

Blood on The Bullet

(By Captain H. B. C. Pollard)

Changes in the prevailing mode of warfare produce changes in the particular weapon that is fashionable.

The war opened with a fashion in heavy howitzers—the celebrated 4.2 c.m. Skodas that battered down the fortresses of France. Within a week or two the magnificent French field gun, the "soixant-quinze," was a name on everybody's tongue; but the first months of the war were above all celebrated for the deadly rifle shooting of the original British Expeditionary Force.

Slow warfare, or rather positional trench warfare, saw the development of the trench mortar, an entirely novel weapon, and the apotheosis of the bomb or hand grenade. Slowly, the battle of weapons went on till the multiplication of machine guns brought the attack system to a halt till the artillery barrage could be brought to a pitch which would conquer the machine guns.

The assault delivered against entrenchments evolved its own particular school of bomb and bayonet fighting and once again, with the slow but insistent advance of the British, the fighting balance has swung round in favor of the rifle used as a rifle, and not merely as a pole for a bayonet. Once more the "Blood on the Bullet" school has come to its own.

Personal enthusiasm for particular weapons is largely a matter of personal bias and training, and the most fanatical devotees of special arms have become super-instructors and create schools for the training of selected specialists who in turn teach others.

There are bombing enthusiasts who learned in grenade mechanism and meticulous about the "style" of a correct throw. There are bayonet fighters with whom the efficacy of the steel and nothing but the steel has become sacred as an article of faith. There are trench mortar men whose devotion to their ugly weapons should entitle them to wear the gunners coat of arms—though possibly with a bar sinister. There are chemists in gas masks, sinister exponents of the cult of the creeping death. Machine gunners have their schisms, each species of gun being championed by its own enthusiasts; Maxim, Lewis, Vickers, Hotchkiss, Colt and Laird; each arm has its devotees. Then there is the cult of the revolver shooting; the sublimation of small arms practice; for all weapons the cavalier's arm is the most difficult to master, and the most dependent upon the personal equation.

The bomber, the bayonet fighter, and the trench knife enthusiast, all belong to one main type, that one may term the personal combat school. They like the close contact of the grapple; in essence they are individuals, enamored of the development of physical superiority and muscular skill. The small arms and machine gun expert, on the other hand, relies upon brains rather than muscle, deprecates hand to hand brawling, and prefers to kill neatly, epigrammatically and from a distance. In earlier times our small arms men would have been expert English archers, whilst the bayonet enthusiasts would have been pikemen or axe bearing men-at-arms.

When all is said and done, the rifle (always with the redoubtable scout assistant in reserve) is the queen of weapons, and the arm best suited to the British temperament. As a nation we are celebrated as craftsmen, as mechanics and as engineers. The clean, mechanical perfection of the modern service rifle is a thing of beauty, and it is above all things a personal, an individual arm. The machine gun, even more exquisite in its mechanism, suffers in that it is after all a machine; but a rifle is an arm that is definitely one's own—part and parcel of its master.

The system of instruction in vogue in the British army makes much of the psychological value of the rifle as a personal belonging of the individual soldier. One does not ask a man, "Where is your Maxim gun?" but one does ask, "Where is your rifle?" Most recruits come to the army with some knowledge of shooting, for love of arms is a national institution among the English, and the land is full of miniature rifle clubs. Special drill still further develops the particular muscular foundation upon which all expert marksmanship is founded. Simple, but sound and interesting theory is indicated and the recruit is moulded, not into a rigid mechanical drill book product, but into a fine individual shot; not only a range marksmen, but a practiced active service shot.

In his hands the ten-shot magazine rifle becomes almost as deadly as the machine gun. Springing up easily on the specially trained muscles, the act of firing and hitting an object at normal ranges becomes almost instinctive, two-thirds of the necessary processes being subconscious.

Just as in the early days of the war men perfectly trained on the English musketry lines killed German after German making nearly every shot tell, and firing at a speed that the herd-trained Germans with their clumsy Mauser could not hope to compass; just as the men of the new armies now veterans in all the craft of war, main-

tain the level of musketry efficiency.

