My Four Weeks in the War Zone

An Impression of the British War Effort At Home and on the Western Front

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By Woodrow

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Canadian Press Party on board transport S.S. Metagama

WOODROW

Despite all the imperfections inevitably attendant upon a hastily written and ill-digested series of impressions

I Dedicate This Book

wherein they are set down to Lord Beaverbrook, whose statesmanlike imagination made it possible; also to all the public men, women and nameless heroes who inspired its pages, confident that they will see through those blemishes to the inner purpose, which is to second by any means within my power, however feeble or ineffectual, the war effort of the British Empire and its Allies in defence of human liberty and the principles of international right.

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THE END.

A LETTER WITH REPLY.

Dear Woody,—

Allow me to congratulate you on the masterpiece, "My Four Weeks in the War Zone." It is a wonderful book. The theme of a song in "The Maid of the Mountains," a classical opera which you were prevented from attending with me in London through an unaccountable obsession for seeing "The Boy," has it that "There's Honor Among Thieves," and in this trust I have implicit confidence.

ARTHUR PENNY.

Dear Penny,—

Such might Bacon have written to Shakespeare. You are in error in contending that I didn't attend "this opera with you." Major General S. C. Mewburn, who was also present at this performance of "The Maid of the Mountains" in London, will vouch for the fact that together you and I were amongst those present. As further proof I will quote the real theme of the opera, which was:

What e'er befall
I still recall that sunlit mountain side,
Where hearts are true, and skies are blue,
And Love's the only guide!
If faithful to my trust I stay,
No fate can fill me with dismay!
Love holds the key to set me free,
And Love will find a way!

As you may next be claiming that I didn't write "My Four Weeks in the War Zone," I think it advisable to state the facts as above, and am content to leave judgment to the public, who have entirely absorbed the 400,000 issued copies of "My Four Weeks in the War Zone" at $5.00 a copy.

WOODY.

SECRET MEMOIRS

OF

MY FOUR WEEKS IN THE WAR ZONE.

(By Woodrow)

This new book, which will be out in a few weeks, is now only permissible because the war is over. All the confidential information which I could not reveal in this, "My Four Weeks in the War Zone," will be dramatically unfolded in "Secret Memoirs," Interviews with His Majesty the King, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, The Princess Mary, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, General Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Premier Clemenceau, President Poincaire, Lord Northcliffe, and many others, including distinguished members of the British, Australian and Canadian Press. This book will be not only a revelation, but a sensation. The edition will be limited to 1,000,000 copies, at $10.00 a copy, so it will be wise to send orders in early to my publishers, Spectator Print, Hamilton.

WOODROW.

Canadian Overseas Press Mission

July—August 1918

W. A. Buchanan, M.P.	Lethbridge Herald.
Hon. Frank Carrel.	Quebec Telegraph.
Noel Chasse.	Quebec L'Evenement.
J. S. Douglas.	Toronto Mail and Empire.
W. R. Givens.	Kingston Standard.
M. R. Jennings.	Edmonton Journal.
W. F. Kerr.	Regina Leader.
E. H. Macklin.	Manitoba Free Press.
Oswald Mayrand.	Montreal La Presse.
W. R. McCurdy.	Halifax Herald.
Alf. Miller.	London Free Press.
W. C. Nichol.	Vancouver Province.
E. Norman Smith.	Ottawa Journal.
A. G. Penny.	Quebec Chronicle.
R. L. Richardson, M.P.	Winnipeg Tribune.
Fernand Rinfret.	Montreal Le Canada.
Chas. Robillard.	Montreal La Patrie.
J. Adjutor Savard.	Quebec Le Soleil.
F. D. L. Smith.	Toronto News.
W. J. Southam.	Hamilton Spe[illegible]or.
J. L. Stewart.	Chatham World.
John Weld.	London Farmer[illegible] Advocate.
J. H. Woods.	Calgary Herald (Chairman).
J. F. B. Livesay.	Secretary.

Great Undertakings

INTRODUCTORY FOREWORD.

In company with a considerable party of other representatives of the Canadian Press it has recently been my very great privilege to spend two eventful months in witnessing the war effort of Great Britain and her Allies as a guest of the British Ministry of Information. During the absence of the party there has been a certain amount of discussion coupled with some derision regarding the merits of our mission and, for this reason, it seems well at the outset to offer some word of explanation as to the motives of our going, the thing that we set out to do, and the prospects of successful accomplishment.

Unfortunately but manifestly it was impossible for the Ministry to include the Press of the Dominion in its invitation en bloc—however desirable this might have been—and indeed, it is rather surprising that it should have been able to transport a body of some score unskilled civilians across the submarine infested Atlantic to the Western front and back to their own homes without hitch or mishap. The selection was in thoroughly responsible hands and, although some of those originally asked to make the trip could not see their way clear to accept, no fair-minded person could deny the representative character of the final delegation, including as it did some of the most influential daily newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Objection has been made that Editorial writers were not selected in every case but

it was by no means a primary object of the mission to undertake any descriptive report of things seen, heard, or experienced. In the first place the censorship regulations are so binding as to make a task of this character difficult, if not impossible and, in the second place there is nothing which the party saw that could be spoken of which has not already been repeatedly "written up." Even if it were not so moreover, there are special correspondents and world-famous writers in plenty to supply the deficiency.

As a matter of fact this visit formed only part of one comprehensive scheme of information which embraces all the self-governing Dminions and, before sailing for home we were able to foregather with similar missions from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa which were about to traverse the ground that Canada had already been privileged to cover. Realizing the vital influence exerted by the Press in such crucial times the Ministry desired to afford responsible managers an opportunity of seeing for themselves what the true nature and needs of the situation are in order that on their return the policy of their papers might be more intelligently directed in the best interests of all concerned. Everywhere we were received with the utmost candor, everywhere we were shown whatever we wanted to see, and I venture to say that intelligent criticism will be far more warmly welcomed than unintelligent praise:

To those at home who have followed the movements of the party in press despatches it may well have seemed that lunches, banquets and kindred functions played too large a part but it is necessary to remember that British methods of procedure vary from our own. Under similar conditions in Canada we should probably have been called into committee

and addressed by those who desired to give us information but in Britain, the pill is gilded with a social gathering which, in war-time, is by no means so elaborate as one might suppose and it is the mere truth that we heard some of the most influential men and gained the clearest insight at these very functions that seem so out of keeping with the spirit of the time.

Beyond this, it would be entirely misleading to suppose that more serious things were lost sight of in festivity since I can state on good authority that we were shown more of Britain's war effort both at home and in the field than any body of civilians has witnessed hitherto and gained information at the hazard of our lives not once but on repeated occasions. Had I regarded the trip as in the nature of a "joy-ride" I would never have been a party to it and, as far as I know this is true of all my colleagues. At least, if anyone embarked upon the mission in such a spirit he must have been depressingly disillusioned. Looking back, the past two months constitute an experience of remarkable and absorbing interest that I would not have foregone under any consideration but that I could hardly recommend to the mere pleasure-seeker.

While it is still too soon to state definitely that the mission can justify all the wealth of effort and expense undergone on its account, I, as an interested party, may perhaps be forgiven for prophesying that it will at least be productive of beneficial results that could have been achieved in no other way. Probably everyone is of the opinion that, after four years experience, he or she has a fairly accurate concept of the war and its principal attendant problems. The nearer one gets, however, to the heart of the struggle

the more one realizes its immensity which baffles all human definition. I have already referred to the influence of the Press upon the public but any policy, however well-meaning, which is not based upon some reasonable measure of first-hand knowledge, can only be compared to the blind leading the blind. By this I do not mean to pretend that those who have returned to their homes are now expert strategists or inspired statesmen but only that they are in an immeasurably better position to interpret and comment upon the colossal events which are daily transpiring at the present time. From this condition the people of the Dominion can only be the gainers and I sincerely trust—what is still more important—those who are defending our comfort and safety at the cost of life and happiness in the beastliness and butchery of this hellish fight.

At the outset I looked forward to an abundance of copy which should practically write itself but today I find myself confronted with such a bewildering embarrassment of riches that I hardly know where or how to begin. The responsibility to my readers and to those who have honored me with their confidence weighs heavily. Yet one thing is clear: that a simple chronicle of events or mere attempt at word-painting will be of little profit since these are already accessible from so many other sources and since there are so many vital matters upon which my lips are for the present sealed.

In the articles which follow, therefore, I do not propose to dwell so much upon what the Canadian Press Party has done as upon what those who are actually engaged in the war are doing and will refer to places visited or things seen principally where they offer a peg upon which to hang some comment or elucidation.

CHAPTER I.

SEA POWER.

