

Canadian Hospital News

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PRICE ONE CENT

EDITORIAL

The impression of the first Canadian anniversary of Ypres that we have just observed, is not readily put away in comfortable seclusion till the coming of another spring—as with other anniversaries, for we find ourselves still in quiet contemplation of those basic ideals for which this grim sacrifice was willingly and cheerfully rendered.

In precipitating this mighty war, the German mind had said in substance,—“We are a peculiar people, a chosen people; the most enlightened in this world. Therefore, it is our imperative destiny; yes, our solemn duty, to expand, to overrun, and to crush, if need be, any and all opposition to our divinely appointed mission as the Sovereign people of this world. The world over, our Kultur must be implanted! Witness, how, in the biological world where the fittest only survive, that mightiest law,—Might alone is Right—holds sovereign sway. We, of all the peoples of this earth,—we, a peculiar people, divinely segregated from the lesser nations, are alone chosen to bear the torch of Kultur, the Holy Grail of German achievement. Has not a greater-than-Moses said so; our own Bernhardt?”

Thus they make God sponsor for those deeds which His Son in every breath of his lovely but lowly life in speech and in example, condemned.

“Love thy neighbour” was the keynote of all his teachings and to this day scores of millions of people in their various ways are living by this dictum. In fact one may translate it into such popular language of the day as, “play the game”—that golden rule of every good sportsman—of the man who so compassionately regards his weaker neighbour that he could never take an unfair advantage; could never do him injury. It is this same good sportsmanship that has held our arms unblemished from deeds of sordid savour.

An entire absence of the same good sportsmanship has permitted the reincarnation of the shameless Hun in the person of the modern German, who, to-day, would gladly burden the world with the ancient Hun's Kultur.

With the passing of years, the underlying, basic purpose of the Canadian sacrifice at Ypres will ever shine more clearly, until one day people will say—“they fought gloriously and gave life

itself with a smile, to the end that the weaker neighbour should still live in freedom, and continue to Play the Game as he had always done.”

FIELD AMBULANCE

The primary functions of a field ambulance is to maintain the fighting efficiency of the combatant troops at the highest possible pitch by the removal of all wounded and sick from their lines as rapidly as possible.

It is the link between the regimental aid post (dressing station and the casualty clearing station (clearing hospital) which is usually located at some town in the rear.

With the development of trench warfare the field ambulance, like all other units, has become more or less stationary. Although it is a mobile unit able and expected to participate in the most rapid advance of an individual brigade or division as a whole. It is a divisional unit but it is usually attached to a brigade. It is composed of three equal sub-divisions (companies) each complete in itself and capable of acting independently when necessity arises.

Its usual disposition is as follows—the main dressing station is situated adjoining the brigade reserve billets with the pounders as neighbours. 60-The advanced dressing station is usually nested in amongst the 18-pounders, which surround it on all sides.

In ordinary times the work is all at night, because the wounded cannot be brought back from the front line trenches until darkness supervenes and because the ambulances themselves are easily distinguishable and would thus expose our position and attract heavy shell fire from the enemy. With the approach of darkness however the motor ambulance, the orderlies, the stretcher bearers, move up and get in touch with the regimental aid post and the wounded and sick are evacuated back to the main dressing station, including those who have come in through the day into the advanced dressing station itself. There their wounds are dressed, hot meals are served, and the patients made comfortable for the night. In the morning, Red Cross Convoys clear the patients back to the casualty clearing station, with the possible exception of bad head or abdominal wounds.

In times of stress as at Ypres the work is ceaseless day and night, the

regimental stretcher bearers practically disappeared, so that the ambulance stretcher bearers cleared direct from the firing line back to the main dressing station, working every minute of the twenty-four hours, and for a great part of the time under rifle and shell fire. As many as 1,250 wounded were thus dressed and evacuated in one day. The dangerous nature of the work may be gathered from the fact that four advanced dressing stations were destroyed in succession between Wieltge and St. Julien, by shell fire and the main dressing station also received similar treatment.

It was found advisable in times of comparative peace to have one of the three field ambulances to act as a divisional rest station, here all ordinary sick and slightly wounded who will be fit for the front again within a few days, are kept and attended, thus saving a heavy wastage of men urgently needed in the firing line.

Conditions may alter at any moment with the cessation of trench warfare. The field ambulance will then have as its main ideal “to clear and to be cleared” so as never to become stationary and thus lose touch with the brigade or it serves, no matter where it may go or how rapid its march.

Considering the novel conditions of modern warfare and the fact that a field ambulance had never previously been mobilized in the history of Canada, the work done by these units is worthy of very high praise. The strain is great, because the work is ceaseless. Even in the quiet times a constant stream of medical cases are attended throughout the day and the wounded are brought in during the night. As a general average 2,500 cases a month are admitted and receive the necessary surgical and medical treatment and are either returned to their lines or sent back to the C.C.S., the next link in the line.