The new fighting is open work, lines of lightly dug in shell holes supported by concrete "pill boxes" and small redoubts, rather than the close labyrinthine trenches. Here in the open the "Blood on the Bullet" school takes a terrible toll of German lives. The number of machine guns on both sides may be equal, but the individual musketry excellence of the British makes short work of any German infantry that risk the open, or try to dash from cover to cover.

It is no longer thing for the German morale this—the knowledge that their adversaries can shoot them down like rabbits while they run.

They might escape the blind fury of the shell barrage, scattered individuals might not attract the lead stream of the machine guns, but once caught sight of by any one of the common infantry opposed to them, their chances of escape are few.

Daily, behind the lines in France intensive training of the riflemen goes on. Moving targets, simulate war conditions, the whole practice is a dress rehearsal; and with the waning of the German military power, it wanes their cult of war by organized machinery, whilst the triumphant individualism of the English rifle asserts its mastery over the collectivism of the German machine gun tactics.

SANTA DID NOT FORGET BRANDON SOLDIERS' KIDDIES

The Soldiers' Kiddies' Christmas Cheer fund, whereby every child whose father is with the overseas forces was especially remembered by Santa Claus, was a splendid success. Happy, smiling faces, and exclamations of joy on the part of the children, and the expressions of thankful hearts from their mothers amply compensated all who had a part in making the day a brighter one for the youngsters whose fathers are absent and many of them have made the supreme sacrifice. Nearly seven hundred children benefited because of the patriotism of the citizens of Brandon and their determination that Christmas should not be a cheerless one for soldiers' kiddies.

The committee in charge of the work received a most generous response to their appeals for aid. Money and other gifts came in rapidly when the needs of the organization became generally known. Individuals and organizations, both large and small, responded to the demands that have been made upon the public for funds to contribute to various worthy objects. Through the contributions that made it was possible to send to every child suitable toys, nuts, candies, apples and oranges, and useful articles for every member of the family. A company of twenty ladies volunteered their services to prepare the packages, and this was done Friday afternoon and evening. Forty Boy Scouts delivered the parcels Monday, and by late afternoon they had all been taken to the homes for which they were intended.

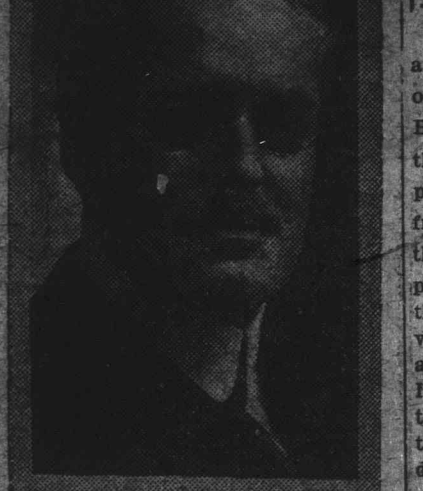
Several letters of appreciation have been received from mothers by Mr. John Inglis, secretary of the Patriotic Fund, and who was active in promoting the scheme. The two which follow give an idea of how much it meant to receive the packages.

"Many thanks for the Christmas parcel which arrived this morning. It was entirely unexpected, but nevertheless welcome as I did not intend buying toys for the kiddies this year. They are getting warm clothes instead and they will be delighted when they come downstairs and find their stockings full. Wishing you one and all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year."

"I am just sending you these few lines to thank you for the splendid parcel you sent. I am sure that if only the ladies and gentlemen who are the instigators and the kind people who gave them could just have one peep at the children's happy faces, they would, I am sure, be amply repaid for all the trouble they took. Again thanking you from the bottom of my heart, and all the kind people who assisted in making at least four little children happy this Christmas time."

WELL KNOWN PRINCE ALBERT MAN DROPPED DEAD

Prince Albert, Sask., Dec. 26.—J. E. Bradshaw, formerly member of the Legislative Assembly for this city, dropped dead Christmas afternoon at a store on Central avenue, where he had gone, apparently to buy a cigar. He was talking to F. W. Shea, the proprietor, at the cigar counter, when he fell to the floor and never regained consciousness. According to Dr. Bliss, who was summoned immediately, the cause of death was heart failure, from which Mr. Bradshaw had suffered of late, though he was always in apparently robust health and had never made any complaint. He was fifty-one years of age, and was probably one of the best known residents of Northern Saskatchewan. He had resided in this city since 1887.