One of the earliest events which followed upon the arrival of the Canadian Press Party in England was a Dinner given at the Mansion House by Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Charles Augustin Hanson, Bt., M.P., Lord Mayor of London, who is himself a native of the Dominion with brothers resident in Montreal, to meet the Oversea Representatives at the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference. At this function, which was of unusual interest in several ways, more than two hundred and fifty guests sat down: men of every walk in public life gathered from the four corners of the British Empire, if not of the entire earth.

To illustrate the point which I am seeking to make let me give a few names of those who were present: His Excellency Sir E. M. Merewether, Governor of the Leeward Islands; The Rt. Hon. Sir George Buchanan, late British Ambassador in Russia; The Rt. Hon. W. F. Lloyd, Prime Minister of Newfoundland; The Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia; Major General, His Highness The Maharaja of Patiala, India; The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada; The Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand; Lieut.-Genl. The Rt. Hon. J. C. Smuts of South Africa; His Excellency Cecil Rodwell, Governor of Fiji; Chief Justice Haycraft, Grenada; Mr. Justice Van der Meulen, Gambia; Mr. F. H. Longhurst Director of Public Works, Gold Coast; Mr. R. A. Maude, Attorney-Genl. of Sierra Leone; Mr. A. C. Ridsdale, Director of Public Works, Northern Nigeria; Dr. A. D. P. Hodges, Uganda; Dr. H. Curwen, Zanzibar; Sir A.

Wood Renton, Chief Justice of Ceylon; Mr. F. H. Coller, Chief Justice of St. Lucia; Mr. F. H. Gollan, Attorney-Genl. of Trinidad; Mr. A. M. Pountney, Treasurer, Straits Settlements; and Mr. J. T. Gosling, Postmaster-Genl., East Africa and Uganda.

All these men who had come their several ways to transact their several businesses at the seat of Empire found themselves gathered together for a few hours under one roof. Let the reader take down his atlas and search out their wide flung homes; let him trace the ocean voyages which they were obliged to make through thick sown mine fields and past lurking submarines. What is it that could make so unique an assemblage possible under such conditions? Sea-power, all embracing and absolute!

Again, the ship on which our mission left America not only carried twenty-five hundred troops on board herself but formed part of a convoy transporting upwards of twenty-five thousand extremely able-bodied young men, all eager to break a lance with Fritz. Both before and since that time moreover the soldiers of Uncle Sam have been rushed across the Atlantic without stay or accident at the rate of some five divisions per month: and what is this but the most striking instance of sea-power imaginable? Could the Kaiser have stood with me upon the deck of our transport and seen those mighty Leviathans ploughing their way across the untracked waste in perfect formation, unhurrying and with all the inevitability of time, he might well echo Macbeth's despairing cry as he watched the never-ending procession of Banquo's royal issue: "What, will the line stretch out until the crack of Doom"?

"Ah", it may be said, however, "this is only the most favorable side of the picture: you say nothing

of the numerous sinkings, the serious wastage of tonnage recorded in press despatches from week to week''! Let me at once admit what has been stated repeatedly by more qualified writers, that it is impossible to completely remove the danger of the submarine: adding, with them, that it has now been reduced to its lowest possible terms.

Remember that all the natural advantages of the game are with the U-boat which today shows only a burnished nickel periscope of finger-thickness, almost indistinguishable in the glint of sun-light upon dancing waves. Lying in wait along recognized steamer lanes and frequently aided by the information of spies or traitors, the murderous outlaw launches his missile in the dusk at a distance of half a mile against an open target that he can hardly miss. That his campaign should fail of complete success is almost miraculous in view of these facts. All the defensive measures employed I do not know and of the rest I may not speak but, when the facts are finally revealed, they will make a thrilling tale.

Examine the lists of sinkings closely and it will be found that the victims are in almost every instance sailing vessels or slow freighters of comparatively small tonnage. It is rare indeed that an important liner is lost and such disasters on any outward voyage from America could probably be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In earlier times when the German navy found precarious amusement in hasty raids upon the south coast towns of England, afflicted communities complained bitterly that such things were permitted to continue but the Admiralty's quite logical rejoinder was that with a coastline of such a long and broken character it was impossible to afford complete protec-

tion to every individual watering-place and fishing village without exposing strategic bases of first importance and so dissipating the units of the Grand Fleet as to destroy its vital ascendency over the Prussian Navy.

The present tonnage situation is precisely similar · there are no means of completely protecting every bottom on the Seven Seas and those which are of the greatest value to the Entente cause must be considered first. All praise must therefore be given to the owners and seamen who risk their property and lives in constant voyagings with no other protection than a gun mounted in the stern to cover their flight.

Let there be no doubt or misgiving with regard to the British Navy which works without ostentation or boasting but which perhaps alone of all the fighting organizations engaged, will emerge from this struggle with an enhanced reputation. By this I do not mean to say that it has never made a mistake but that its efforts have been consistently effective and almost invariably victorious. Sea-Power, without which defeat would long since have been inevitable and without which victory could never be attained, is today still more overwhelming than it was when the High Seas Fleet of Germany was first bottled ignominously within the Kiel Canal in the earliest moments of the war.

CHAPTER II.

NAVAL EFFORT.

In halcyon days the proud naval messes of the German High Seas Fleet were wont to toast "Der Tag" with brimming glasses and many a lusty "Hoch". For four years they have had their chance but "Der Tag" has never come and there are grave reasons to fear that it never will, despite all the hopes and prayers of our own Grand Fleet and the contrary view entertained by many people.

Statistics are distasteful alike to the censor and myself but I can perhaps convey the present position to my readers by saying that the British Navy put into commission since the outbreak of hositlities is considerably larger and infinitely more terrible than that which existed prior to 1914. Further than this, our advantage in numbers is greater than ever before, although ship-building has continued with feverish haste on both sides of the North Sea. I do not include in these statements mine sweepers, drifters or any other of the host of auxiliary craft which have been pressed into service but confine myself to actual fighting strength. Added to our own fleet are those of the United States and France, a combination presenting almost hopeless odds against the Hun.

Admiral Jellicoe's first order to capture or destroy the enemy was only in line with the long established tradition of our navy, on which account the policy that has since been steadily pursued has always been unwelcome to its personnel and frequently misunderstood by the public. There can be little doubt, however, that it has been the right, the only policy to pursue. The harbors of the enemy are closed,

his mercantile marine has been either confiscated or driven from the face of the waters, his battleships skulk in the Kiel Canal or behind the Bight of Heligoland except for the submarine which leads the life of a hunted fox and often shares his end. What is it then that we could gain by a general engagement that is not ours already? Nothing beyond a useless victory purchased at a terrible cost! Let there be no mistake, the losses will be nearly ship for ship while the battle lasts and thousands of brave men will meet their death. In this connection a veteran officer said to me in conversation: "The Germans fight their guns extremely well and it is only after they have received hard punishment that their fire becomes erratic."

It takes two to make a fight but, if the enemy comes out, he will be met with welcome: if he does not, his fleet will be of little use to him when the Entente terms of peace are met.

Even supposing that both sides were seeking a collision there is a serious obstacle not generally taken into account. Another officer told me that so many mines had been laid in the North Sea, first by the Germans and ourselves, and recently by the Americans, it was doubtful in the extreme whether the opposing fleets could get at each other for a decisive engagement.

The main point, however, is that Fritz has very little intention of putting his fortune to the touch and that, pending such an event, our own policy will continue unchanged. Not even popular pressure has been able to drive the Admiralty into more spectacular tactics. Thus the inconclusive Jutland fight cost Jellicoe the Grand Fleet but Beatty, as to whose daring aggressiveness there can be no doubt, has contented himself with following in the footsteps of his pre-

decessor. Thus too, the alarming inroads of the submarine campaign drove Jellicoe from the Admiralty yet Wemyss, beyond the thrilling episodes of Zeebrugge and Ostend, has done no more than develop the same defensive measures that had already been employed.

It is interesting to notice how completely the once under-estimated submarine has dominated naval policy. Five years ago the word "Dreadnought" was on every tongue, yet today these ponderous engines of destruction are almost obsolete. The battle-cruiser marks a transition stage leading to the latest type which depends upon speed rather than strength for defense and whose offensive weapons are mighty guns, capable of outranging any probable adversary. At the same time it is the destroyer which has really come into its own during the war, not only on account of its ability to cope with the U-Boat, but also on account of its general offensive qualities. What the infantry battalion is to the army, the destroyer is to the navy; a front line unit. For this reason it is easy to understand how much effort is devoted to the production of this class of ship. In a certain dry dock I happened to see together one of the largest pre-war destroyers and one of those most recently built: there was not a great deal of difference in design but in size the one was to the other what a Levis ferry boat would be to a passenger vessel of the Canada Steamship's Line. One great improvement has been made: formerly these water snakes mounted a single gun on the forward deck which it was often difficult and sometimes impossible to fight in heavy weather, on account of the blinding seas which drenched the bow. Today there is an upper deck forward, with a second gun that can be operated under any conditions.

