

10

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1920

## THE PASSAGE OF CZECHO-SLOVAKS THROUGH CANADA

Always Scrubbed Out Rail-  
way Cars Before Leav-  
ing Them

How They Beautified Their  
Lodgings at Valcartier —  
Musicians, Artists and  
Sculptors Worked While  
on the Passage.

Canadians generally are not aware of the recent passing through the dominion of some 10,000 representatives of a new republic in Central Europe—the little Republic of Czechoslovakia which is bordered on the north by Germany and Poland, on the east by Russia and Rumania, on the south by the state of the Magyars and German Austria and on the west again by Germany, a republic carved by the victorious allies in 1919 out of the provinces of Bohemia, Silesia, Moravia and Slovakia.

These were ten thousand troops that had been fighting on foreign soil for more than six years and who sailed from Vladivostok last May arriving at Vancouver on the steamship Lion, Proteus and Dollar early in June. They were transported across Canada by Canadian National Railways in fifteen special trains to Valcartier Camp, where they remained until about the middle of July, when they sailed for their homes in Europe. Some Canadians, there, had an excellent opportunity of studying at first hand these typical representatives of the races of Central Europe within the borders of our own country.

Canadians have had in the past, scant occasion to study the Czechoslovaks or their history. Somehow we had the idea that they were of a race somewhat inferior to ours. Many of us even imagined they were an uncivilized people with whom we should scarcely be associated, while as to their educational attainments, we scarcely thought of them at all.

But when the Blue Pencil liner Lion docked at Vancouver on June 6, some 3,000 Czechoslovaks passed in orderly array down the gang planks, a fine looking body of smart khaki-clad troops, not unlike Canadian soldiers in appearance. Indeed with the exception of a few typical Slav types and of their uniforms they might easily have been mistaken for Canadians. As they paraded from the docks to the C. N. R. station, rifle over shoulder, people in the coast metropolis commented favorably on their fine soldierly appearance as they swung along to the music of the "Storm Battalion" band.

Later in the month the steamships Proteus and Dollar arrived with more Czechs, who, like the first, were transported across Canada by Canadian National Railways whose officials could not speak highly enough of them. It was remarked that their trains, on arrival at Valcartier, had the appearance of just having come out of the terminal instead of having crossed the continent for the troops had scrubbed out the cars before leaving them. Each man also kept a little box on the window sill into which he threw matches, ashes, etc., to keep the cars from getting littered. Another railway representative stated that he had never had charge of a finer body of men. "They were well-behaved, well-read and scrupulously clean."

It was at Valcartier Camp, however, that their national characteristics were seen to best advantage. Although they remained in camp for a few weeks only, every tent was surrounded by an artistic garden outlined with white-washed stones and so beautiful was the effect that a visiting general from Quebec inquired if they had brought a landscape gardener with them. It was merely an expression of the aesthetic nature of these people. Of course all the flowers and shrubs in their gardens had been transplanted from the woods and fields. Often at either side of the entrance to a tent, stood a small fir tree, while beautifully arranged around and behind the tent were clumps of daisies and other wild flowers. Here and there, worked out in different shades of soil, or in flowers, were mottoes in the Czech language or a may illustrative of their journey home. Often, where a ditch ran in front of a tent, a little rustic bridge and arch of attractive design was built, while at one side of a tent stood a miniature castle surrounded by a wall and moat with a typical drawbridge.

Much Fine Music.

That they were a music-loving people could not be doubted for among them were ten fine brass bands and several orchestras, one of which gave a concert in Quebec city on July 5, there were also a number of well-trained choirs. In the evening, passing down the road between the tents, one could hear snatches of Slavic song, the singing notes of a violin, or some other string instrument being played, in individual tents, or by

a band somewhere in the distance. But why not, for with such musical experts as Frederic Smetanski, Antonin Dvorak, Zdenek Fibic, Novak, Suk and Foerster, Czechoslovak music holds a place of honor in the music of the world. Indeed all the fine arts were well represented. Here at the camp, an artist was busy on a portrait of Professor Masaryk, of their new republic, or a battlefield scene. There a sculptor putted and modelled clay, a war memorial to his fallen comrades, while over in another tent a pole was writing a sonnet, on the misty blue hills about Valcartier and so on. One of the pieces of sculpture done by a man of the ranks was presented to the Garrison Club of Quebec city by the troops.