Dr. F. P. Westbrook, President of the University of British Columbia, who is also head of the Provincial Food Conservation Committee.

KEEP SOLDIERS, SAILORS, WORKERS FIT: ROOSEVELT

Washington, Dec. 25.—A letter from Theodore Roosevelt favoring wartime prohibition not only for fighting men, but for citizens working on railways and in mines, factories and shipyards, has been made public by Clarence Wilson, of the National Temperance Board. Answering a letter from Mr. Wilson, Col. Roosevelt wrote that he had favored prohibiting the use of food grains for making liquor at the outbreak of the war, and added:

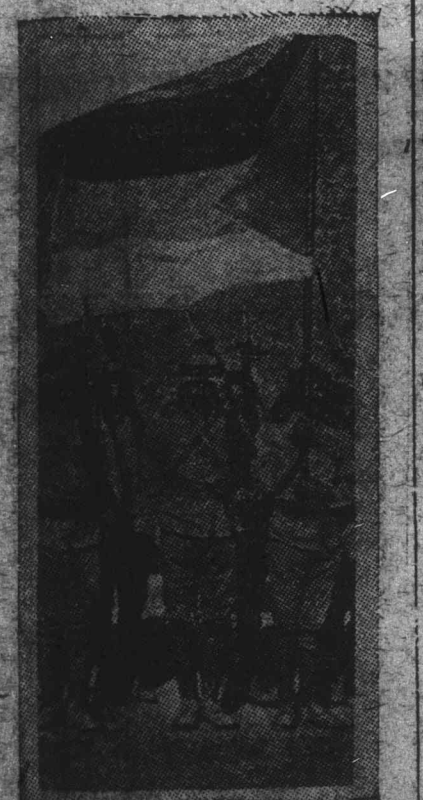
"Neither the men in the army nor the men engaged in doing vital work for the army in connection with railways, factories, mines or shipyards should be allowed to waste strength and health in drink at this time. The same reasons that render it necessary to prohibit the sale to soldiers in uniform or within a given number of miles from a military camp and to stop its use on battlefields, apply to extending similar prohibition for all citizens engaged in the work of railways, factories, mines and shipyards."

"I may mention that my sons who are now in the army in France write me most strongly (as General Pershing has expressed his public opinion most strongly) as to the harm done to the men of the army by permitting the sale of liquor to them, stating that they believe in absolute prohibition for the army in war time—and one of them added that his experience has made a permanent prohibition of him."

"I wish your board every success in its effort to stop all waste of food, men, labor and brain power during these days, when the nation needs every energy of every man at his best."

ALD. H. L. PATMORE SENT PHONOGRAPH TO SANATORIUM

The returned soldiers who are confined to the sanatorium at Nisette were not forgotten on Christmas day. In response to Alderman Patmore's appeal that something be done to make the day a bright one for these men, many packages were sent to the Patmore store and these were forwarded to the sanatorium Monday night. Magazines, books, fruits and other delicacies were provided in abundance, and best of all there was what the boys have been longing for—a phonograph. This instrument, however, was furnished through the generosity of Mr. Patmore. He had previously asked for contributions for the purpose of buying a machine for the men at Nisette, but although he has received only three dollars toward this, he nevertheless saw that a phonograph was sent to the soldiers.



Newest flag on the world's political horizon. Standard of the new Kingdom of Arabia, free after 400 years, and allied with us against Turkey.

Brandon Board of Trade

By Clarence King

An organization which has played an important part in the development of the city of Brandon, is the Brandon Board of Trade.

The first meeting of the Board was held in 1889 under the presidency of Mr. F. C. Larkin, and from that time until the present day there have always been a group of public spirited citizens united under the aegis of the Board striving to advance the true interests of the city and to aid in its material development. It is but necessary to name some of the men who have occupied the position of President of the Board in order to give as it were a sketch of the city's growth from the rough but busy centre of the eighties and nineties to the substantial and attractive city of today. Mr. John A. Christie, Mr. W. A. Macphail, Mr. Fred Larkin, Mr. Kenneth Campbell, Mr. J. S. Willmott, Mr. A. E. Macphail and Mr. A. Shewan have all rendered splendid service to the city and its people. Many of the conveniences which we enjoy today such as street numbers, mail delivery and letter boxes are all in a special sense the creation of the Board but by no means the Board's most notable achievement.