Although more in the limelight, Germany does not possess all the submarines by any manner of means and I made a tour of inspection through a British craft which I was assured was both bigger and better than anything the enemy has produced; a statement that I found no difficulty in believing.

A thoroughly modern product, the Army has learnt something of the benefits of publicity but the Navy, being older is more conservative. Accordingly, on the occasion of the visit of the Canadian Press Mission to the Grand Fleet, we were received with great politeness but little enthusiasm. The Lion and Tiger, the Queen Elizabeth, the old Dreadnought, the historic veterans of the war, we saw them all, but so clean-cut are their lines that you do not receive a full impression of their size until actually aboard, and it is numbers rather than bulk which stagger at first glance.

How many people realize the nervous strain of a sea-fight between super-dreadnoughts? My own conception had been one of a dashing adventure where sailors cheered as they saw their shots take effect on the opposing ship but in the reality there is no such romance. Isolated groups are cooped up in massive steel turrets where the air speedily becomes fetid, where neither success nor peril can be discerned and where the fortunes of comrades are completely unknown except for brief messages from the captain transmitted by wires that may be carried away at any moment leaving the inmates of the turret shut off in silence until the action is over or their ship goes down.

No account of Britain's naval effort would be complete without some brief reference to the replacement of mercantile tonnage lost by torpedo or by mine

and I am happy to be able to record my belief, based upon what I have not only heard but seen, that the Hun cannot possibly succeed in his design of starving the Entente into submission. I have seen new ships under construction, I have seen old ones with gaping rents in their hulls being refitted to run the gauntlet once more. I have learned of the new welding process which is to do away with the rivetting of steel plates entirely and, knowing what is being done on this side of the Atlantic, my mind is perfectly at rest regarding the future. Before such a tremendous effort Germany must remain impotent both under and upon the sea.

CHAPTER III.

MEN AND POLITICS.

There are two Warwicks—My Lords Northcliffe and Beaverbrook—in the present political field of Britain who, if they cannot make Kings, at least succeed in making such minor things as Ministries and programmes. To ensure a proper understanding of the situation this fact must be kept steadily in mind. The two men share in common a past marked by no small measure of popular suspicion and enjoy the whole hearted hatred of all hard-shell, died-in-the-wool Tories as upstart troublers of Israel.

Hitherto their paths have not seriously converged but if Greek ever should meet Greek the resultant tug-of-war is likely to be worth watching. Northcliffe derives his power from the pressure which he is able to exert upon public opinion through a string of papers, comparable only to that of William Hearst, although considerably more responsible. Beaverbrook only controls the London Express and owes his position to an unusual gift of getting men together. Perhaps, however, the main secret of their success lies in the ability of each to do things or to get them done. After so many years of inconclusive warfare the people are hungry for action of a decisive, instant character which is foreign to the make-up of your professional politician, long accustomed to compromise and temporize. At all events it was the Northcliffe Press which drove Asquith from power, just as it was the sanction of the same Press coupled with the good offices of Beaverbrook or, as he was then, Max Aitken, which made the Lloyd George Government possible; nor is it too much to say that if these two

men withdrew their support, the present Ministry would almost certainly fall in short order. Beaverbrook played a shrewd stroke when he took over the Ministry of Information, which has given him not only certain powers in connection with the entire British Press but also direct official control over Northcliffe himself as a public servant, and can be counted on to make the most of his opportunities. His fellow Dictator too is hampered with ill-health though the same cloud may perhaps some day threaten the career of Max, whose restless energy seems out of all proportion to the endurance of a somewhat fragile frame.

Stepping from behind the scenes to the front of the stage, we find the players unwinding a very complex plot. First there is what we may call the War party, under the dual leadership of Lloyd George and Bonar Law, which includes the main bulk of the old Liberal and Unionist Parties; next there is a group, small but not lacking in influence, which is also anxious for a victorious peace but is constantly seeking to effect the down-fall of Lloyd George and the consequent restoration of Asquith. Then there is the Pacifist, or Peace-at-any-Price Party which finds its recruits among worn out peers like Lansdowne, who are fearful for the future of their caste, and anaemic Radicals, like Cadbury of the Cocoa Press, upon whose virility the war has imposed too great a strain, and finally there is the great Labor Party, with Arthur Henderson as its titular head, which is second to none in its determination to win the war but, conscious of its growing power, is frequently diverted by a desire for the advancement of its own ends.

At this point I must say something which is very hard and may appear ungrateful but which, in my

deliberate judgment, is true: the public life of Great Britain like Canada and, as I am informed, Australia is cursed with mediocrity. Earnest, competent, thoroughly experienced men there are in plenty but no one who really measures up to the greatness of the time. Those who have been accustomed to regard David Lloyd George as our man of destiny will experience surprise and even pain at such a statement but I am unable to qualify it nevertheless. Some ten years ago I found myself employed in London, a young and ardent disciple of the late Joseph Chamberlain, to whom the very name of Lloyd George, the Little England-Free Trader, was anathema. More recently, as I watched his war record as Minister of Munitions, as Minister of War and finally as Prime Minister at a distance, it became necessary to completely revise my view-point and no one's admiration for the little Welshman could have been more unbounded than my own. Today, after having seen and heard him and after having heard the views of others, I am somewhere between my two former extremes. I recognize fully his remarkable powers of organization and administration, I concede his magnetic eloquence, I admit that probably no one else could have pulled the Empire through till the present day, that he is still the only man in Britain for the position which he holds, yet, after all that has been done, I cannot say he is great. As an administrator I believe him to be both tireless and brilliant but as a politician I can see in him no more than an extremely gifted opportunist, playing for the fortunes of himself and his party quite as much as from any spirit of purely disinterested patriotism. A real vision he must have had in his youth but, in his maturity, the world has been too much with him.

I am thus naturally brought to a further disillusionment regarding public life in Great Britain: I suppose that most people, in common with myself, have always associated the Mother of Parliaments with a standard of statesmanship and political morality above the average and I trust it may be so but, if the impression which I have formed be correct, its present membership is mainly composed of a set of professional politicians who, making allowance for differences in environment and national psychology, are no better and no worse than our own duly elected representatives at Ottawa. In this newer country our methods may be more direct and crude, our organizers may exert material influence where those in the mother country exert social influence but, in both cases, the party warfare for power, the inside machinery, the looseness of principle and the petty intrigue are precisely similar. As against this it is only fair to say that the present Parliament has been sitting since pre-war days and there are grounds for believing that, when its voice can be heard, the regenerated spirit of the people will at least modify the present regrettable trend of representative government.

When first in office, the Lloyd George Government enjoyed a very general degree of support and confidence but the only safety of any war administration lies in success and the reverses of last Spring coupled with a marked vacillation in Irish policy had done much to undermine its popularity: indeed, but for the absence of anyone else to turn to, George might well have been overthrown and at the time of the Canadian Press visit there was every prospect of an early election. Whether more recent victories will preclude this necessity I do not know but, at all

events, there is little chance of any change: the same absence of alternative which has sustained the Ministry hitherto will ensure its return.

After the war, however, there is likely to be another story unless popular gratitude or his own consummate resourcefulness can save the Welshman and Great Britain has every prospect of seeing its first Labor Government. As I have said, Arthur Henderson is the titular leader of this organization but he is by no means its strongest representative and, without knowing all the possibilities, I question whether he will be Prime Minister. A character which has been forging to the front of late is the Assistant of the late Lord Rhondda and now Food Controller himself, a quiet, keen-eyed little man named Clynes. In the event of a Labor Administration attaining power, I venture to predict that, if he does nothing more, he will at least maintain his Cabinet rank.

CHAPTER IV.

LORD BEAVERBROOK.

Those whose memory looks back to the somewhat delicate lad in the small New Brunswick town, those who associate Max Aitken with Canada Cement and kindred feats of past financial prestidigitation, those who see in him today only a political parvenu of somewhat dubious antecendents over whose thinning locks forty years have not yet passed; all these experience difficulty in discovering the qualities which have elevated him to his present position of undoubted power: the Right Honorable Lord Beaverbrook, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Information. What those qualities are I must attempt to analyse.

Before proceeding with my task, let me state at once that, although the Ministry of Information was merely the channel through which the Imperial Government extended its hospitality to the Canadian Press Mission, I in common, I believe, with every one of my colleagues received so many marks of kindliness and thoughtful consideration from Lord Beaverbrook that the obligations of a guest would compel my silence had I only unkind things to say. In the sequel then, without deviating from candor we shall find, I hope, much to praise and something to admire in that complex character.

