

Historic Relics at "Kingswood"

AS our subscribers are aware, the present mansion of Kingswood was built about twenty-seven years ago by the late Mr. J. Lawson Johnston, the founder and head of the world-famous "Bovril" concern. Both he and his son, Mr. Geo. Lawson Johnston, were ardent collectors of interesting and historical art treasures, of which they collected quite a number at Kingswood.

About the time that Kingswood was being built, the old French Royal Palace of St. Cloud, near Paris, was being restored after the serious damage by bombardment which it sustained during the Franco-German War of 1870-1. Mr. George Lawson Johnston happened to be living in France at the time, and was fortunate in being able to purchase from the French Government a number of historic relics from the Palace. One of the principal of these is the very fine, ancient marble fountain standing on the front lawn. Another was a part of a column of red marble from the Salon de Mars in which Peter the Great was received. In the various rooms in the mansion there are a number of fire-backs and braziers or grates, also from the Palace, one of them showing the French coat-of-arms, the Royal fleur-de-lys, being considered specially fine and valuable. The marble bath in which the French Queen Marie Antoinette was reported to have taken her famous milk baths, also formed part of the collection.

The large fire-place in the Reception Hall (now used as a Recreation Hall), and containing a brazier-grate from St. Cloud, is a replica of one of the fire-places in that Palace. Over this fire-place is one of the most valuable articles in the collection, being a large bronze tablet in relief, representing the meeting of the Kings of England and France—"The Field of the Cloth of Gold." Only one other similar tablet is known to exist—that in one of the Royal retiring rooms in the House of Lords. The photograph on page 2 will give some idea of this very fine work of art, and it also shows below part of one of the "fire-backs" already referred to.

As it will be remembered, the name "The Field of the Cloth of Gold," was given to the meeting on the coast of France, near Calais, in June, 1529, between Henry the Eighth of England and Francis the First of France, and it was so called on account of the magnificence of the retinues of the two monarchs and their gilded trappings and tents.

The beautifully painted frieze in the Entrance Hall, the ceiling of the Dining Hall and the tapestries in the Recreation Hall and Billiard Room, are other interesting art treasures in this notable collection.



Marble Fountain at Kingswood.
From Royal Palace of St. Cloud,
France.

A late letter from Paris, France, reads as follows:

"We had a lively time yesterday — bombardment, more or less, from 7.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. One shell fell on 208 Avenue Jean Jaures (our number is 138), and another just beyond, and another on our right. Our quarter is in the direct firing line. Notwithstanding the disturbances, the staff is doing all right."

We recently had as patients two old Massey-Harris employees, viz.:

R Carroll of the 13th C.M.R., who was employed as a fitter with the local agent at Careson (Alta.) for two years, and later for two years with the local agent at Lethbridge (Alta.) He was badly injured by gas poisoning, and also had a wound in the head. He has made a good recovery, but has been returned to Canada for discharge as unfit for further active service.

Another old patient, Corporal Mayse, has since leaving Kingswood, been again out at the front, but is now on his way back to Canada to assist the Y.M.C.A. in a special campaign which they are conducting in Canada to raise funds for their work among the soldiers in France.

Pte. John Hardy (Toronto Factory), had been in our employ for 11 years when he enlisted, and left Canada with a local unit in 1916. Word was received some time ago that he had been gassed.