

Last Night's Lecture.

F. A. Mackenzie Tells Graphic Story---The Immortals of Monchy le Preux---Lecture will be Continued to-night.

Long before the Casino Hall opened last evening at 7.30, a large crowd had gathered outside the doors, waiting for admittance. The entire hall was decorated with a profusion of flags of all colors from every nation of the allies, while the vice-regal box was tastefully decorated with flags. A steady stream of people poured in and by the time the lecturer was announced, the hall was filled to capacity. An eager and expectant expression was on every face, and the lecturer was anxiously awaited. A large souvenir programme had been prepared, and these were distributed around the hall free to everyone. A large party of girl students from Littleton occupied the front seats of the gallery. The two boxes were occupied by the Governor and suite, and the representatives of the W.P.A., to which the proceeds of the occasion go. Military officers at the doors collected the tickets. Mr. Aubrey Crocker was pianist for the night, and his inspiring music greatly enhanced the display of moving pictures, lending a realistic touch to them. The evening began by the playing of the National Anthem, the audience standing the while. Hon. J. R. Bennett contented himself with formally introducing the speaker, as the programme and the press had told all about him, and nothing that he could add would make him better known to the public. He felt that all who attended to-night would appear the following night. The lecturer of the evening, Mr. F. A. Mackenzie, now came on the stage, and his appearance was the signal for instant and enthusiastic hand-clapping. He was attired in khaki the accredited uniform of the official war correspondent. He tells the story that a blue band, which is still worn on the left arm, formerly contained the word "corps," but "there were enough corpses around already," he explains, "so we kicked it at, and had the word removed." A Sam Brown belt completed the uniform, giving him the appearance of a military officer, and in fact, in Halifax he was introduced as "Captain" Mackenzie.

THE THREE PHASES.

"Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen," he said: "In years to come when men come to describe the war they will split it into three parts: 1st, the German ruin follied by the French and our own magnificent 'little cons' triumph; 2nd, the long stretch of trench war since October 1914, until this year, a period possible to conceive. Here he feelingly spoke of the great conflict at Ypres and of the thousands that fell there. The 3rd stage which began in November this year opened with a great temporary victory by the Germans. There was no doubt that the German infantry's and artillery's score this year was a very considerable one. One German officer said in March: 'the war will have been lost or won by Germany in this month.' The Germans themselves thought they had won, but the British army did not think so. There was confidence in the British soldier when all the outside world was sure Germany had been the victor. A visit or to the trenches was a surprise at this. In the early summer of this year our enemy was making ready for the third and final section of war which was to end in victory on every side. (Slides of well known places in France were here shown.) Villages that were prosperous a few months before were now deserted. The Germans were on the edge of Ypres and Arras. Everywhere one saw ruins, ruins, ruins. Along roadsides old men, women and children were fleeing back from the front, because for the first time in warfare the Germans had forced the horrors of conflict on women and children. They had condemned women and young girls to a fate more horrible than death. No wonder women fled. (A slide of a large crucifix was here shown, the lecturer explaining that, although everything else in the church had been demolished this was still intact, a coincidence regarded by the French as a significant token.)

NEW METHODS.

The British and Dominion soldiers were now training for the new method of warfare, in the open, when something happened to give a new note to what followed. On Whitsuntide morning some nurses were returning to their hospital when they heard a great whirling sound overhead. They knew it was a German plane. Suddenly a great bomb came crashing down. A house in which old men, who were working as orderlies to the hospital lived, was completely demolished by bomb fire. This hospital at Etaples was well known. It had thousands of patients, miles of hospital wards, nurses and doctors by thousands, and it was one of the great triumphs of modern civilization. The British authorities did not think it necessary to