It is a common practise to underestimate, to belittle, persons with whom one is familiar or against whom one's prejudice has been aroused and the reputation of Max Aitken has suffered in this way. I know nothing at first hand of his Canadian record and can attempt neither vindication or excuse. Certainly, he

himself would be the last to claim anything higher than the current business morality of our country and our time but would frankly admit that he had employed the methods of those around him, with the single comment that no one who had gone into a deal with him had been a loser by it. Fortunately he was still young enough at that time for added experience to develop his character and largely modify his sense of the relative values of life, although he still retains the ambition, initiative and singleness of purpose responsible for those early successes and, above all, he has kept his head.

Under no circumstances can the present Lord Beaverbrook be dismissed or accounted for as a mere charlatan and fortunate adventurer. Modern England has moved far from her old moorings it is true, but there is still a sufficiently large conservative element in her make up to prevent a young man who was also a stranger, devoid of influence either social or political, from attaining within the space of a few years to almost dictatorial power by any leverage of wealth or self-assurance unsupported by exceptional ability.

As has been said, his sensational rise in public life is a scandal to the Gods of the aristocratic caste and to all men who still cling despairingly to their Tory convictions. His enemies are many and powerful who hate him cordially for his open disregard of convention and the old established order in getting things done; many too are the pit-falls set both in and out of Parliament to encompass his destruction but, despite them all, Beaverbrook continues in the path that he has marked out for himself and even takes an impish delight in deliberately fluttering the dovecotes of Corioli.

A recent biographer has said of our subject: "At the age of 30 he was a very rich man and sighing for other worlds than those of business to conquer. Without severing his connection with, or losing his interest in, his Canadian life, he crossed to England and entered Parliament in the election of 1910. Henceforward his career was made up of two intertwined strands, for to the decisive part he took in British politics he added the work of an unofficial ambassador for all sorts of men, causes, and parties in the Dominion.

In that kind of work he is pre-eminent. Though a fair speaker, especially in a hot electioneering corner, public oratory is not his forte. His strength lies in the small conclave, where he will swiftly change doubt or opposition into assent by the rapidity of his thought and persistence of his argument, and by some strange mystical quality which persuades clever men that while they are groping towards an opinion by a process of reasoning, he is actually seeing into the heart of the problems. "He of all men," said the great historian of Themistocles, "could best form a judgment of unprecedented events, and even when he had no knowledge he could give a very fair opinion."

Such a capacity is no doubt dangerous in so far as it lies beyond proof; certainly it infuriates some lesser minds who see ancient prejudices and established names go down like ninepins under the magic assault. Such minds look round for explanations everywhere and find them anywhere but in the truth.

These capacities have brought within his circle such strong and divergent personalities as Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Tim Healy, Augustus John, the almost legendary leader of the modern in Art, and Sir William Jury, the prince of the world of cinematography."

So much for Lord Beaverbrook's official life, but what of his more intimate personality? Here again we find ourselves confronted by two irreconcilable theories. If you talk to the cynical or antagonistic they will tell you that he is ruthless, devoid of scruples; one who makes use of other men and throws them aside, who sucks their brains and takes the credit for the result. On the other hand his admirers, and they are loyal, insist upon the staunchness of his friendship, upon the perfect harmony of his home life.

If the one picture is true, the other must be a libel and I can only submit the evidence in my own possession. Among the members of the Press Mission was a brave little one-armed man, with stooping frame and the failing sight of more than seventy years. I do not believe that he was wealthy and I know that the fashions troubled him very little, neither was he the representative of some influential metropolitan newspaper but simply the editor of a small weekly journal in New Brunswick. That little old man did not travel as an ordinary delegate of the mission but as a guest personally invited by Lord Beaverbrook, with whose boyhood he had been connected and at every function in public or in private that the Minister of Information attended he was received with warm affection and courteous solicitude. Surely ambition should be made of sterner stuff!

It is not for me to trespass upon private ground but having seen the ordered perfection of his home, having had an opportunity of estimating the reality of his devotion to a lovely Canadian wife and three sturdy children, I take leave to doubt the existance of those more sordid qualities which Beaverbrook's detractors seek to fasten upon him. It is almost im-

possible that a man could go so far and so fast without jostling the crowd in the ruck, or knocking some unfortunates into the gutter but this does not necessarily imply malice or lack of principle. The Minister of Information spares neither himself nor others but unless I am greatly mistaken diligent service meets with unreserved recognition.

What can the future have in store for such a man who is still in the full brilliance of his prime? Beaverbrook is far too keen a judge of men to be anything other than an honest critic of his own limitations. Although he has made himself into a competent speaker, the Parliamentary life is not for him, a fact which he admitted in quitting the Commons for the Upper House, but as a great organizer and administrator he must always be reckoned with. A thoroughpaced Democrat, his wisdom in making Lord Beaverbrook out of Max Aitken is questionable, more particularly in view of the imminent probability of a Labor Government after the war but this for him will only lend added interest to the game. At all events, in what ever direction his restless energy shall take him, he will be found in the van let follow who may.

CHAPTER V.

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

There are in this country many earnest, dyed-in-the-wool Democrats who exist in perpetual terror of being dragged into an ignominious vassalage to Great Britain, who shudder at the bare mention of the word "Imperial"; there are others again of severest virtue who frown on all public junkettings and feasting. Finally there are the eager politicians of the Opposition, seeking to make capital out of every action of the Prime Minister, upon which they throw the darkest construction with an ingenuity highly pleasing to themselves. All these find common cause in attacking the attendance of Sir Robert Borden and certain of his colleagues at the Imperial War Conference in London as a frivolous desertion of duty, if not a direct danger to Canadian autonomy.

It is therefore amusing to reflect that these annual visits to the Mother Country tend to increase the desire of those who make them for a larger measure of autonomy rather than for increased subservience and that instead of embarking gleefully upon a sea of dissipation, the overseas statesman, gastronomically and mentally exhausted struggles with desperation to escape the flood of well-meant but importunate hospitality. Could one of these vociferous objectors —conscientious or otherwise—but face the ordeal for a week they would pity rather than condemn.

In these articles it is my desire to be entirely frank, to avoid all laboring of domestic issues, and it is accordingly in no partizan spirit that I assert the absolute necessity of an Imperial War Conference in the interests of this Dominion itself, quite apart from

those of Great Britain or the Entente Powers, and pay willing tribute to the sense of duy by which the Prime Minister has been inspired.

At a luncheon given at the Savoy Hotel by the Canada Club which was attended by the Press Mission Sir Robert made reference to the Conference in the following terms: "It is not without inconvenience and even difficulty that Canadian Ministers have crossed the Atlantic this year, for many matters at home have demanded the gravest consideration and the most active attention. I hope I am fully conscious that my first duty is to the Canadian people; yet I am equally conscious that, even from that standpoint, but not forgetting the 400,000 Canadians who have crossed the ocean to fight for freedom during the past four years, no duty could be more serious or more compelling than that in which I have been engaged during the past six weeks.

Last year we met for the first time in the Imperial War Cabinet. This year its labors have been even more unremitting and certainly not less important. In the Cabinets of the several British self-governing nations the heads of the great Departments of State sit around the council board. In the Imperial War Cabinet the heads of the Governments deliberate as to matters of common concern. Each Government and each nation preserves unimpaired its perfect autonomy, while, on the other hand, a common purpose is maintained and effective co-operation is secured. The system has been found not only useful and efficient, but absolutely necessary in time of war. It may be found to serve also the needs of peace; but that remains to be determined by a Constitutional Conference summoned after the conclusion of the war pursuant to the resolution passed by the Imperial War Conference last year."

At an earlier banquet tendered by Lord Beaverbrook to the members of the Press Mission in the same place, Lloyd George himself after eulogizing the war effort of Canada, made this important pronouncement: "Well, all these facts are going to alter, not merely your world position, they are going to make a real change in the character of the British Empire. To a certain extent that has been achieved. It is becoming a reality through this war. This war, it is perfectly true, is one in which we engaged the Empire when we had no time to consult the Dominions as to the policy; and it is perfectly true that the policy which we had adopted to protect small States in Europe was a policy embarked upon without any consultation with the Dominions, but you approved of it. Henceforth you have a right to be consulted as to the policy beforehand and that is the change which has been effected as a result of the war.

The contributions which you have made to enforce these treaties have given you an undeniable right to a vote in fashioning the policy which may commit you and, as Sir Robert Borden knows well—and no one has been readier to bear testimony to the fact—for that reason the Imperial War Cabinet is a reality.

There, representatives of the Dominions sit with representatives of the British Empire and confirm, and consult and decide, under absolutely equal conditions in regard to information and power. All that is making a great change in the history of the British Empire and you cannot change the history of the British Empire without changing the history of the world, because it is an enormous force in fashioning the destinies of the human race as this war has proved. Ah, what would have happened without it? An-

other point you must have a voice in is the settlement of the conditions of peace.

