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## Over the Frontier.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE" From the time we learned that we were to form part of the army of occupa-tion on the Rhine, numerous questions aros in our minds as to how we would be received by our enemy the Huns, upon our entry into their beloved Fatherland

There seemed but one solution to these questions, namely that their attitude towards us would demand our being constantly on the alert in case of probable conflicts. We used to talk frequently concerning the subject of our reception, and there were not a few who resolved to be always on the safe side, by carrying somewhere on their person a handy weapon of some sort, in case necessity demands its use; also to engage as little as possible in conversations pertaining to the great war.

I have been fortunate or unfortunate (opinions varied greatly as to which especially among those who covered the journey on foot) to miss the long route march through Belgium with all its interesting events and receptions prepared by the civilians for our soldiers. as I happened to be returning from a pleasant two weeks leave in gay Paris, my journey being made by train or long and by frequent walking as circumstances warranted.

On a bright December morning aboard a lorry containing a few odds and ends, we pulled out of the square in the Belgian village of Stavelot, our last stopping place on the friendly side of the frontier. As we hastened along the road, numerous Belgian flags displayed from the windows of the houses helped to combat that odd sensation which arose within us, as we wondered whether or not we were still in Belgium or had crossed the frontier into German territory

We travelled along through the silent valleys hemmed in by rolling woodlands and rocky precipices often from which a noisy brook came tumbling down to accompany us by the roadside for a short distance, soon to be lost in the dark evergreen forests; suddenly a steep grade would be encountered, which necessitated a slow, monotonous climb, but eventually with a steaming engine we would succeed in reaching the summit, getting a glimpse of numerous towns and villages, dotted here and there throughout the broad expanse of country, but only for a short time in most instances, then down a narrow winding road into the solitude of the valley below.

The hilly country past, we had just nicely settled down to the ordinary steady run once more when one of the lads suddenly shouted out, "hurrah boys, we are at last in Germany." Silence reigned for a few minutes when one chap-remarked, "well fellows, who would have thought it last spring eh?"

The jolliest though most disappointed member in the company was a French Canadian who lamented the fact that though he had been able to speak the French language in France and Belgium (for this is the language spoken in a large helpless as the rest of us as far as talking was concerned. After soundly assuring him that he was simply having a taste of what some of us had suffered and undergone for a few months after crossing the channel when we first mingled with the French inhabitants, we settled down to study the new situation in which we found

Our first experience was when halted in front of a cross-road and by the side of a farm yard, not knowing exactly which one of the roads to follow. We had previously been told that the French language was spoken for some distance over the frontier, so we decided that our French speaking companion go and enquire of the fraulein and her mother the road to our destination. The rest of us could plainly s e what was going on, and with a look of contempt they coldly replied in a couple of German words that they couldn't understand. Whether r not they could speak French we have often since wondered (although I am inclined to think they could); however it was useless to speak to them, so we ourselves decided on a certain road which fortunately proved the correct one.

I may state that this was the only instance where we found the German as we had expected him to be. At railway stations, in railway carriages, or wherever we we e, he used us in the most courteous manner possible. A noticeable feature during our travels was the thrifty appearance of the country "Edge

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