give protection to it, as it was a place of mercy and love. They didn't know the Germans even then. The first night the Germans arrived overhead they sent bombs down, setting alight a large tent, the flames illuminating the whole countryside, and making a perfect guide for Hun bombers who for some time kept up the barbarous work. The doctors and nurses immediately rushed to their posts. Some night nurses volunteered to go to a dangerous spot and bring in wounded patients. In the wards the nurses and doctors got between the line and their patients, screening their bodies from the flying splinters. The patients sang out: "Nurses, lie down; protect yourselves." But they refused to do this. In one ward the men held down their nurse and put their bodies over her so that she should not be injured. The Germans then sent back for more planes, saying that they had found a good place, undefended and unfortified. Afterwards the nurses lit lamps so that the doctors could operate. One nurse was killed on the spot, several were wounded, while several patients and doctors were killed outright. The lecturer himself had visited the hospital and had heard the story himself from the nurses. They had to go to a nearby wood to sleep and eat, as they were afraid to stay in the hospital. A high officer of the French Army said to a group of officers around him: "Soon once more you will go out on active service. Next time you go, go out to kill." He told them that some German prisoners recently taken had photos of a girl of the Russian Battalion of Death. This girl had been captured by the Germans, stripped to the waist, outraged, bayoneted, and then photographed.

"GO OUT TO KILL."

These pictures were then distributed around to the German soldiers to stir up their lust. "Next time you go out, go out to kill!" (Applause.) He told them of the murder of innocent nurses, and as the soldiers feel a tenderness for the sisters, they consider the men who killed them not fit to live. "Next time you go out, go out to kill!" (Here a moving picture of the funeral of nurses was shown, the Dead March being rendered by the pianist.) "Peace or no peace, I say 'Damn the men who did that thing!' (Applause.) Pictures of some nurses who were decorated for great gallantry on that occasion, were also shown, evoking considerable hand-clapping. "With nurses like that," asked the lecturer, "could our men help being fine?" Just at this point the Germans thought they had arrived at the time when they could put down the iron heel, but they were to have a little disappointment. They were forestalled and the allies made their move. Germany has many plans on now, but it is our duty to disappoint them again. One of these is to raise differences between Great Britain and the U.S.A. "We won't let her." They also hope we will keep our markets open to their goods, but we never will. The Allies struck just at the right time, and he was with a section of Canadian corps that "foiled" the Germans. It was not yet possible to tell how this was done, but the entire trick was pure "bluff." By openly moving a mass of soldiers to the Belgian front the Germans were made to believe we were making ready for a great northern offensive, and as he was preparing for it there, other troops that had taken 8 days to crawl up to a different position, struck with great success. Every gun and corps was turned on the Germans, and as soon as roads were broken, machine guns poured in their fire and the whippet tanks harried the enemy and then the cavalry struck. In one hour more prisoners, more square miles, and more booty were taken than in months at other times. The Allies had learned the new method of warfare, open warfare. (Sir Douglas Haig was here shown decorating some soldiers after this engagement.) (Applause.) For years the Germans had been depreciating the English soldiers and said they did not fight as well as the Colonials. "It is an accused lie," declared Mr. Mackenzie. (Applause.) From the first they did their work in splendid fashion. The English Army had severe fighting, and in the Spring had to fill up their broken ranks with old men and young boys. Many who saw this were rather downhearted, thinking what could such do against the seasoned troops of Germany's crack regiments? But they were mistaken. In a few weeks they had smashed the Germans to the north. The Germans now thought they knew where the Canadian Corps that had delivered the surprise attack was stationed but even while they knew it the corps withdrew and struck at Arras in a place dear to all people in Newfoundland--Monchy le Preux. (Clapping.) (Here the Arras railway station was

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shown. The rails were covered with wire entanglements, and British soldiers were walking around with rifles and fixed bayonets. "It is weary to look at ruins for three or four months," said the lecturer, "but can you imagine what it is to live in them for months at a time? Never to see an uninjured house, never to see an entire roof, a whole door. (Monchy shown.) That night, a mighty barrage fire was opened. He (the lecturer, who was present), could see the men moving forward. After the wood around Monchy was won, Mr. Mackenzie in company with General Ross, went outside the village to inspect the field. They were obliged to take cover in shell holes and retreat again, as the German snipers had opened fire at them. Everywhere they saw desolation and ruin. Dead faces stared skywards. In a concrete cellar they found a cat and a litter of kittens left there by a German soldier. He had come to Monchy to visit it because here had taken place the most heroic episode of the war, that by the Newfoundlanders.

"OURS" AT MONCHY.