We have discussed war aims and the conditions under which we are prepared to make peace. At the War Cabinet we arrived at an agreement upon the subject last year with the representatives of the Dominions and we shall reconsider the same problems in the light of events which have occurred since, and then we shall reconsider the whole of these problems. I have no doubt in the course of the next few weeks Canada and Australia and New Zealand, yea, and Newfoundland—they have all contributed their share of sacrifice and they are entitled to an equal voice with the representatives of these Islands—will determine the conditions under which we are prepared to make peace. Unless I am mistaken, we are pretty well in agreement with them."

I cannot, for obvious reasons, outline the work of the Imperial War Conference more closely than I have done in the above quotations and these should certainly be sufficient to demonstrate the vital character of the function which this unique body performs. I will, however, venture so far as to say that the interests of the Canadian Expeditionary force and the autonomy of the Dominion in so far as that force is concerned, have been promoted as a result of the presence of Sir Robert Borden at the Conference in a way that would otherwise have been impossible.

Of even greater importance is the influence which Sir Robert Borden, as also the Australian Hughes exerted upon public morale in Great Britain: without dwelling too much on a temporary and perfectly understandable war-weariness it must be recorded as a fact that the serious reverses of last Spring, including the fiasco of the Fifth Army, had done much

to undermine the confidence of the people while a very insidious campaign of propaganda was being conducted by the enemy in favor of a compromise peace. If the thing had ever got as far as a basis of negotiation I am confident it would have failed, but an intangible atmosphere of suggestion permeated London circles and the utterances of leading Statesmen were noticeably lacking in strength.

On account of all this, it was at least significant that the two leading overseas Prime Ministers should consistently urge the relentless prosecution of the war, stating plainly that their countries would not be satisfied with any inconclusive terms of peace after all their sacrifices of blood and money and, whatever the connection, a decidedly more aggressive note became evident in British oratory. I had the opportunity of hearing Sir Robert in numerous gatherings and beside some of the ablest spokesmen of the mother country and on every occasion—I say it without flattery—his has been the dominating personality by reason of the vigor of his views and the courage with which they were exposed. Other speakers received their meed of applause but it was invariably Borden who evoked the most enthusiasm.

Let me give a few brief excerpts from one address which is typical of all the others of which I have knowledge: "The German militarists are possessed by devils whose name is legion. To Germany no less than to all humanity the world owes the duty of casting out these devils. This war will never be well won until that task is accomplished. . . . . If war cannot be carried into Germany by land or sea, it can be hurled upon her from the air. Those who rejoice over the martyrdom of other nations must learn the real meaning of the horror which they

forced upon the world and through which they sought to subject its nations to their will. . . . Notwithstanding all German successes in the East, it lies within the united purpose and power of Great Britain and the United States, through the command of natural resources and raw material, and by other means, to place upon the industrial and commercial development of Germany restrictions against which she would struggle in vain. Germany must be made clearly to understand that this tremendous world-wide power of these two nations will be exercised relentlessly and mercilessly, not against a regenerate Germany (if even Germany may become regenerate), but against Germany as she is today."

These are not the words of a servile so-called Imperialist but of a man who, in the name of his own country lays down a policy to be pursued and defines the conditions of peace. In fact were Sir Robert Borden free to speak his mind I believe he would echo the words of a New Zealander in conversation with myself: "we are in this war to a finish but, after that there are some things we shall want to know." Altogether, I think there is little fear of the Imperial War Conference resulting in undesirable entanglements.

CHAPTER VI.

WOMEN IN THE WAR.

There have been only two sorts of women in Great Britain since the outbreak of the war: idle parasites and industrious patriots. To the credit of the country be it said that the latter class is in an overwhelming majority and that, from the coster's "lydy" through all the intermediate social strata up to the consort of His Majesty, the members of a hitherto supposedly weaker sex are "doing their bit." I do not know what percentage of the work formerly done by men is now in their capable hands but I should say that sixty per cent would be an extremely conservative estimate. Already the record is beginning to assume the proportions of a small library so that it is manifestly out of the question to do more than cover the ground in a most general way within the limits of a work such as this. Anyone sufficiently interested to delve deeper, however, will find valuable material in books such as "Women of the War" by the Hon. Mrs. Maclaren (Hodder & Stoughton); "The Woman's Part, A Record of Munitions Work" by L. K. Yates (same publishers); and "The Story of British V. A. D. Work in the Great War" by Thekla Bowser (Andrew Melrose, Ltd.)

To even completely enumerate the different occupations in which women are now engaged would be a difficult task and I shall content myself with citing a few of the principal organizations, among which are the Nursing Sisters, the Munition Workers, the Women's National Land Service Corps devoted to agriculture, the Women's Legion providing motor drivers for the Army, The Women's Auxiliary Army

Corps, or "Waacs," doing all sorts of odd jobs behind the lines, the Women's Royal Naval Service, or "Wrens," performing similar functions for the Navy, and the V. A. D. or Voluntary Aid Detachments. These last, which act as auxiliaries to the trained Nursing Sisters are not, however, exclusively, although largely, composed of women.

During 1917 it was announced that there were then 471 different munitions processes on which women were engaged but it is impossible to give the corresponding figures for today: so great has been the subsequent extension as to cover the whole engineering and chemical trades. Women are also being employed on heavy manual work of a kind which it used to be thought they could not possibly do although, needless to relate, such ideas are now thoroughly exploded. Beyond this, while not directly connected with war work, there is another large army of women engaged in essentially masculine work rendered necessary by the inroads of conscription and I myself have seen them actively employed as Policemen, Firemen, Clerks, Street Cleaners, Commissionaires, Errand Boys, Ticket Collectors, Freight Handlers, Motormen, Conductors, and I know not what else. Indeed every other woman in sight is either garbed in some uniform or other or is working at something—and doing it well.

It is less pleasant to consider the parasites to whom I alluded at the outset and I shall pass over this side of the picture as rapidly as possible. Yet it remains an unfortunate truth that the abnormal social conditions brought about by the war have resulted in a locust swarm of harpies, women vicious either habitually or as the result of sudden temptation, who infest the large municipal centres and military training

areas of Britain. In broad daylight and under cover of the darkened streets at night; in public houses, music halls, or "smart" hotels they will be found of all ages, of varying degrees of pulchritude and grandeur; plying their infamous traffic among the weak and unwary. Most of them are "professionals" perhaps but many more are susceptible young girls who have loved, not wisely, but too well and soldiers's wives for whose idle hands Satan finds some mischief still to do. Both the Civil and Military authorities do what they can in the way of prevention and repression, while such organizations as the Y. M. C. A. exert the strongest counter-influence of which they are capable but, as with the submarine, the evil is too wide-spread to be completely eradicated and even the severest penalties of "Dora", or Defense of the Realm Act, are powerless to prevent many sordid or pitiful tragedies.

Turn we now to the splendid heroism which is far more truly representative of British women than the immorality of a conspicuous minority; parasites live in the limelight but patriots work unseen. Who is unfamiliar with the deathless story of Nurse Cavell? While the circumstances of her murder were such as to earn her a place in the world's noble army of martyrs, such devotion has been equalled by thousands of unchronicled heroines of the war. Such is every woman engaged in the manufacture of high explosives, such too were our own Canadian nurses aboard the Llandovery Castle, at Doullens and Etaples.

What shall be said of Lady Paget who took a hospital unit to Serbia when the typhus epidemic was raging there and remained at Uskub with her staff after the invasion of the country, continuing her

work during enemy occupation? Of Dr. Elsie Inglis, founder of the Scottish Women's hospitals, who also worked in Serbia where she was taken prisoner and, after her release proceeded to Rumania where she served the Russian army? Or of Mrs. Harley, sister of Field Marshal Viscount French, who likewise worked for the Scottish Women's Hospitals since the outbreak of the war and was killed by a shell at Monastir in March, 1917, while tending Serbian refugees?

No less worthy of remembrance are such fearless fighters as Mrs. St. Clair Stobart who was with hospital units in Brussels, Antwerp, Cherbourg, and finally in Serbia where, attached to the army with a field ambulance column, she accompanied its heroic retreat to the sea; the Baroness De T'Serclaes (formerly Mrs. Knocker) and Miss Mairi Chisholm who have worked in Belgium since the beginning of the war and are the only women allowed to be in the firing line by the Belgian military authorities; Miss Violetta Thurstan who, since August, 1914, has been nursing in Belgium and in Russia where she was wounded in the trenches, but is now Matron at a great Belgian hospital; and Madame Brunet who, with her sister Miss Marion Mole, lived in Cambrai for over two years under German rule and did splendid work for wounded and prisoners.