It is generally conceded that but for the vision of Mr. John Hanbury who saw that a palatial hotel owned and operated by a powerful transportation company was an enormous asset to any community, and the indefatigable efforts of the Board of Trade, there would be no Prince Edward Hotel here today. Visitors coming here are amazed and delighted with the accommodation afforded by the Prince Edward, and declare that while of course there are very much larger hotels in the big cities of this continent, yet nowhere can they find more comfortable or attractive quarters for guests than in Brandon.

The transfer railway connecting the Canadian Pacific, Great Northern and Canadian Northern railways, is another notable achievement of the Board of Trade, and only those familiar with the lengthy negotiations, efforts and sacrifices which were required before the transfer track was actually secured will understand what perseverance is worth. Many discouragements had to be overcome and not a little opposition from citizens who should have seen the personal interests for the benefit of the whole city, but at length the track was built and reasonably satisfactory arrangements made for its operation. Following the declaration of peace when Brandon is again forging ahead, and seeking to add new merchandise and industrial establishments it will be found that the transfer track is not only a great convenience but a prime necessity.

Board of Trade officials and members have always realized that Brandon has to fight hard for everything she gets, and especially is this so where the interest of rival distributing centres come into question. The question of freight rates has always bulked very large in the list of problems confronting the Board. As a direct result of the Board's increasing efforts reductions in the freight rate on coal were secured in 1913, which have led to an annual saving to our city of from \$8,000 to \$10,000, while gratifying reductions were secured on other commodities as well. Undoubtedly more would have been done in this direction but for the appalling catastrophe which overtook the world when the armed hosts of Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium during the early days of August, 1914.

RUSSIAN SHIP BROUGHT RIFLES AND AMMUNITION

A Pacific Port, Dec. 25.—Federal officials have found packages of ammunition, several hundred rifles and a number of bags filled with revolvers buried under the cargo of hides in the Shika, a Russian freighter which arrived here Friday night under control of its Bolshevik crew. Officials said the cartridges found in the ammunition packages contained slugs such as used by the Germans on the Eastern front.

The consignment was probably intended, officials said, they believed, for industrial workers of the World or for use of a raid in the Pacific.

The steamer left Vladivostok Nov. 24th as a "Kerensky ship," but when a few days out the crew mutinied and took control, declaring for the Bolshevik regime. The wireless operator attempted to send out word of the mutiny and the sailors prepared to shoot him, but changed their minds.

Before the real identity of the ship was learned members of the crew attended I.W.W. meetings, it is said. The immigration authorities probably will take charge of the ship.

WELL KNOWN PHYSICIAN DEAD

Ottawa, Dec. 25.—Dr. Frank G. Switzer, one of the best known physicians of the Ottawa valley, died at the Protestant General Hospital on Saturday night of pleuro-pneumonia after a few days' illness. He was fifty-four years old.

During the period of the war the Board's opportunities for public service are naturally circumscribed as the thought of everyone is given to the problems arising out of the successful carrying on of the conflict. It is gratifying to know, however, that when people and money were coming freely to the Canadian West that the Brandon Board of Trade had more than a local vision and was prepared to furnish leadership and helpful cooperation to the smaller centres scattered over the rich country for a hundred miles and more to the four points of the compass. Excellent results have been secured in establishing a feeling of confidence and friendship which is certain to lead to important results in the future. Securing the transfer switch at Frobius, Sask., within a few miles of the immense lignite coal deposit, getting improved train connections at Boissevain and other points as well as securing needed culverts under railway embankments, station agents at several points and stock yards and other improvements are among the services rendered to the district, services which the people will not be unmindful of when once we are again free to consider community problems and plans for our fuller development.

BRITISH DROPPED BOMBS ON DEPOT

London, December 26.—The city of Mannheim, in Germany, on the Rhine, was bombarded by a British air squadron early on Monday, says an official statement covering the operations of army aviators during Sunday and in Monday's early hours. A ton of bombs was dropped and several fires were started. All but one of the British machines returned.

