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Defends the French-Canadians, as They Have Done Their Part in Recruiting in Present War

Editor Ottawa Citizen—Dear Sir kindly allow me a few lines to destroy that legend which the Anglo-Canadian papers spread, about the enlistment of the French in the present war. The statement made by Capt. Dancy I think, last week, that only about 3,000 French-Canadians of Quebec had enlisted, shows willful mis-statements of the facts, which he could easily have ascertained. This has led me to a little inquiry and I find that the French-Canadians have done their duty fully, notwithstanding insulting attacks and false reports spread on their account. This is what my investigations have led me to find: There are actually in Europe and under arms in Canada over 30,000 men of the French-speaking population of this country. There are about 10,000 Franco-Canadians (French reservists) in the French army, 900 Belgo-Canadians (Belgian reservists) in the Belgian army. Five thousand French-Canadians left with the first contingent, six French battalions have been raised in Quebec, 7,200 men. Twenty-five per cent of the Anglo-Canadian regiments of Quebec is French, viz., 7,000 men. The Maritime Provinces, besides a French battalion of 1,200 men, have furnished over 3,000 French-Canadians to the English regiments, some of them having over 50 per cent French recruits in them. Ontario and the western provinces have furnished over 4,000 men to English battalions, giving a gross total of 38,300. Thus the Royal Highlanders of Montreal had a percentage of 35 per cent French-Canadians. The 47th of Ottawa had 42 per cent and so on. We do not quarrel over the fact that the 50 per cent of British born or foreign recruits that compose their regiments, but on the other hand the French do not see why they should not count as theirs. French and Belgian reserves, a large percentage of whom are Canadian born. These men could have enlisted in the Canadian army at quite a pecuniary advantage, but the French patriotism is so little tainted that they preferred the two cents pay per day in the regular army.

Besides these there have been engaged quite a number of men for the munition factories in England and several forestry corps who, although commanded by English officers, had over 90 per cent of French Canadian lumberjacks in them. They have gone to Europe. A large percentage of the English recruits in Quebec province came directly from England and enlisted there in the Anglo-Canadian regiments on account of higher pay. The French do not grumble about this and they do not care if Russian battalions from Manitoba is claimed as an Anglo-Canadian one, not that they claim as theirs the numerous foreigners who enlisted in other regiments. What they ask is that, well

mind men give them their due and do not listen with too much of a willing ear to the elucubrations of hot-headed men who discharge and throw insults at the French race. This is no way to aid recruiting, but, nevertheless it shows to advantage the peculiar characteristics of the French-Canadians, who, notwithstanding those vile attacks, of which they are fully aware, do their duty towards King and country nobly. Speaking only of Canadian born who have enlisted the French give a higher percentage than the Anglo-Canadians. It is regretful that some papers through violent and untrue articles have so deepened the chasm that separates the two mother-races of the Dominion. Every man of good will should lend a helping hand and fill up that gap. It is in the interest of both of Canada and the Empire. If the majority of the English provinces were willing to study more the moral ethics and aspirations of their fellow-countrymen they would be surprised to see how they have been misled for years through the writings of unscrupulous writers. In speaking of enlistment the people of Ontario ignore: 1st, that the French-Canadian farmer of 25 or 26 years old is already a married man with often a family of 5 or 6 children to look after; 2nd that the rural population of Quebec is superior to the urban; 3rd, that it is principally the cities and towns which furnish the most men for the army; 4th, that the population of Ontario is quite a margin above that of Quebec; 5th, the government has asked every one to produce as much as possible. Therefore, the French-Canadian farmer certainly does his duty in forcing crops on his lands for the upkeep of the national credit.

It was Capt. Dancy who said that if the French could not fill the 230th the English would have to. Why did they not transfer to that French battalion the French company of the 7th Battalion, and why do they not do the same with the men who are in the 207th? Never mind the French who have filled some English regiments, viz., that of Lieut.-Col. Price, of Quebec, which has 98 per cent French recruits, and some others; they will be able to manage the 230th without outside help. French medical and engineering corps have also been recruited in Quebec and sent to the front.

Not an English paper ever reported the score made by Lieut.-Col. Olivar Asselin, who in three months' time had his regiment's ranks filled and in Halifax ready to sail. Yet this happened in Montreal this very winter.

Since January, 1916, the Devoir of Montreal has published the names of about 1,500 French-Canadians, either killed, wounded or made prisoners. J. E. T. LAVOIE, C.E., Ottawa, June 26th, 1916.

Tells of His Missionary Work with Dr. Grenfell, at Harrington, Labrador

Dr. Hinson West, son of Mr. Samuel West, Robinson Street, is home from Labrador on a holiday trip. Dr. West is medical officer in charge of one of Dr. Grenfell's mission hospitals at Harrington, Labrador.

After graduating from McGill about a year ago, Dr. West went north on the mission work, and has been stationed at Harrington ever since.

Harrington is a place of about 200 people, the largest village in the chain of Grenfell missions, and likewise the most westerly of them. It lies in the Canadian section of the Labrador coast, some distance from the Straits of Belle Isle and well within the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Dr. West, interviewed by The Transcript, said that he enjoys the work very much, and expects to return soon to his labors among the people on the coast. He returned to Canada by the steamer "Seal," via Sydney, arriving in Moncton on Saturday.