They had a moving-picture machine and an official photographer, a library of 10,000 volumes together with a supply of magazines and newspapers, and a mimeograph machine on which their daily army newspaper was produced. Compulsory education having been in effect for some time in the provinces from which these republicans came, they well-read and speak several different languages. The officers speak English well, along with French, Russian, Czech, Polish, Serbian and German. Many were students at the University of Prague, Vienna, or some other middle-European centre at the outbreak of war. Even among the ranks were to be found academicians in art and music, and teachers and writers.

The rank and file, even, gave many evidences of a fine "national" sense. Wherever they had the opportunity it was not the casual enjoyment that claimed their attention first, but the thought that, perhaps somewhere about, there might be some fact the learning of which by them might be of advantage back in the homeland. Niagara Falls, taken too much for granted, perhaps, by most Canadians, was a national phenomena of the first rank. The great bridge across the St. Lawrence near Quebec was another. And the great industries of the cities were potent in their appeal to such of the Slovaks who had the chance to visit. Altogether, there seemed to be a widespread feeling of regret that they had not been privileged to know Canada and Canadians more intimately than they have, and many will go back to their tiny little republic in the heart of Old Europe with the germ of a vigorous desire to come once more to this continent to see the things which they had raced at high speed to the steamer's carrying them across the Atlantic and to home.

### OUT IN PASSENGER RATES ON FLYING MACHINES

Los Angeles, Aug. 10.—(Associated Press)—The high cost of flying went into a nose dive here when managers of the principal commercial flying birds announced a 50 per cent reduction in the price of airplane rides.

Tourists to Southern California with an ambition to rise above other persons have been paying \$10 for flights of short duration. The new price is five dollars the ride per person.

Passenger flight prices will be continued to be reduced until they are lower than taxicab fares, C. S. Eifert, manager of one of the companies, has declared.

### MAGELLAN ANNIVERSARY

Buenos Aires, Aug. 10.—The fourth centenary of the discovery of the Straits of Magellan will be celebrated at Punta Arenas, Chile, the southernmost city of the world, between November 28 and December 10.

An invitation has been extended to the King of Spain, who some time ago announced a proposed visit to South America, to be present, and a monument now under erection dedicated to the explorer, Ferdinand de Magellan, will be unveiled. In spite of its having been known to modern nations for four centuries, southern South America, which is called Patagonia, "the land of big feet," and which took its name from the legendary giant stature of its inhabitants, is still very sparsely settled.

### NOTE IS 3,800 YEARS OLD

Philadelphia, Aug. 10.—(Associated Press)—An unpaid note four shekels in silver bearing forty per cent annual interest for nearly four thousand years recently was found among the clay tablets at the University of Pennsylvania Museum by Dr. Leon Legrain.

The note was given by a man named Bar-Mama to Il Sinitum, in October, 1892 B.C., the year in which King Rim-Sin occupied the town of Dur-Danigil-sha.

There were four witnesses to the note, placed their seals on the document and were not liable for payment unless it was shown they knew the character of Bar-Mama was bad when they swore it was good.

Although comparisons are difficult, Dr. Legrain said, a shekel of silver at the time the note was made was equal to about \$100 at the present time.

### IS 102 YEARS OLD

Wabash, Ind., Aug. 10.—"Uncle Jack" Higgins, pioneer resident of Wabash, celebrated his 102nd birthday here recently. "Uncle Jack" came here for the anniversary from the Marion National Military home, where he has been for the past three months. He is said to be the oldest man in Indiana. Born in Liverpool, Eng. July 15, 1818, "Uncle Jack" came to America first settled in Eastern Pennsylvania in 1840. He came to Wabash about a year later. For eighty years he lived in the same house.

## FRANCE RENEWS PASSION PLAY

The Production, Which Rivals the German Version, Was Stopped During the War — Runs All Day.

Nancy, France, July 27.—(Associated Press Correspondence)—France's "Passion Play," rivaling that of Oberammergau, has opened its season here after five years' of war's interruption. It was given, as it has been since 1904, in the Passion Theatre, under the direction of M. Petit, the village priest, with his parishioners as the cast. The play, containing verse, music and equipment have been developed and improved since the pre-war performances.

There are sixteen scenes depicting the Bible incidents from the Birth to the Resurrection. The play runs from 9 a. m. to noon and from 1.30 to 3. Intermittent scenes between the scenes are filled by tableaux representing, principally, prophetic passages of the Old Testament bearing upon the running story.