Having regard to the immensity of Woman's war-effort, it is remarkable that, amid all the discussion of reconstruction problems and the return of soldiers to civil life, so little consideration should apparently be given to her future status. The average British woman is today a trained wage-earner, a definite economic factor, she has tasted the independent life which was once exclusively masculine, and I predict that her return to domestic environment will prove one of the most knotty of post-war conundrums.

It may be asked why women must return to such environment, particularly in view of their now considerable excess over male population and the probable demand for labor to rebuild Belgium and Northern France. This, however, is only to postpone the problem and not to solve it. On the one hand there is going to be a crying need for maternity and, on the other, it must be remembered that there is only so much work to be done in the world. While principally devoted to war products it is true, the industrial life of Britain is perhaps more active than ever before—and it is being carried on by women. Throw in an additional labor supply of several million returned soldiers and you are going to have an economic struggle that will dangerously warp the whole fabric of sex-relations.

A certain percentage of women will return to their homes voluntarily but there is little doubt that many who ought or could afford to do so, will not. Beyond this, there is the impossibility of eating a cake and having it. Past experience proves that military life tends to unsettle a man for civil pursuits and, in the same way, we are likely to find that industrial life will unsettle a woman for domestic pursuits so that, even given the opportunity, she will either be unwilling to accept marriage and maternity or unhappy after she has done so.

I merely point to the problem as one that has hitherto escaped general attention because, while it must eventually be faced, I confess that I have no present solution to offer. At all events the sacrifices of women have given them clear title to a larger voice in the development of civilization.

CHAPTER VII.

"CARRYING ON."

The people of Canada do not know what it is to be at war and some of them do not know when they are well off! This is the only conclusion at which I can arrive after witnessing the inconvenience and all the petty privations to which the civil population of Great Britain submits, if not with cheerfulness at least with resignation, in "carrying on." Indeed there can hardly be a single phase of pre-war existence which has not been either seriously modified or destroyed. At the same time it would not be correct to leave an impression of general penury and want for the casual stranger would see few signs upon the surface of any such upheaval as I have indicated.

So far as London is concerned, indeed, the life of pleasure although diverted into newer channels is more feverishly brilliant than at any previous time since the early Victorian era: for this the man on leave is mostly responsible and with him it is a case of "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Outside of this, the national life is far more serious and sane than before the close of 1914 and you will find little idle frivolity among the rich or vagrancy among the poor. Practically every able bodied man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five is at the front, in training to go there, or in hospital and those who remain at home are working—men, women and children.

While all food is limited and most of it is rationed there is quite sufficient for the requirements of health and many people have told me that they have benefitted greatly from the enforced abstemiousness,

At this point it is right to add that the people of Great Britain are practising a more severe economy of foodstuffs than would otherwise be necessary in order to enable the urban population of France to enjoy its accustomed diet. Your Frenchman will cheerfully endure, fatigue, discomfort, pain and even death but he cannot sustain the amputation of his menu for any length of time without weakening of morale, so that the Englishman is going on short rations for both. In the same way necessaries such as clothes, furniture, etc., can always be obtained though the range of choice is small and the price of everything is soaring to such an extent that the pound has only about half its normal purchasing value. Luxuries and fancy articles are scarce and beyond the reach of all but the wealthy: taxes too are both multiplied and onerous. Gold is unobtainable, paper currency having completely replaced it.

During the day, motor traffic is very much reduced and pedestrian traffic correspondingly heavier, the uniforms of all services and all Allied Nations striking a dominating note: in the country motor cars are so few and far between as to arouse curiosity while in town many of them are surmounted by an unwieldy gas bag for fuel supply. At night all houses and streets are darkened, though the sky is frequently illuminated by the moving beams of powerful searchlights feeling for possible invaders from above. All places of amusement and public gatherings must close by ten o'clock and notices of air raid shelter or instructions concerning them are everywhere conspicuous. These ventures of the Hun are, however, becoming rare since he began to get better than he gave and, except for a few broken panes of glass in the market of Covent Garden, it is difficult to find any traces

of his attempted frightfulness. As with the doctor, his victims are hidden in the grave.

Public services of all kinds are cut to the bone and the best way of getting anything done in a hurry is to do it yourself or do without. Trains are comparatively few in number and much slower than in happier times, while every passenger is his own porter. Every available square inch of ground, whether in back yards, along the right-of-way or in even more unpromising locations, is under intensive cultivation to some crop but labor is pitifully scarce and I have seen many fields of grain that were uncut or unharvested although rotten-ripe, presumably because the farmer had not yet been able to get round to the task. All farm products are under the scope of the Food Controller and carefully mobilized by him to ensure an equitable distribution among the consumers. Little or no attempt is made at price fixing, however, and I heard several tales of profiteering which reminded me of home. Coal for domestic purposes is becoming increasingly hard to get and the coming winter is anticipated with apprehension.

The war has taught Labor its real power and the workingman, though patriotic in the main, has often taken advantage of the situation to extort concessions from his harassed employer at the expense of the public and even of war production. Thus the rivetters in the shipyards have been frequent offenders and will meet with just retribution when the new welding process renders their occupation obsolete; thus, too, before the Press Mission left London, that city was in the throes of an unpleasant strike among the bus and tramway employees. If organized labor is to rule the world it must show itself capable of greater public spirit than capital or the world will profit little by the change of masters.

The Censorship is strict and "Dora", as the Defense of the Realm Act is nicknamed, is far more comprehensively arbitrary than any Canadian Order-in-Council; in fact some people believe that the only person who still retains his personal freedom unimpaired is the alien enemy, those of German origin in particular. During the period of my visit Parliament was obliged to yield to a wave of popular indignation and somewhat curtail the privileges of these unfortunate gentry.

Perhaps the most striking of all transformations in Great Britain has been that of the great industrial organization which I can best explain by a citation from Boyd Cable's very interesting book, "Doing Their Bit." Writing for his fellow soldiers he says: "It may surprise you at the Front, as it certainly did me to learn that the Ministry of Munitions has taken a grip on the whole industry of this country; that it has an autocratic control over it, wide and strong beyond the wildest dreams of the craziest autocrat; that no man can buy or sell a barrow-load of old iron or a sovereign's worth of copper or brass without some official of the Ministry getting to hear of it and popping up to air an insatiable curiosity; that no lathe or machine for working metal may be imported without the Ministry being given copious explanations as to its destination and intended use, and, moreover, if that use be not for munition work that the machine or metal is much more likely than not to be commandeered forthwith and set to munitioning; that no machine may be exported; that you cannot buy or sell a new or second-hand machine without a permit from the Ministry; that no man or firm may use man or machine to make clocks or gramophones or motor cars or anything between if the Ministry prefers the man or firm to turn his factory to making munitions in

whole or in part. And all this power is no empty form. It is used to the full, and as a result thousands of machines and scores of thousands of hands have been turned from other work on to munitions. A mechanic may no longer work where and on what job he pleases. If he is running a machine for stamping out trouser-buttons and the Ministry wants him to turn over to stamping out cartridge discs, he has to do so. If a firm is busy making motor cars, the Ministry inspector may step in and tell that firm to drop that work and start making shells. If another firm already making munitions is employing daily 100 skilled and 100 unskilled hands, the Ministry will almost certainly take away a number of the skilled hands and hand them over to another factory where skilled men are scarcer and more urgently required. All this simply means that the engineering resources of the country are mobilized and efficiently organized and turned full force on munition making. . . . .

Some of the heads of the greatest engineering firms in Great Britain—no, that is very wrong, and I ought to say in the British Empire—some of the greatest business brains the Empire owns are running this munition business. In many cases—I believe I might say most cases—these men are actually spending unstinted time and energy on the work, freely and without fee, salary, profit, or reward. Men who have been handling contracts running into millions of pounds, men who have been earning many thousands a year, have dropped all their own affairs to come in on munition work. . . . . They are the sort of men who take on as an ordinary job the tunnelling of the Alps or the Andes, the building of a Forth Bridge, the erection of a street of skyscraper buildings, the building of a Nile barrage. Now they are building

roads and huts and power stations and water—and drainage—and lighting systems, and are driving the work at a furious excess speed to completion."

It is because of all these things and yet others which considerations of space and shortness of memory preclude from enumeration that I repeat: the people of Canada do not know what it is to be at war and some of them do not know when they are well off.

CHAPTER VIII.

MOULDING NEW METAL.

Hitherto I have discussed men and matters which, although playing an important part in Britain's war effort, are not actually part and parcel of the war. It has been necessary to do this in order that the reader might more readily appreciate what is to follow but we are now coming closer to that great military machine which is the raison d'etre of all other great undertakings previously reviewed and at this point an explanatory word is in order. The invitation received by delegates to the Canadian Press Mission from the Imperial Ministry of Information was one to witness the war effort of Great Britain and, so far as munitions, ship-building, and such civil activities are concerned, this invitation was faithfully carried through but, when it came to military operations, the only aspects of Britain's effort with which we came in contact were represented by a half hour's visit to Field Marshal Haig, a day with the Grand Fleet and the inspection respectively of an aerodrome at Hendon and a Tankodrome at Cricklewood.