The text of the statement reads: "The enemy's machines were very active on Sunday and five of them were brought down in air fighting. Three of them fell in our lines. Two other hostile machines were brought down in our lines by anti-aircraft gunfire. One of these latter was a large twin-engine machine with three occupants, who were made prisoners."

"Our night bomber machines bombed several of the enemy's airbases, with good effect."

"At daylight on Monday one of our squadrons bombed Mannheim, on the Rhine, with excellent results. A ton of bombs was dropped and bursts were observed in the main large station, in the works, and also in the town, where fire was started. A very heavy aircraft gunnery was developed against our machines when they were over their objective, and one of our machines was damaged and forced to land. Several of the enemy's scouts made repeated attacks upon our formations, but were driven off. All our machines returned, except the one aforementioned."

Paris, Dec. 26.—An official note announced the reaching of an agreement between the French and German Governments for the exchange of prisoners by which non-commanding officers and men of forty-eight years of age or over who have been in captivity more than eighteen months will be repatriated. Officers in the same category will be interned in Switzerland.

Appreciable improvements are also obtained through the agreement for the men still in captivity as regards letters, parcels, and regulation of work and discipline.

The men of forty years of age are not included.



Col. Lord Montagu, Advisory Inspector of Mechanical Warfare for the Government of India, who on his way from England to India, will, while in Canada, endeavor to stimulate interest in aviation. He will especially emphasize the necessity for a steady stream of recruits for all branches of the Imperial Air Service.

EDMONTON FIREMEN FIGHT BLAZE IN THIRTY BELOW ZERO WEATHER

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 26.—The most disastrous and spectacular fire of the year in Edmonton occurred at three o'clock Christmas morning in the heart of the downtown business section. The building and stock of the Cockshutt Plow Company, Limited, its office and retail store were destroyed as were the building and stock of the Moses Lyon's estate, dealers in provisions, hunters' and traders' supplies, and the building adjoining. The stock of J. A. Werner, hardware, was greatly damaged by water. The loss to the Cockshutt company is \$18,000 on stock and \$500 on building. Lyon's loss is \$10,000 on stock and \$3,000 on building, partly covered by insurance, and Werner's loss is about \$5,000 on stock caused by water, which is covered by insurance.

The fire started near the furnace in the Cockshutt warehouse and agricultural implements and machinery, buggies, sleighs, etc., with machine oil packed into a wooden building of old type, produced a tremendous blaze which illuminated the whole city. The entire fire department was on the job and working at a temperature of thirty below zero suffered considerably. Mr. Lyons died last week and his store was closed.

RUSSIAN WORKERS INSTRUCTED MAKE PEACE SUPPLIES

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—Ensign Krylenko, Commander-in-Chief of the army, reported to the Bolshevik headquarters Sunday that the Germans were transferring large numbers as quickly as possible to the Western front against the Allies and also to the Southwestern Russian front.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, has called the attention of the peace delegation to this fact.

It is reported that the refusal of Germany to issue passports to the German Socialists and Hasse, Ledbour and Kautsky, who desire to go to Stockholm to acquaint themselves with the Russian revolutionary conditions, has produced in Russia an impression which may hamper peace negotiations. Trotsky has sent a message to his delegates at Brest Litovsk in this connection, declaring that if the Germans refuse their Socialists their passports, this would create such a bad impression at Petrograd that it was deemed necessary that the German official delegation, which is expected here Thursday, should go to Stockholm instead.

Produce Peace Supplies. The Bolshevik commissars have issued a manifesto to all Russian workmen declaring that as the armistice will probably be transferred at an early date into a general democratic peace to all the European peoples, preparation of military equipment is a waste of labor and funds, and that consequently the output must be stopped immediately and replaced by the production of peace supplies which the country needs.

The newspapers announce that a delegation from the enemy powers is coming to Petrograd to participate in a conference presided over by Trotsky, to discuss the political aspects of an eventual peace conference. Another enemy delegation will participate in the commission meeting at Odessa to discuss technical questions.

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR TO BE DEPICTED ON CANVASS

London, Dec. 26.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—The story of Canada's glorious deeds in the war at Ypres and elsewhere, which already have been told in print is now to be told in glowing colors by some of the most distinguished artists of the day, British and Canadian.

