

# CAPTAIN AND CORPORAL FROM THE FRONT GIVEN ROUSING RECEPTION

## Queen Mary School Scene of Grand Affair Last Night—Messages From the Firing Line by Boys Who Have Faced the Huns

(From Saturday's Daily)

At Queen Mary school there was a scene last evening unequalled in the history of Belleville. Returned heroes of the great war, who had fought at Ypres and are home on leave were given such a reception as only a bay of Quebec audience can give. The Purple Knitting Circle of the West Belleville Women's Institute had arranged to hold a meeting to secure funds for their patriotic work and had invited Captain R. D. Ponton of the Second Battalion to speak on his experiences in France and Belgium. The arrival of Corporal A. G. Sandford of the 8th Battalion in the city provided an opportunity for an additional attraction and the returned soldier was requested to speak. These two gallant young men gave promise of providing an excellent program, but events transpired which made the gathering one that will go down in the civic annals. The meeting became most stirring appeal to the young men to enlist. The inspiration coming from the returned soldiers, who although not yet recovered sufficiently to return to the trenches, are able to show the path of duty to those who have not yet donned the King's uniform. The reaction to the soldiers was the most enthusiastic ever witnessed or heard in Belleville.

Mr. John Elliott, the chairman, had associated with him on the platform, Colonel W. N. Ponton, R.C. Rev. Dr. R. C. Hager, Rev. Dr. E. N. Johnson, F. E. O'Flynn, and J. W. Johnson, M.P. As the wounded officer and corporal came to the platform they were received with sustained cheering, which lasted for some minutes, until long after they had reached the "front."

"The Maple Leaf" the opening number was sung by the gathering, some four or five hundred in number. The chairman paid high tribute to the work of the ladies throughout the country in providing comforts for the soldiers at the front.

"We have on the platform Belleville boys," said Mr. Elliott, "who have honored the name of Canada at the front. They are men who have done nobler for their country than these soldiers," (cheers).

Miss Anna Ponton sang "What will you say" and "Annie Laurie" (as encore).

Rev. Dr. Biagrave, rector of Christ Church, was the first to speak. "I am providing a corrective background for the heroes of the war, who are to address you. We are likely inclined to think of those who have been in the trenches as supermen. They are more than good heroes (cheers). We cannot help but feel that there is in them that which represents something divine. They stand different from us and far above us."

"I am inclined to strike the note that is not quite optimistic because many men might think if the country were going to win so easily, there would be no need of enlisting. We are not in so good a situation as expected a few months ago. Perhaps we expected too much of our eastern ally. But we cannot but feel disappointed. Perhaps a too brilliant picture of a steam roller from the east was painted. There is no doubt they will win and drive the enemy from their gates. The threatened attack of the enemy through the front has not been so disturbing. This should impress upon us the seriousness of the situation, although we feel Britain cannot be beaten. But she must be sustained by thousands upon thousands of Britons who are not yet in uniform."

Rev. Dr. Biagrave referred to the German ambitions as expressed by her philosophers and scholars, the national growing thirst of Germany. The German ambitions, as expressed by race and culture, and she has particularly succeeded in impressing the world during the past few years with this colossal German bluff.

Germany has now learned that she has underestimated the moral power of the British Empire. She admits her weakness on the sea.

"It is the moral power that stands behind the man power, and as long as Britain has the moral power, she will have the man power that will impress a deeper moral influence than any German superman can."

Mr. Elliott urged sacrifice and co-operation with those at the front. "Mrs. Wilson sang 'Men Harlech' and 'Goin' through the Rye.' "No matter what honors may be showered upon them, even if they came back as generals, they would only be known as 'Dicks' and 'Beds,' said Mr. Elliott speaking of Captains Ponton and O'Flynn.

Captain Ponton as he arose to speak on his experiences in France and Belgium was greeted with round upon round of cheers. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart on this my first appearance," said he. "I accept it, partly for myself and partly for the boys at the front. When the ladies asked me to speak, I could not refuse as they have been working for us for a year." The captain bore tribute to the noble and selfless boys of the ladies in sending comfort packs, tobacco, cigarettes, and so forth to the men.

In rapid survey he touched on the mobilization at Valenciennes, the great armada that crossed with the Canadian army 34,000 strong, and the experiences at Salisbury plain.

"I would rather go through Flanders, or any of the other battles, than go through Salisbury plain, but it was a training."