Apart from these our trip was almost entirely devoted to things Canadian, the only exceptions being two days in Paris and two more in the wonderful fortress of Verdun. Although, for obvious reasons it was a personal disappointment to have had no opportunity of visiting Imperial troops, I am able to recognize with gratitude the motive which led the Ministry to plan our itinerary as it did. Had we spent the entire two months upon the front we could have seen no more than the minutest part and any one British Corps is typical of all the rest so that it was

possible to gain as good an idea of active service conditions from observation with the Canadians as we could have done in any other way; to say nothing of the additional pleasure derived from meeting those battalions and those men in whom we were most directly concerned by the ties of country, if not of blood. In all that I shall have to say therefore it must be understood that my impressions have been derived solely from contact with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

I presume that the average soldier who embarks upon a Transatlantic transport after a period of training at Valcartier, St. John's, Petewawa, Niagara, Camp Borden or any other of the military areas scattered through the Dominion, is inclined to believe that he has mastered the whole art and science of warfare; that he is thoroughly qualified for his destined job of killing Huns without becoming a casualty himself in the process. If so, he will be speedily disabused of this delusion when he disembarks upon the other side where a further tedious but necessary period of probation and instruction must be undergone before he is deemed worthy to graduate in France or Flanders as an F. F. M. or First-class Fighting Man.

After arrival in England our drafts proceed at once to a segregation camp at Frensham Pond in the Witley Training Area, about forty miles south west of London, where they are taken on the strength of their several Reserve Units and remain under normal conditions for four weeks, during which time they receive instruction in such matters as physical training, squad drill without arms, marching, discipline, regimental history, and anti-gas together with platoon and section drill. Before leaving this camp the draftees are sufficiently advanced to pass the greater

part of the standard tests in hand bombing and anti-gas which they usually complete within a few days of their arrival at Witley or Bramshott, nearby.

After leaving Frensham Pond the men are kept together and commence their individual training in drill, musketry, bombing, bayonet fighting, Lewis gun practise, rapid wiring and platoon in attack. All the prescribed tests are carried out with the exception of that for gas, which only provides for the putting on of the mask, or box respirator, in six seconds, and the wearing of it continuously for half an hour, while moving. Although from my own experience I can say that this is no easy feat, it is not considered sufficient for service conditions and the men are obliged in addition to wear the evil-looking, stifling safety device continuously for two hours by day and two by night under motion, while gas alarms are given at the most unexpected moments throughout all stages of training. Ordinarily the men have passed all these tests at the end of the eleventh week, during which time they have also taken part in a series of Night Schemes, or operations, and are now ready for their collective training.

At this stage the draftees are formed into platoons and begin field work, numerous schemes being carried out and special attention paid to open warfare in which the platoons from the various units work together. Thus platoon, company and battalion schemes are taken part in under varying conditions and the men complete their training at the end of the fourteenth week although, if not then required for draft to the front, their collective training is continued and their individual training rehearsed from time to time.

In all this, of course, we have been dealing ex-

clusively with Infantry but there is also in the Witley Area a Signal Base, where officers and men are trained so as to provide a reserve of signallers sufficient to meet the needs of all battalions in the field; a Reserve Artillery Brigade and School of Gunnery, together with a school for Artillery Cadets; and a Regimental Depot Group controlling men unfit for general service, and finding reinforcements for Labor and Infantry Works Battalions.

Wednesday afternoons are devoted to compulsory competitions in military efficiency and to sports but the men are also encouraged to play games after training hours and on Saturday afternoons with excellent results, a healthy spirit of rivalry in this respect existing between the various units.

Ample facilities for amusement are found in the camp theatre as well as the Y.M.C.A. and church huts where periodic lectures are arranged to teach the men what they are fighting for. There is a special Y.M.C.A. hut in the neighboring town of Godalming, while the Kitchener Club of the same place, which admits respectable girls to membership, is doing good work towards keeping men off the streets.

But what of the camps themselves? Picture pleasant open places set in the countryside of Surrey in which are grouped rows of long, low, plain but neatly constructed huts whose interior makes up for absence of furniture and decoration by spotless cleanliness. The Kitchen appointments are equal to those of the most modern restaurant and, having before me an extremely elaborate printed diet sheet that includes recipes and quantities of material per man, I can assure all anxious wives and mothers that there is no danger of starvation in the Canadian Army overseas. Diet sheets are made out for a full week and I give

herewith a typical day's menu which was shared in with relish by the Canadian Press Mission. Breakfast: rolled oats, mutton croquettes and mashed potatoes, bread, butter and coffee; Dinner: (first half unit) beefsteak pudding, haricot beans, potatoes, ground rice pudding and bread; (second half unit) beefsteak pie and other dishes same for all; Supper: Macaroni and cheese, jam turnovers, bread, butter and tea; Late Supper: Pea soup and bread.

I have here attempted to describe the plan upon which our new metal is moulded to its proper place in the bulwarks of the British Empire and the world's civilization, as outlined in official memoranda prepared for the information of the Press delegates but I must leave till another chapter the task of completing the main features of Witley area, when I shall also attempt a more intimate picture of the draftee's daily life.

CHAPTER IX.

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME.

The word perhaps most frequently heard in use on the other side of the Atlantic, is not as Canadian readers might suppose "camouflage"—which indeed has become so thread-worn as to be taboo—but "morale." One hears it said that the morale of our own men is excellent, or that that of Fritz is poor, and rejoices in both cases but the expression implies considerably more than native courage.

Armies of such colossal size must naturally include within their ranks all sorts and conditions of men, whose daring has in many cases been blunted by the soft security of generations of civilian life. It is moreover one thing to risk life and limb in the white heat of some critical moment but quite another to do so for months on end in cold blood. Accordingly no efforts are spared to instil into successive drafts as they arrive in England the vital quality of morale, which we may interpret freely as "the spirit of the game."

Come with me in thought to Bramshott or Witley and see how it is done. Picture a clear blue sky, broken with fleecy clouds overhead and broad open spaces underfoot, with the once luxuriant grass worn into patches by the scuffle and tread of many rough-shod feet. Look round you and, in every direction, you will see small groups of men in active motion: some are engaged in familiar military exercises or physical training of a particularly strenuous, muscle-searching kind but, in most cases, their pre-occupation seems to be sport rather than preparation for a struggle of life and death.

Examine these groups more closely and you will see that each is composed of some dozen draftees with their tunics and equipment piled in heaps upon the ground, their faces and fore-arms reddened by unaccustomed exposure to wind and sun and dripping with the perspiration that speaks of surplus flesh. In the centre is a bronzed and veteran non-commissioned instructor, whose sleeveless zephyr reveals the wasp waist, deep chest and rippling muscles of the trained-to-the-minute athlete.

Here are ones busy lobbing "dud" bombs out of a trench upon a mark which represents the heart of an enemy patrol, an apparently simple thing requiring considerable experience to ensure safety and accuracy. The bomb is thrown over-hand with a straight arm motion that is a combination of bowling in cricket and putting the shot. To get anywhere near the mark a bomber must know the weight of his projectile and be a sound judge of distance. In addition to this, at the instant of hurling a pin is released to explode the bomb within a few seconds and it is easy for the unwary to strike a hand against the back wall of the narrow trench so as to injure both himself and those around him.

Here again are others lined up in opposing ranks practising the various bayonet lunges and parries. Suddenly the instructor barks out an order and they rush in on him from all sides with Indian yells and their bayonets at the charge. One expects to see the victim borne away on a stretcher but he stands without turning a hair and gazes critically at the ring of steel around his throat. Then he grasps a point that has come six inches short of his skin and pulls it nearer, exposing his short-comings to the embarrassed owner in vigorous personal style. This teaches a man to be

not only quick and accurate but also aggressive with his weapon.

In another place men emerge from a trench, wriggle through two wire entanglements, charge another trench with eager whoops, transfixing large bundles of twigs disguised as Huns in the act, and pass on to impale a second row of enemy in support. So vindictive is one of the attackers that he rips his bundle of twigs apart but the instructor shouts approvingly, "don't be afraid of 'urting 'im, lad, there's lots more where 'e came from" and the men trot back like pleased terriers to do it all over again.

A more studious group are gathered around a sergeant at a table who lectures to them on the mysterious internal economy of a Lewis gun, which he takes apart and puts together with lightening rapidity. Further on bare-shanked Highlanders who have evidently graduated from this class are practising machine gun attack. Galloping forward with their hose of death and the belt containing the bullets upon which it feeds and, flinging themselves headlong upon the turf, they go into "action front," "action right" or "action left" according as the instructor commands.