Flag Day in Ramsgate

Saturday last will long be remembered. Sometime ago the Royal Society of Saint George decided to appeal to Public Authorities throughout the Kingdom, to celebrate St. George's Day this year, by holding “Flag Days” on behalf of local war funds. In Ramsgate the idea was adopted with much enthusiasm, and doubtless the money raised, will represent a sum of

considerable magnitude. These flags sold in different sizes, for personal adornment, motor-cars etc., were all alike in bearing the saltire of St. George. From an early hour, the ladies who had undertaken to dispose of them, were out waylaying the passers-by to their great pleasure most assuredly.

The Canadians at the hospitals were not to be outdone, and helped considerably. The splendid band of the 12th Reserve Battalion arrived from Shorncliffe, and paraded the Town. Sports had been arranged by a committee at Chatham House, and several good teams also arrived from Shorncliffe. Baseball and Football were the order of the day, and the Granville Boys proved the victors in the former by 12 to 11 runs, while the football team from Shorncliffe "got their own back" by beating the Granville Boys by 4 to 1, in a thoroughly sportsmanlike way. We congratulate them, and will look forward to a return visit.

A Union Jack had been spread upon the ground near the entrance to the campus, and coins were liberally thrown upon it as a contribution in aid of the Canadian prisoners of war in Germany. Many notabilities were among the thousands which assembled on the grounds, including our gracious Mayor of Ramsgate. Tea was served during the sports.

Home News.

WINNIPEG.—The Provincial Department of Agriculture has received a number of letters from women, resident in Winnipeg, in which they declare their willingness to help in the seeding operations if the farmers are unable to obtain men for such work.

This city has adopted the daylight saving scheme for the summer.

OTTAWA.—Frank Bissonette, one of Canada's greatest Lacrosse players has died after only two weeks illness. For many years he played with the Ottawa "Capitals" who held the Championship of the World.

TORONTO.—Toronto is not going dry without a fight. Soldiers are attacking the temperance marchers with snow-balls.

According to estimates recently published in the "Calgary News Telegram" there is enough soft coal in the four Western Provinces of Canada, to supply the whole world for two hundred years. The coal fields of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia have scarcely been tapped, though they have produced a total in one year of about six million tons, valued at over twenty-five million dollars. The coal is of a very good grade, and equally serviceable for steam purposes and for household duties.

The Battalion Orders

By Kernal Dooly Dooly.

REVELLE PARADE—3 a.m. The battalion will parade with bare feet and helmets when they will proceed to the North Bridge and dive into the River Ure. Anyone found wandering at the bottom looking for promotion will receive his discharge on coming to the surface. All officers on this occasion will plunge with puttees on. All submarines found must be handed in at the Quartermaster's store.

ROUTE MARCH—There will be a route march as far as Russia, headed by the band, which will play the great march entitled "Here we suffer grief and pain". In case of frost bite being prevalent in the ranks, every man will be provided with a box of Sunstroke Ointment and crutches.

SPECIAL RATIONS—10.15 a.m. This being the Kernal's birthday, every man will receive two boiled mackerel, one glass rum, and a half cocoanut.

SPORTS—Sports will be held in the Quarry, admission by tram ticket. The great draw will be a juggling exhibition by Sgt. Mangle, who will juggle with a split pea, and a wash tub.

SPECIAL TRAINING—12 Noon. There will be a night attack on the nearest pub with grubbers. A fatigue party will be told off to get the empties away.

SICK—All men with corns will parade at the Quartermaster's for sandpaper, 1-31. There will be a nose inspection by Lieut. Rubinstein of the Jerusalem Light Horse, who will operate by moonlight on urgent cases. Special arrangements have been made by the War Office for Dr. Boddie to cure the following complaints: Cancer, Consumption, Flat Feet, Overlapping Toes, and Viennese Veins.

LECTURES—Lieu. Pick has been picked by the War Office to lecture upon the parts of a grubber and how to make round holes with a square shovel.

LEAVE—Leave will be granted annually for the purpose of having a bath and change of clothing. Special leave will be granted those able to prove they are snuffing it.

FIRE ALARM—On this sounding men must lie perfectly still until carried to a place of safety.

PROMOTION—The O.C. is pleased to make the following promotions: Pte. Tim Docherty to be Temporary Private Unpaid, Field-Marshal John Crosby to be Temporary Sanitary Corporal. The above men will be attached to the Tea Company for groceries and pay.

PUNISHMENTS—The following punishment have been awarded—Pte. E. Sacco, 5 years for refusing to eat his rations Pte. Dollar 773 days for refusing to white-wash the last post.

Signed C. H. CRIPPEN, Adj.

The Passing Hour

Why did the band of the 12th Batt. played only three selections during the afternoon sports at Chatham grounds?

* * *

Why did the bandmaster select the "Old Folks at Home" on leaving the Granville, when hopes are deferred, as to our ever getting a chance of seeing either folks or home?

* * *

How many regimental cooks would be left to spoil a broth, if soldiers were allowed to carry out the punishment they plan in imagination.

* * *

Why does the Corporal who hopes to see France some day, oh yes, soon very soon! on singing the March of the Cameron Men after lights out? Surely a revengeful soul posseth him!

