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FORTY SECOND YEAR.

## Cape to Pretoria

Pte. Smethurst Was in All Engagements With the Nineteenth Brigade.

Had a Very Narrow Escape at the Battle of Thaba N'Chu.

He Writes of the Regiments Long March and the Many Fights.

The official record of the work accomplished in South Africa by the Nineteenth Brigade, of which the first Canadian contingent formed a part, showed that they had fought ten general engagements and 27 minor ones, took part in the capture of ten towns and marched 620 miles. A large number were of course absent on some of the occasions, but some took part in every engagement. One of the latter was a native son of Victoria, Henry Smethurst, one of the first to volunteer when the call for volunteers was made. He started with the contingent from Victoria and was in the ranks on every occasion that there was serious work to be done. Pte. Smethurst had the best kind of training for the work he undertook when he went to the front. A great deal of his time during his boyhood was spent in the woods and mountains around Victoria, and as he grew older, while he continued to be interested in outdoor sports, spent many hours in the drill hall, being an enthusiastic member of the Fifth Regiment.

In a letter to his mother, John Smethurst, he tells in an unassuming way of the long march and the many fights. The letter is written in a simple, direct style, where the Canadians were doing garrison duty, and is dated July 5. "I have come through the war safe and well," he says, "but had a narrow escape on one occasion at Thaba N'Chu. We had a short but lively battle on the way to Pretoria, the Boer shells falling all around us. One of our men was killed in the chest by a shell and was terribly mangled. One shell struck the ground four feet from me, but fortunately did not burst. The Boers tried to check us at the Zand river, but our artillery soon put their guns out of action and they scattered. After we crossed the Zand river we marched to the Vaal river, the Boers were in the front, but without opposition, and the band played "God Save the Queen" for us were in the Transvaal. Our first fight in the Transvaal was at Dorkop, just outside of Johannesburg, and it was a hot battle. The Boers had Long Tom's and pom-poms and could not stop the British from advancing. The brave Gordon Highlanders charged them twice with bayonets and made them fly for their lives. So one more battle won and the credit given to the Nineteenth Brigade. We marched into the Transvaal on the 10th of the month, and camped there for a day. Then we were moved three miles from Johannesburg and rested several days before continuing our march to Pretoria. We reached Pretoria on June 4, a terrible battle raging at the time. The Boers were in the front, and we were sent 80 miles to Elandfontein, and from there by train to the Springs, to do garrison duty. On the 30th the Boers came to us, but in three minutes the Canadians were ready for them, and drove them off with loss.

"Of the 25 Victorians only five of us marched into Pretoria."

"We thought our marching was over, but we still had work before us. The Boers threatened from the Springs to Elandfontein, and from there by train to the Springs, to do garrison duty. On the 30th the Boers came to us, but in three minutes the Canadians were ready for them, and drove them off with loss.

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## More Details About Pekin

Allies Enter the City From Two Sides After Blowing Up Gates.

Marquis Li Declines to Accede to Li Hung Chang's Appeal.

London, Aug. 18.—Admiral Bruce telegraphs to the admiralty: "Pekin captured August 15, Legations safe."

The second edition of the Daily Telegraph publishes a special despatch from Shanghai, which says: "The allies entered Pekin unopposed, and met with a friendly reception from Prince Ching. All hostile elements escaped from the city. The imperial court left for Shen Si on the 11th, with the Manchus. The Kansu troops have gone southward, with the object of joining up the allies and preventing them from following the court."

A Yokohama message to the Mail says that Li Hung Chang sent the government appeal to Marquis Li, asking him to use his influence with the powers. The Marquis replied, expressing sympathy, but stating that the influence was impossible at present.

London, Aug. 18.—Gen. Yamaguchi wires from Peking, under the date of August 16, as follows: "The allies arrived at Pekin early yesterday, opening with artillery fire the eastern side of the city. The allies were on the north of the T'ung Feng gate. The losses of the British were on the south side. At nightfall the Japs blew up the two eastern gates of the Tartar city and entered. In the meantime the Americans and British had entered the Chinese city by the Tung Feng gate."

"Detached from each force were sent towards the legations. The parties met near the legations and opened communication. All the ministers and staffs were found safe. The losses of allies have not been ascertained."