'Queen Mary' Stood Up to Two Hun Ships and a Zepp

TORONTO, Ont., July 10.—A vivid description of the sinking of the H.M.S. Queen Mary in the North Sea battle is contained in a letter written to Miss J. K. Webb, 199 Spadina Ave., by Engineer W. G. Jenkins, who is on board H.M.S. Princess Royal. An extract from the letter reads:—

"Never shall I forget the scene as I saw her go down. I am truly British, but never before was I so proud of being a British sailor, and of the same blood as those heroes. There was no panic, no murmur, or cry for help. The boys of the Queen Mary knew what we were up against and were all prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice. They went down with their ship with the guns firing to the last.

What a splendid fight she put up—a German battleship on one side, a battle cruiser on the other, and a Zeppelin above. She brought down the Zeppelin, and severely damaged the battleship, and I feel sure that those heroes who gave their lives for us know now that their comrades avenged them and sank that particular ship.

In the summer Dr. West makes all his trips by boat and in the winter by dog team.

He says that it is never warmer than 67 degrees in summer, and that the people would think they were dying of heat if they were to have weather as warm as it is in Moncton to-day. It is always chilly in summer at Harrington. However, on the other hand, it is no colder there, in winter, than we ordinarily have it in Moncton.

Dr. West was asked about the condition of the people on the wild waste shore of northern or Newfoundland Labrador, and if it would not be cheaper for the government of Newfoundland to induce them to remove to more favored climes to the south.

Dr. West replied that the people love their rocky homes and would object strenuously to moving to the most fertile regions which might be found for them. Their loyalty to their native shore is wonderful and if they were removed they would die, if unable to wander back again. They are accustomed to the hard life and would not live any other.

Asked as to the popular belief that the fishermen of the coast are a very hardy race, much stronger than those living in more temperate regions, Dr. West said that the men of Labrador are not constitutionally much stronger than those of other countries; in fact, not as strong as many farmers and other out-of-door workers of these Maritime Provinces. One reason for this is the lack of variety in their food.

In carrying out the work of his mission, Dr. West does not confine himself to the hospital at Harrington. In fact, a very large part of his work lies among the people along the coast. He is often absent with a motor boat or a dog team for two or three weeks at a time. He will go south toward Quebec for a week, then return to the Mission, stay there for a week, and then proceed north

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FOUGHT "DUEL" AGAINST ENEMY

PARIS, July 18.—In a front line trench a few yards from the enemy, two young French officers of aristocratic descent quarrelled before witnesses. In ordinary circumstances such a matter could have been adjusted only by recourse to a duel, which would have continued until one or the other fell wounded, but realizing that in war time their lives belonged to France, the officers decided on a "duel" in which the enemy should be the one attacked.

It was agreed that as soon as one of the officers had been wounded honor should be considered satisfied. Each man took two bombs, climbed to the parapet and threw the bombs in the German trench. The enemy retaliated, and soon one of the officers was wounded in the leg.

It was only a slight wound, but his "adversary" helped him back to the trench, the two shook hands warmly, and "honor" was satisfied.

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CAPTAIN OF DEUTSCHLAND TELLS OF TRIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

BALTIMORE, Md., July 13.—The gigantic German merchant submarine Deutschland ended her voyage across the Atlantic at 6.40 this morning when she was docked at the pier of the Eastern Forwarding Company, on the outskirts of Baltimore. The submarine left quarantine at 5.30 after the health officers had boarded the craft and given permission to proceed.

To the municipal health officer, the skipper presented his bill of health, issued to him by the United States consul at Bremen, on June 14. The document describes the Deutschland as a "vessel engaged in the freight trade between Bremen and Boston or other eastern Atlantic ports."

It records her gross tonnage as 891 says she is "newly built, has a cargo of dyestuffs in good condition," and "a wholesome supply of water from the Bremen waterworks."

One thing the boarding officers, noted particularly—there were no torpedo tubes or guns of any description visible aboard the vessel. They had been told that she mounted two small calibre rifles for defense, but came ashore convinced, that the visitor was wholly unarmed.

It was learned that the boat left Bremen with her load of about 750 tons of valuable dyestuffs which her owners hope to sell to American manufacturers for a fortune. At Heligoland she wasted nine days, leaving there June 23rd to plough deep beneath the surface of the North Sea to escape the watchful eyes of the Allied blockaders. Captain Koenig intimated that the purpose of his long delay at Heligoland was to deceive the enemy, who undoubtedly had heard rumors of the submarine's coming.

Once outside the blockading lines and into the Atlantic, according to the Captain's story, he headed straight across and only deviated from his course once when he saw what he took to be enemy craft. Most of the time he sped along on the surface, making about 14 knots an hour with his powerful twin Diesel oil engines. Submerged he could go at the rate of 7 1/2 knots.

On board the submarine are the Captain, first and second officers, and 26 men all wearing the regulation uniforms of the German merchant marine with the North German Lloyd insignia upon their caps.

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