The story of the battle-front was vividly and simply told by the young officer. From the time of the landing in France until he was forced to go into hospital, after the battle of Givenchy. He told of the various movements, the billets, the life in the trenches, the acquaintances with the enemy, the Canadian soldiers.

Shortly after the Canadians reached France it began to be noticed that the ammunition was failing. At the battle of Givenchy the artillery was limited to five rounds per gun per day. The German gunners came right out into the open and played on the Canadian infantry.

Hill 60 is a small knoll on a great level plain. Today that hill is not a hill, it is a valley. It has been attacked by one side and then by the other. Both have mined it.

At Ypres the Canadians knew that for 40 miles behind them there was not a yard of ground that they could not show with a citizen's rifle and after four months of training.

"As an infantry man, I take off my hat to the artillery. They kept up a steady bombardment to guard our retirement. Some of us got back. How I do not know."

He told a touching incident of his meeting with Capt. O'Flynn after Ypres. "We shook hands and never said a word for ten minutes. I found out that the Belleville boys had come out luckily."

"That was the greatest fight I can not describe it. It is impossible for any man to describe the sensations of the great fight. Those of us who have been through it are glad we were there in the greatest battle of the British front. We were fighting in a trench facing north. It took four British divisions to hold it. If we had lost, 50,000 British troops would have been cut off or compelled to cut their way through."

"If it were possible and I had the power, I would give a Victoria Cross to every man in the battle of Ypres. No one man deserved it all. 'I feel selfish being here, I'm not good for fighting, but I am good for getting boys to enlist. If I could only write and say Belleville has come to her own.'"

"We have sent to this war only 150 residents of Belleville. I'm ashamed to make this statement but I have to. The time has come for Belleville to take its place with other cities. We cannot leave it to Toronto. Many creditable young men have come to me and said 'Oh I wish this war was over' and yet they are not in uniform. We must forget the slogan 'business as usual' for business cannot be as usual while this conflict is on."

"If there is any man with blood in his veins and feelings of honor for himself and for the women, he would volunteer not tomorrow but tonight. 'Before I sit down, I wish to pay a tribute to my fighting comrade O'Flynn. His men love him. He is still fighting. He is an example to everyone. I hope some day to relieve him and give him a well earned rest.'"

Speaking of Corporal A. G. Sandford, he said "He is modest and will not tell you. He is responsible for saving the life of a young child when the Hesperian went down. That lady and gentlemen is the kind of men we have in the Canadian Division."

"The Colors of the Flag," words of Rev. Frederick George Scott, and music by Mr. J. Nevin Doyle of this city was sung by Mrs. Jess Grant.

Corporal A. G. Sandford, the second of the returned heroes to speak, was wounded at St. Julien, receiving some of the chlorine gas fumes, having several teeth knocked out and having his leg broken by a rifle bullet. He had to crawl 700 yards to safety during the battle. He walks with a cane.

He gave a typical impression of the gay spirited soldier in the trenches, who makes life bearable. He did not touch on the battle of Ypres as Captain Ponton had described it, but told stories of life at the front.

"The men good in business are the men we want at the front. There are no selfish men at the front. Every one is his pal's pal. He told instances of German inhumanity in spying. He created a pleasing diversion by giving a fine demonstration of the French, Belgian and English in the use of the bayonet, the latter to the tune of Tipperary.

Speaking of the Hesperian wreck he said "If I had not been for the Canadian wounded aboard, there would have been a different story to tell, as the stewards and stokers stepped."

The coroner's remarks were very much applauded as he is an inimitable entertainer.

Colonel Ponton spoke a few words, the little Misses Ann and Marian Wiseman presented bouquets to Captain Ponton and Corporal Sandford, and were thanked by the soldiers in

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# THE TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL ISSUES OF THIS TREMENDOUS WAR

Most striking is the reminder which the Imperial Governments drastic new taxation gives of the fact that Great Britain is financing the fight for the liberty of the world. France is in normal times, a very rich nation, but she has been investing her surplus savings in Russia. Russia, too, is a rich nation, but her resources, like Canada's, largely in natural resources, which huge sums have been invested in developing. France cannot draw upon her Russian investments to pay for the war. Russia cannot, on demand, turn her natural riches into ready cash to pay for war munitions. Each can follow the example of Germany and turn out paper money for domestic use. Neither can hand out ready money for purchases abroad. But Great Britain can, and Great Britain's realizable cash is so vast in quantity, so stupendous a factor in the world's finances, that now, after a whole year of cash disbursements on a scale such as the world never dreamed of, British bank notes, alone of all the paper money of the Allies, are still redeemable in gold.

