern Cubist style.

Running his eye over the whole mess of conflicting squares, triangles, lines, circles and sundry other nameless blobs of paint which graced the sides of his "home," and blinking stupidly at the hideously screaming color scheme, he slowly raised his hand while the tears coursed down his cheeks, and murmured wearily: "Never again!"

**Mick and Mac meet an old Western Friend.**