## JOHN BARRYMORE WEDS MRS. THOMAS

While Their Engagement Had Been Rumored, the Marriage Now Comes as a Surprise.

(New York Times)  
Mrs. Blanche M. Thomas of New York and Newport, former wife of Leonard M. Thomas, and John Barrymore, the actor, were married at noon yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Although there had been rumors of their engagement since Mrs. Thomas obtained her divorce last winter in Paris, the actor, who came as a surprise to their wide circle of friends and admirers, for the bride has achieved considerable fame with her poetic writings. The first intimation that the marriage was to take place was when the couple obtained their marriage license earlier in the day at the Municipal Building. The family name of the Barrymores is Blythe, and Mr. Barrymore obtained the license under the name of John Blythe. That was the name under which his sister, Ethel Barrymore, was married to Russell G. Colt. It was a quiet, informal wedding,

## BRITISH ELECTION

London, Aug. 9.—(By Canadian Associated Press)—The result of the South Norfolk election consequent on the succession of Coxens Hardy, the late member, to the peerage, resulted as follows: Edwards, Labor, 5,894; Batty, Coalition-Liberal, 6,476; Roberts, Independent Liberal, 2,118.

## USE The Want Ad Way

with only a small group of relatives and friends present, and took place in the apartment of Mrs. John H. McCullough at the Ritz-Carlton. There were no attendants, and the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Bullard performed the ceremony. Later Mr. Barrymore and his bride left on their honeymoon, without giving their destination.

## became current on Broadway that he was to reveal, but he denied it. About this time he suffered a nervous breakdown when appearing in "King Richard III," and spent some time at William Muldoon's training camp in the Westchester hills. He returned in May fully restored to health, but will not act, either on stage or in pictures until this autumn.

Mrs. Barrymore's first husband, Leonard M. Thomas, comes from a prominent Philadelphia family. He was secretary of the American Legation at Madrid in 1905, and also an attaché of the United States embassy in Rome. Their marriage took place in 1910, by which they had two children, Leonard M. Thomas, Jr., who is nine years old, and Robin May Thomas, who is five. Mrs. Thomas obtained her divorce, so quietly in Paris that it was not generally known until some time after, although rumored on this side.



**7 MILLBANK, LONDON ENGLAND**

**Your  
Pleasure—  
and  
15 Cents**

If Virginia Cigarettes are your favorites, you will get your greatest pleasure by smoking "MILLBANKS."

If you are particular about flavour, you will appreciate the delightful fragrance, mild and mellow richness of



# MILLBANK

## VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

If you are a judge of fine quality, the first few puffs of a "MILLBANK" Cigarette will tell you that here is the choicest of Virginia leaf, cured and blended by experts.

If you are one of those sensible practical men, who demands a high-grade Virginia Cigarette of supreme quality and distinctive flavor, the "MILLBANK" Virginia Cigarettes will be your steady smoke.

## 10 for 15 Cents

## MUTT AND JEFF—LOOKS LIKE A WILD TWO WEEKS ARE IN STORE FOR MUTT

JEFF, WE'VE BEEN HERE ONE DAY AND I'M ABOUT DEAD FROM LONELINESS! IT'S AWFUL OUT HERE! WE'RE FORTY MILES FROM NEW YORK, AND THE NEAREST NEIGHBOR IS FIVE MILES AWAY. I CAN'T STAND IT.

BUT, MUTT, MY UNCLE INVITED US OUT FOR TWO WEEKS. AND IF WE DON'T STAY WE'LL OFFEND HIM!

JEFF'S RIGHT—WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HURT HIS UNK'S FEELINGS, BUT I'M GOING TO HINT TO HIM THAT I'M LONELY AND THEN HE'LL UNDERSTAND!

"UNK," IT AIN'T VERY THICKLY SETTLED IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS, IS IT?

RIGHT! MY NEAREST NEIGHBOR LIVES OVER AN HOUR'S WALK FROM HERE!

QUITE SO! AND YOU'RE FORTY MILES FROM NEW YORK! M-M-M! YOU'RE SO ISOLATED HERE—AREN'T YOU LONESOME?

LONESOME?

I SHOULD SAY NOT!

WHY, ON A CLEAR DAY I CAN SEE THE WOOLWORTH BUILDING TOWER EASY AS PIE! IF YOU'RE LONELY FOR NEW YORK COME AND TAKE A LOOK!

By "BUD" FISHER