In every lecture in Canada he had told the story of the Newfoundlanders at Monchy. In April, 1917, the Allied advance was attempted around Arras the 1st Nfd. Regiment was placed in Monchy, which had been captured a day or two before. The streets were filled with dead and to make things worse, two old French women had gone mad from the horrors of the fighting. The Essex Regiment and the Nfd. Regiment were ordered to attack and carry the woods beyond it. It was not known that the famous German divisions--the great 3rd Bavarian Division--had orders to retake Monchy at all costs. One April night, between 5 and 6 o'clock, the Newfoundland and Essex Regiments started out to attack the two divisions. The

Nfd. Regiment went to the left, one section swung to the left, and another went forward. The first report came that the Essex boys had taken their objective and were going forward finely. One party was in a wood, when a sheet of flame shot over the wood and they seemed to disappear as if in thin air. Some got over the ridge and made a considerable advance. They were outnumbered 20 to 1. Only one got back. The Newfoundlanders were split up in little isolated units, fighting hard. No one could tell what was happening. One Newfoundland officer saw an Essex man who had returned who said: "Your men will all be wiped out in a minutes." Col. Forbes-Robertson sent out Lt. Keegan to observe and to find out what he could. Returning, he said there was not an unwounded soldier and that the Germans were beginning to come up. The Colonel called together 20 men, comprising battalion h q. staff and ordered them to hold the Germans back. This was madness--the kind of madness that wins battles. The little band went forward, and were barely out when two great shells weakened their number. Across an open trench they dashed, but only 9 got through, as the Germans were throwing their machine guns on this spot which they had to pass over.

A NEW THERMOPILE.

They could notice Germans 200 yards ahead. The Nfd. and Essex men had died by the hundreds but had broken the great force of the enemy's attack. They died hard, but in dying exacted a heavy toll from the Germans. One of the party was the Essex man who had returned to the village. A German gun then opened fire on them but an English gun in the distance soon put this out of action. The little party has but little ammunition and they had to husband it. But every bullet found its billet. The Germans came up in little groups, and they were potted off one by one. The 9 joked about the shooting, joked in the face of death, and "marks" were awarded successful shots. Five marks for a kill, 3 for a wound, and 5 points off for a miss. The Germans suspected a trap, and thought there was a great party of British behind. Things were looking pretty black and serious. Ammunition was getting pretty scarce, they had very little food and less water. However in rummaging around they found some food, and a box of 1,000 rounds of small shot, but no water. The time went slowly on. At 1.30 in the day they saw in a little wood several German battalions in massed formation. They knew now that someone must get back with word for reinforcements. Despite the fact that they knew almost certain death awaited the one who went, everyone of them volunteered. One of them, Private Rose (applause) was selected and went. The big attack did not come off, the Germans still fearing a trap. But they sent small parties, which were killed one by one. At 3.30 in the afternoon the Newfoundlanders got artillery support, so they knew word had gone through. They saw British soldiers crawling on their hands and knees toward them, and at last a big Highland soldier got in with a big bottle of Scotch whiskey (laughter). This was much needed. The Newfoundlanders were not going to give up their efforts yet. Lt. Keegan, with a detail, went out and rescued some wounded men outside word brought them in (applause.) "He deserves all the clapping you gave him," said Mr. Mackenzie. The 9 men had held up the two great German divisions, consisting of 25,000 men. This was the greatest deed of the war, and if a greater was wanted, he could not give it. Newfoundland should be proud of her sons. He would now show them some pictures of Newfoundland soldiers in France (clapping.) The "Banks of Newfoundland" was played as these were shown. Major Bernard was very plainly shown in the pictures, and his appearance was the signal for the heartiest clapping for the evening, showing that he was an exceptionally popular officer. A "close up" of boys receiving decorations was shown. The boys were seen on parade, marching to dinner, and in other interesting performances.

NOTHING TOO GOOD.

It was not possible, said Mr. Mackenzie, to see more of the Regiment to-night, but the following night he would deal further with them. Nothing too good can be said about them. They have shown themselves brave, resourceful and always refused to be