* * *

The reason why "Weary Willie" and "Tired Tim" get passes till 10.30 p.m. while Postman Bequick who finishes his last delivery at 8.30 p.m. must be in by 9.15 p.m.?

* * *

Canadian Officer inspecting the lines in Flanders, to raw recruit on sentry duty.

Officer—"What are your duties?"

Recruit—"Report anything unusual Sir."

Officer—"Anything unusual, eh; well supposing you noticed half-a-dozen big battleships yonder in the field, what would you do?"

Recruit—"Sign the pledge Sir."

Acknowledgement of Gifts

The collection in Aid of the Canadian Prisoners of War in Germany Fund taken on St. George's Flag Day, amounted to £13 4s. 6d.

The Canadian Red Cross Society in London announce in a letter to the Officer Commanding, that the collection taken on St. George's Day, amounting to £13 4s 6d., which they duly received, will be sent to four prisoners of war in Germany, in the form of five-shilling fortnightly parcels each. The following are the names of the men—Pte. William Graham, 8456, 2nd Battalion, Co. 8, Barr D., Giessen. Pte. W. Ellis, 25384 13th Battalion, Lager 5, Celle. L/Cpl. Harry Grimsdale, 24353, 13th Battalion Co., 6, 4/8 Section, Rennbahn, Erfurt. Pte. B. Edwards, 9893, 3rd Battalion, 423, Co. 7, Barr D, Giessen.

The gift from Mrs. Hora, Denmark Hill, London, S.E., announced in our last issue, should have read a cheque for £2.

Sports and Entertainments

CHECKER TOURNAMENT

A match between the Granville and Chatham Annex played last evening at the former hospital, resulted in a win for the Granville by 2 points, the players were nine aside. Following are the scores—Granville 28, Chatham House 26.

HOCKEY

Our Roller Hockey team journeyed to Herne Bay on Tuesday night and again brought back laurels to the Granville by defeating two teams on the same night in what proved to be the most exciting games played since the Granville team has been organized. Everyone of our boys played a heady game and had the Herne Bay men continually on the jump.

The first game was played against the military men now stationed there and resulted in our favor by 4-2.

The second game proved to be the more thrilling and brought forth some very spectacular play. Score 3-2. Capt. Pequegnat and Lieut. Clark were in attendance.

BASEBALL

A meeting of enthusiasts of Baseball was called for on Tuesday last, at the Granville, the meeting was well attended by both Granville and Chatham House ball fiends.

The following officers were elected as an executive to govern the Baseball ventures for the coming season. President Capt. Pequegnat; Secretary Sgt. Claridge; Vice-President and Manager Sgt. Kelly; Pte. Van Stone, captain of Chatham House House team, and Pte. Vanhatten, of Granville, were also elected to the executive committee.

It is the intention to play a series of games between both houses for the cup at present held by Granville, it is also the intention of the executive to bring into town as many outside teams as possible to play the locals.

It is most surprising the hearty enthusiasm shown by the townsfolk to our baseball efforts and we hope to put them up a good seasons ball.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.

In the presence of a large audience, the Granville Minstrels and Orchestra gave a show under the patronage of Lieut-Col. W. L. Watt, supported by Staff Officers, and Nursing Sisters. Among the distinguished personages were the Mayor and Mayoress, and representatives of the Army and Navy. The programme was of a varied form and well pleasing in every respect. Every item was well rendered, and in many instances new to the audience. It was greatly in evidence that the endeavours of the troupe to please the

audience had been achieved by the number of encores received.

The corner men were extremely funny in their jokes to one another, all being original. Comic songs were well rendered and received by the audience.

Clog dance, stump speech and special numbers were excellently done and very much credit is due to the members of the troupe in their endeavours to obtain finances to the entertainment fund. While they are yet in their infancy, great hopes are entertained for a finer show in the near future.

While the endeavours of the troupe and orchestra are put forward it is hoped that the patients will do all they can to help those who are helping them.

The success of the orchestra is due to very hard work on their part to attend every available practice, and under the circumstances that they are drawn, it is by far the best orchestra the Granville has seen or had, and is the pride of both Officers and men and especially of Lt-Col Watt, O.C. As a combined effort it is hoped that they will be kept together to entertain, not only here at the Granville, but at other Canadian Centres.

A new programme is in the course of construction for a near date.

Coming Events

Sunday—Sacred Song Service, 8 p.m. Granville Quatette and Soloists, address by Capt. Hooper.

Monday—Amateur competition night
Tuesday—Pictures

Wednesday—The Thanet Strollers Dramatic Society.

Thursday—Mr. Boyland's Concert Partp.

Friday—Pictures.

Saturday—London Concert Party.

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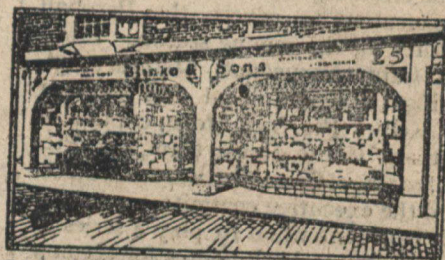
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