"Four hundred Chinese were killed. The front report that after the capture of Ho Hai Wu, the allies troops marched on Matow, was a cablegram to the Journal and the American and British were on the south side. At nightfall the Japs blew up the two eastern gates of the Tartar city and entered. In the meantime the Americans and British had entered the Chinese city by the Tung Feng gate."

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## HOARE'S LOSSES.

Twelve Killed and Fifty Wounded at Elands River.

London, Aug. 18.—Lord Roberts reports that Col. Hoare, who was besieged at Elands River, and has just been relieved by Kitchener, lost 12 men killed and 50 wounded, including Lt.-Col. de Lisle.

New York, Aug. 18.—A despatch printed here this afternoon, under date of Delegation Bay, August 18, says: "Gen. Dewar has taken all the British, defeating them and capturing 4,000 men, according to Boer reports here."

THE STRIKE.

No Change in Situation in Vancouver.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Aug. 18.—There is no change in the strike. The outgoing Imperial Limited was delayed 30 minutes today by a meeting of hands.

Winnipeg, Aug. 18.—The Canadian Pacific railroad strike is not settled yet. A meeting of the general committee to-day stated that, although the allied mechanics had almost come to terms, the meeting of the general committee was adjourned to-day as they were when they went out. It is understood that some disagreement has sprung up in regard to the work clause in the schedule. The men do not look for a settlement for probably another week.

## Bridge River Undertaking

Immense Amount of Capital Is Being Expended by American Company.

Work Already Commenced Will Continue for Years—Road Needed.

A change of property in the Lower Bridge River has led to the prosecution of development work up in that section which will probably lead to the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars in the mining industry. The lease has been held by the Bridge River and Lillooet Mining Company, a Hamilton, Ont., affair, and comprised 15,000 feet at the junction of that famous stream and the North Fork. Upon the latter 3,000 feet was taken over. Returns on the property were only getting on, and it is expected that the will be in the hands of the new owners.

For some months Mr. W. W. Brown, of New York, was occupied in prospecting the big property, which comprises the big section on either side of the creek, and the results sufficiently flattering to lead him to return East. There four of his friends joined him in forming the Bridge River Development Company, with a paid up capital of \$750,000, and the 14 leases were taken over. Returns on the property were only getting on, and it is expected that the will be in the hands of the new owners.

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## Flight Of The Empress

Japanese Cavalry Are Reported to Be in Pursuit of Her.

Proposal That An International Commission Shall Sit at Pekin.

London, Aug. 20.—The Japanese cavalry has left Pekin in pursuit of the Dowager Empress and her court, according to telegrams from the north received by Shanghai officials. These dispatches aver that the Empress and her retinue, protected by thirty thousand troops, have already arrived at Wu Tai San, in Shan Si province.

The field telegraph north of Yang Tzu is interrupted and nothing under a Pekin date appears to have reached Yang Tzu since August 17.

Heavy rains have been falling in the province of Pei Chih.

The landing of the British troops at Shanghai is causing excitement among the natives. A detachment of 100 French marines landed there to-day.

Many influential Chinese have intervened in the settlement of the Chinese man sentenced by an English court at Hongkong to six months' imprisonment at hard labor, because he was a member of a society.

Berlin, Aug. 20.—The foreign office has received a despatch from the German Emperor, under the date of today's date, saying the Dowager Empress was believed to be inside the palace at Pekin, and that the British were still bombarding the fortifications.

New York, Aug. 20.—A despatch from Washington to the Herald says: "President McKinley is considering the advisability of proposing to the powers the organization of an international congress which shall sit in China and recommend to the several governments represented a permanent solution of pending questions."

Washington, Aug. 20.—The Chinese government, through Li Hung Chang, has made application to the United States for the appointment of an American official, or some other American official, with authority to open negotiations for the establishment of peace and for fixing definite terms for the settlement of the present trouble. The application came to the Chinese minister to-day, and was passed on by him to the department of foreign affairs.

Li Hung Chang's application expresses willingness to conduct the negotiations at a point desired by the powers, and it is expected that the will be in the hands of the new owners.

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