

Lieutenant W. L. Taylor assumed the duties of adjutant on July 18. There have been a good many changes in the 49th. Not many of the old originals remain, but the *esprit de corps* still remains. New officers and men do not take long to conform to our organisation, methods, and system, and the old hands, wherever they may be, may rest satisfied that the credit and reputation of the regiment is still safe in the hands of their successors. The regiment is still solidly an Edmonton regiment. Jasper Avenue, the street railway deficit, the Edson trail, the wonders of the Peace River country, the Prohibition Act, Joe Clarke, and Edmonton's splendid record in the matter of recruiting are matters of common interest to us all. The value of these common interests and common subjects of conversation cannot be over-estimated in the maintenance of a regimental spirit. Some fine day in the not very distant future we will march down Jasper Avenue with bayonets fixed, colours flying, and drums beating, and Edmonton will be as proud of us as we are of the fact that we are "The Edmonton Regiment."

YPRES.

"**B**ELGIUM is not much of a country" is an often heard remark. This is hardly a fair opinion, being formed from seeing a few square miles on the borders of West Flanders, where there are only poorly educated, though purely Flemish, farming folk living.

About the year A.D. 900 (one hundred and fifty years before the Norman Conquest of England, to which the Flemings contributed by loaning their ships to convey the troops across the Channel), a fortified house was built on the banks of the brook Yperlee. Houses were gradually built round it, and the little hamlet rapidly grew into a large city, Ypres, which in 1250 attained a population of over a-quarter of a million, being larger than any city in England at that time. The city was surrounded with earth ramparts covered with thorn bushes, and an outer moat and palisades.

In 1072 the burghers of Ypres sent a large force, with other Flemish cities, and assisted, after a two days' battle at Cassel, three miles south of Winnizeele, in defeating the French.

In 1337 Edward III., King of England, came over to Flanders, and made a treaty with Ypres, Bruges, and other cities; and many leading weavers shortly after went over to England, where they established a cloth industry, chiefly in Yorkshire.

In 1383 Ypres, whose fighting force was about 10,000 men, was besieged by 17,000 English and 20,000 Flemish troops from Bruges and other cities; but after sixty days' siege the attacking force had to retire.

For several centuries the burghers of Ypres quarrelled among themselves, fought for and against the burghers of Bruges, Ghent, Poperinghe, and other cities, and also for and against the French, Austrians, Spaniards, and Dutch. Various nations have made the country (but especially the plain of Flanders) their battlefield.

In spite of continual wars, Ypres became and for many years remained the centre of the cloth and linen trade of Western Europe. In 1200 the Cloth Weavers' Guilds began the construction of the Cloth Hall in the Grande Place, and it took over a hundred years to complete what was considered one of the finest pieces of Gothic architecture in Europe.

In 1689 Vauban, the great French fortress engineer, surrounded the city with new fortifications and moats. In 1815 the British repaired these a few months before the Battle of Waterloo as a precaution against Napoleon. In 1852 the ramparts were pulled down and the moats filled up, except a portion left for the purpose of a promenade. Luckily this was on the east side, so the repairs of 1815 are useful a hundred years later.

As time went on Ypres dwindled down to the status of a quiet country town, being overshadowed by many others, notably Brussels (the capital) and Antwerp (the second port in Europe).

Belgium was and is a wealthy country, densely populated, both agriculture and manufacturing industries being carried on. There have been many renowned painters, musicians, sculptors, and writers.

It is impossible to give more than an imperfect sketch of a history of over one thousand years in a few lines, but may a better opinion of the country and nation we are now rescuing from German "Kultur" be formed as we advance through its cities, ruined or otherwise.

R. H. A.