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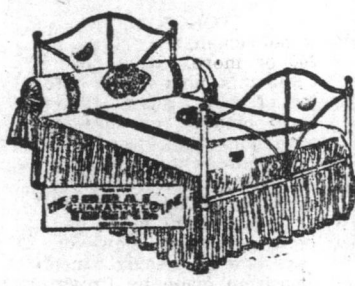
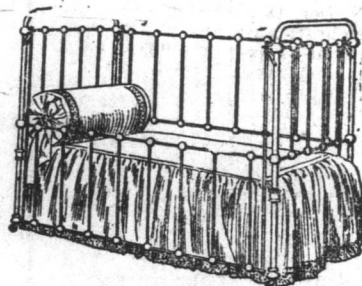
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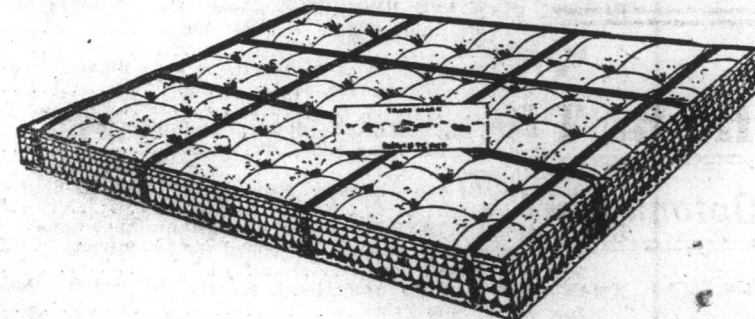
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cast down, qualities needed when such fighting was to be done. Mr. Mackenzie is shown in all the pictures. An amusing picture was of the Regimental cook wagon, drawn by two heavy horses with the fire going merrily and the smoke pouring from the pipe. The cook was busily engaged in preparing a meal for the hungry soldiers. Many pictures of the Regiment were shown. "Aren't they fine boys?" asked the lecturer, and he was answered by loud clapping and cries of "yes, yes." This evening he will tell of how the wounded men were treated, about further fighting, the Regiment, the great happenings in England and London under air raids.

He thanked the audience for their kind attention, and the evening closed with the singing of the National Anthem, the entire assembly standing the while.

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NEWFOUNDLAND NOT REPRESENTED.

LONDON, Dec. 18. (Via Reuters Ottawa Agency).--An important conference of the War Cabinet, and representatives of the Dominions and India, was held at 10 Downing Street to-day. It is understood that various matters, likely to arise at the Peace Conference, were discussed. Premier Lloyd George presided. These present included Chancellor Bonar Law, Lord Curzon, Austin Chamberlain, General Sir Louis Botha, Lieut. General Smuts, Sir Joseph Cook, Sir Robert Borden, the Maharajah of Bikanir, and Sir S. Singh.

THREE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

MELBOURNE, Aus., Dec. 18th. (Via Reuters Ottawa Agency).--It has been decided that the Peace celebrations of the Commonwealth shall include three public holidays. The Imperial Government is being asked to arrange that a fleet, consisting of British, Allied and captured warships, shall visit Australia and participate in the celebrations.

SOME PROBLEMS.

LONDON, Dec. 18th. The vastness and complicated nature of problems confronting the Peace Conference are indicated by an article which the London Times published from its former Berlin correspondent on the future of Germany, in relation to Europe, and the principles of nationality which constitute one of the innumerable difficult subjects which must be dealt with. The correspondent says that Germany must face the complete demolition of the Bismarckian and post Bismarckian system of Germany's hold on Luxembourg had been shattered and must be renounced. Besides Alsace-Lorraine, Prussia must have to surrender the Saar coal fields. Holstein, Lauenburg and German Schleswig may remain a part of the German state, but North Schleswig must be restored to Denmark. Prussia Poland on the other hand presents acute difficulties of mixed nationalities. To liberate three and a half million Poles, it would be necessary to transfer a million Germans to Poland. This, says the correspondent, is one of the arduous problems which the application of the doctrine of nationality offers. What is to be done with minorities who most bitterly hate majorities? There are few more acute questions than this. The correspondent dwells on the Russian problem, saying this may prove the great twentieth century menace.

POLICE STRIKE UNSETTLED.

TORONTO, Dec. 18. The men who, to the number of 300 or more, went out on strike at 6.45 this morning, to enforce recognition of their union, and to make policy concessions here, returned state twelve policemen, who are officers of the union, whom the commissioners summarily dismissed yesterday, are still out. There is a possibility that a settlement may be arranged before morning. However, the men are now in session considering a proposition made by Provincial Attorney General Hon. I. B. Laidlaw. He suggested to the committee of strikers who "walked out" to his office yesterday afternoon, that they all return to work, including the men dismissed, and that the question of whether they should retain membership or organize a union affiliated with the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, be submitted to a high court judge, they would

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