It is calculated that the national income of Great Britain is twelve billion dollars a year. About two billion dollars of this is saved. Without counting the billion dollars each which she is lending to France and Russia, her total war expenses are five billion dollars per annum. Of course, Britain's income has been affected by the war, but not to any alarming extent, since the British navy enables her foreign trade to be maintained with a minimum of inconvenience. If the British people add to their annual savings by cutting down their living expenses which amount to ten billion dollars, by from 25 to 50 per cent., they can thus finance the war without calling in foreign aid. They have already done this

to a considerable extent, and the new taxation now announced, with the important provision of an increase of 20 per cent. in the income tax, will complete the process.

Meanwhile a terrific problem is being created by the war loans floated by the belligerents. If the Allies win the war, both France and Russia will be able to pay Britain the interest on the loans she has advanced, and ultimately the principal as well, and Britain likewise will be able to repay the loans she has obtained from her subjects. If, on the other hand, Germany were to win, she would be able to repay the enormous domestic loans she has floated on paper that now is nothing but promissory notes backed by money. She would do this by levying huge indemnities on the Allies. Imagination is staggered at the contemplation of the ruin and downfall which this would involve on Germany's victims, who would be called upon not only to bear the whole cost of the war, but to pay Germany stupendous rewards as well. Not equally appalling will be Germany's position if the role is reversed, for the Allies, who represent civilization, would never inflict such cruel conditions as Germany undoubtedly would. But Germany's position would be one of staggering ruin no less. As an economist has aptly put it, Germany would have nothing but mountains of worthless paper for her economic reconstruction. Few people have financial imagination enough to forecast what would happen. The bad part is that from the banking standpoint Germany is already insolvent, and her military collapse would mean national bankruptcy on a scale such as the world has never seen. The stakes in this war are mounting stupendously every hour. More and more it becomes a war to the death.—Montreal Herald-Telegraph.

that it will cause infection died long ago.

### Few Deaths From Disease

But if the fatalities from wounds are greater than have been recorded in other battles among civilized belligerents for reasons that are well understood, the deaths in the army from disease are wonderfully few. In the Crimean War, among the British, three times as many soldiers died as a result of disease as perished outright, or succumbed to their wounds, in the American Civil War there died of wounds among the Northern soldiers some 45,000, while those who died of disease were nearly a quarter of a million. In the war between the United States and Spain the American fatalities were more than 5,000. In the Boer War twice as many died of disease as of their wounds. Most of the deaths from disease would have been classified in times of peace as due to typhoid. In the present war the typhoid death rate is very small, due primarily to preventive inoculation.

### Fell From Bridge

A man named Thomas Emerson, a stranger from the country, had the misfortune to fall from the C.N.R. bridge on Saturday evening into the river. Fortunately he was not hurt beyond being shaken up. He was taken home by his son.

### Married

GRANT—DAWES—At Moodie Cottage, Belleville, Ont., Sept. 28th, 1915, Rev. A. L. Geen, officiating, William Grant to Lillian Mary, only daughter of Private George Dawes, both of this city.

### Caught in the Act

Mr. B. Elliott, of Belleville, who was caught by Chief Barrett last Thursday night for racing his car and making a most undesirable noise, was brought before Magistrate Rankin on Monday. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$100 and \$5.00 costs.—Napanea Beaver.

### WOUNDS FATAL; DISEASE DEFIED.

It has been announced by Mr. Asquith that 26 per cent. of the British wounded had died of their injuries, which is a higher proportion than has been recorded in any previous war. The same ratio was not good among the other combatants, although in his "Notebook of an Attaché" Mr. Eric Fisher Wood calculated that the British percentage of deaths was smaller than that of any other combatant. He calculated that there were two deaths per eleven casualties among the British, as compared with two among seven of the Austrians and French, and two among five of the Germans. His figures do not correspond with those of the British Prime Minister. He argues that because the British wounded receive medical attention so soon after their action, and they are so near the front, they suffer less severely than others. The same reasoning, however, ought to show a lower percentage of deaths among the French than among the Germans.

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