Under the auspices of the Canadian War Records Office, a war memorial fund has been inaugurated, with Lord Rothermere as chairman and Lord Beaverbrook as a member of the committee. The fund now amounts to about \$75,000, the whole of it having been raised in the United Kingdom and Canada by the propaganda section of the Dominion Government, the object of which is to tell the people of Canada down to the smallest detail what their share has been in this war.

BREAD AND BACON PRICES IN CANADA AND ENGLAND

Persistent statements are made that the prices of bacon and bread are higher in Canada than they are in Great Britain. The allegation in regard to bacon has been emphatically denied and figures have been cited which prove conclusively that it is cheaper here than in Great Britain. The bread of England is war bread, subsidized by the Government and containing other ingredients than white flour. A uniform price of a one-pound loaf at five cents was fixed. Already \$200,000,000 has been appropriated to apply as a subsidy to sustain these prices.

"I FEEL LIKE A NEW BEING"

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" Brought The Joy Of Health After Two Years' Suffering



MADAM LAPLANTE, 85 St. Rose St., Montreal, April 4th. "For over two years I was sick and miserable. I suffered from constant headaches, and had palpitation of the heart so badly that I feared I would die. There seemed to be a lump in my stomach and the constipation was dreadful. I suffered from Pain in the Back and Kidney Disease."

I was treated by a physician for a year and a half and he did me no good at all. I tried "Fruit-a-tives" as a last resort. After using three boxes, I was greatly improved and twelve boxes made me well. Now I can work all day and there are no headaches, no palpitation, no heart trouble, no constipation, no Pain or Kidney Trouble and I feel like a new being—and it was "Fruit-a-tives" that gave me back my health."

MADAM ARTHUR LAPLANTE, 500, a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

With Canadian Forces Overseas

A Canadian Dormitory

This extremely central club, which is at 61 Westminster Bridge Road, is only five minutes' walk from Waterloo, and, therefore, exceptionally conveniently situated for the use of men coming up to London on leave from Beamsport or Willet. We are glad to hear from Mrs. Moncreiffe, who, with other ladies, has so successfully managed this club for the last eight months, that she has recently decided to reserve one of the dormitories—containing twenty-four beds—especially for Canadians. Clubs such as this are very great boon to all men of the army now in Britain, as it is a wise management and provides a home for the patriotic men who conduct these institutions, that so many comforts and advantages are available to our soldiers and sailors at a merely nominal cost.

The intention of the founder of the Britannia Club is to provide a home in London for men on leave, and although hitherto no limit has been placed on the duration of the men's stay, it is not intended to provide quarters for men attached to any of the various headquarters staffs in London, who can very well afford to find suitable private lodgings for themselves, and thus leave more room for men on leave.

In addition to the convenience of the situation for Waterloo and Charing Cross, the club provides an excellent restaurant, writing-room, billiards, baths, and a piano. The charge for the enjoyment and use of these advantages has been 6d. a night, which includes a bed. While this charge, which of course, does not cover the cost of running the club, is arranged in accordance with the small pay of the Imperial troops, it seems to us an inadequate charge to be made to Dominion troops, who enjoy such a much higher rate of pay. Canadians, we feel sure, will be the last to desire to tax unnecessarily the generosity of their hostesses, and we would suggest to the management of the Britannia and other clubs—which open their doors to all the fighting forces—that they should have a sliding scale, and charge their guests in accordance with their means. No Canadian could object to paying 1s. for such comforts and advantages as are offered by this and other patriotic institutions, when they well know that they could not obtain anything like the same advantages elsewhere at several times that price.

Bronze Star for 1914 Veterans. A bronze star, with riband of red, white and blue, shaded and watered, has been authorized for service at the front up to November 22nd to 23rd, 1914. Provided the claims are approved by the Army Council, the star will be granted to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British and Indian Forces, including civilian medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses and others employed with military hospitals, who actually served in France or Belgium, on the establishment of a unit of the British Expeditionary Forces, between August 5th, 1914, and midnight of November 22-23rd, 1914.

No. Two Canadian Stationary Hospital, which was the first unit of the C.E.F. to see service in France, landed at Havre on November 8th, 1914.