Beyond the gunners again a party is weaving a wire entanglement as though their lives depended upon it—which will indeed be the case when they cross the Channel—and, muffled safely in padded gloves, handle the barbed wire as though it was so much twine.

Having seen all these and many other similar features of a soldier's training let us proceed to another section of the camp. Here are other groups and other instructors but these last are noticeably less brusque than the officers we have already seen, their

manner being reminiscent of a tactful class leader in the Y.M.C.A. It is games too, open and undisguised: boxing bouts, touch-in-the-ring and what not, which busy them and we learn with interest that these are all ex-casualties many of them fresh from a long siege in hospital. Pain, weakness and an almost entire absence of military discipline have combined to destroy their morale and this can only be restored by the most carefully graduated process. A single false step or a harsh word out of season would so break a man's spirit as to render him useless for further service and the instructors are specially chosen for their patient, sympathetic intelligence. A very large proportion of these men are returned to "A" class and almost all of them to some category which permits them to work in England or behind the lines. Once the course we are watching is completed they will go back into Reserve and start all over again with the newly arrived draftees and utlimately find their way to the front to strafe the Bosche once more.

Crossing the field, we enter a large barn-like building inside which is apparatus suitable to a well appointed gymnasium. Here is the reconstruction department where casualties with wasted muscles, deadened nerves and withered members slowly regain the full or partial use of their own bodies. In one corner a row of parallel wooden rails stands out upon the wall: in front of them is a man who could not raise his arm above his shoulder a short time ago. Painfully he reaches for bar after bar until he can go no further when the motion is repeated again and again. Soon he will gain a fresh rail, then another and another until, finally his arm is at full stretch. Elsewhere are two horizontal rails between which a man may walk until his legs consent to obey their owner. A man with

a paralyzed thumb sits opposite to an instructor who subjects it to repeated steaming, following which a pathetic effort is made to move the lifeless member but a hair's breadth: eventually this man, too, will be able to twiddle his thumb with the best of us. Over there is a casualty with stiffened wrist ligaments trying to turn a handle on the wall and so we might continue to enumerate all the ingenious devises whereby human wreckage is restored to activity and hope. Sad it is to see the mute patience, the wistful earnestness with which these scarred veterans follow their childish pursuits but pleasing to know that their efforts will in nearly every case be crowned with full reward.

Now we must pass on, for a couple of tactical "Schemes" have been prepared for our edification. Soon we reach a point of vantage beside a fair-sized hill at the bottom of which is a thick wood. In this we are told, are concealed British forces who intend to carry an objective beyond the enemy trenches on the hill's brow. First comes a heavy barrage in front of the wood (represented by numerous buried mines, exploded by electricity) behind whose shelter khaki figures emerge into the open. Then the barrage lifts and moves forward with the British slowly following. The enemy send up signal rockets to their artillery for a counter-barrage which is laid down and our infantry protects itself with a heavy smoke screen. Then the machine gunners advance from the cover and the staccato rat-a-tat of the Lewis gun makes itself heard. Upward goes the fight with its din and smoke and flares until, as wiring parties enter the scene, a first wave passes triumphantly over the enemy's front line and signals for the moppers up behind before sweeping on towards the objective. Soon the trench system is cleared and the wiring party

proceeds to consolidate it, while the wind brings back the cheers and yells of the now distant infantry who have completed their task. Mimic warfare perhaps but decidedly impressive and not far short of the real thing.

The field of the second operation is found on a road which winds its way through a clearing in a wooded valley. Beyond the road is a battery of enemy machine guns covering the retreat of an infantry force and the British are to clear them out of their strong position. Like Indians the attackers creep in on the road taking advantage of ditches and every piece of natural cover until their presence is discovered and a rattle of machine guns suddenly emanates from the wood. Then the inevitable barrage is laid down, a smoke screen rises, and the wood is completely hidden from view. Meanwhile rifles and machine guns are speaking and "the orchard at Festubert all over again!" exclaims a one-armed Brigadier by my side.

It is of such things as have been described that the draftee's daily life is composed in learning the spirit of the game and it is to such things that the splendid morale of the Canadian Corps is in no small measure due.

CHAPTER X.

SALVAGE.

In all ages there has been no more potent engine of destructive economic waste than war nor has there been any conflict whose baneful effects have been more far-reaching than that which has raged in all quarters of the earth for the past four years. My readers may therefore be surprised to learn that amid all the multiplicity of its other belligerent activities the British Army finds time to conduct salvage operations on a gigantic scale.

Thus, "somewhere in France" the Canadian Press Mission spent a busy morning in a plant where low category men, who are also experts in their several trades, with a reinforcement of several thousand German prisoners are kept constantly engaged in reclaiming the tons of material of every description which is being continuously salvaged from the battlefields. Having seen all the sorry refuse and wreckage which comes in for treatment it is little short of miraculous to be shown elsewhere the spick and span good-as-new articles which are shipped out for further service. Nothing is too small and nothing too large to be handled nor is anything too worn and broken to be made use of.

Here is a pile of muddy, mildewed boots, tattered and down at heel. First they must be thoroughly washed, then they are taken apart and the uppers separated from the soles. Next a serviceable upper, is matched with a sole in good repair to produce a new boot. Finally pairs are sorted out and given a thorough soaking in oil, when they are ready for re-issue from Quartermaster's stores. If only part of an up-

per can be used the leather is saved for patch-work and so it goes with every available scrap of material. Rifles, machine guns, gun carriages and the guns themselves: all these are reclaimed by similar means and made fit for use and there is even an optical department for field glasses, periscopes, watches and other instruments of precision. In these days of elaborate operations involving thousands of men of all services there is nothing more important than accurate synchronization of movement, to ensure which all watches must be maintained at a standard even higher than the great railroads exact, while the damp, dirt, rough and tumble of trench life shortens the life of the stoutest time-piece unless it receives frequent repairs and regulation.

In another place French girls who earn more money than their fathers ever did, are employed in repairing tents, painting tin hats, making mitts out of water bottle covers, and nose bags out of old canvas. Here models are made from the specifications of inventive officers and new devices frequently brought into general use. Thus, for instance, we were shown a new type of case for the Lewis gun which had been tried out and was then in the process of re-modelling as the result of the experiments carried on.

The same process of salvage is going on in every military area in France and Britain with a resultant saving of hundreds of thousands of pounds annually but it was at Witley that the Canadian journalists received their first insight into this work and learnt what was being done by the soldier to protect the interests of the tax-payer in this country.

At the time of our visit the Canadian Salvage Department had been in operation just a year, during which time the approximate value of commodities col-

lected in this one area and disposed of amounted to the surprising sum of $83,925.00.

Here I can best cover the situation by quoting from an official memorandum which, as in practically every place we visited, the officer in charge of the Department had thoughtfully prepared for our information. "Before the Salvage Department started operations," it reads in part, "most of these commodities were treated as *waste*, but Headquarters recognized the value of saving everything that employed labor to manufacture and issued instructions to have the different articles conserved, with the result that they were collected and disposed of at profitable prices, to be made up again or to be used in some other form as war material. . . . .

Since the war, and the consequent call on every factory for men for the fighting forces, the value of the articles handled has materially risen because the demand is as great as ever but the manufacturers have not the man-power to continue producing them. Therefore the Salvage Department is able to dispose of everything salvaged at very profitable prices and also to fulfill a national want.

When collections are made, considerable sorting into grades has to be done so that top market prices can be obtained. After sorting, shipments are made to the London Yard where the buyers are dealt with direct. This saves middlemen's profits.

The Salvage Department's work is especially valuable to the tax-payers in Canada because all of the income goes to the General Fund, and the Department's very existence and enthusiasm have taught each Unit the absolute necessity of (1) Saving everything. (2) Practising economy in all regimental departments, and (3) Appreciating the gradual de-

crease in the purchasing power of money. The Department's influence has also extended to each individual soldier who now knows the necessity of economizing in every particular.

The Department's work has been so thorough that, while incinerators are built in every camp, there is now no use for them because *there is a profitable market for everything except dirt—and dirt won't burn.*"

On the occasion of our inspection we saw low category men busily sorting the various articles into their proper grades and stacking them neatly in store with as much evident pride in their work as if the outcome of the war was entirely dependent on their efforts—which in fact may well be nearer the truth than a casual observer might surmise. The financial statement of the first year's operations is reproduced herewith:

Commodity.	Pounds	Number	Approximate Value
Marrow Bones	58,728	.....	$ 5,016.40
Ordinary Bones	264,777	.....	11,448.02
White Dripping	106,430	.....	16,956.83
Brown Dripping	11,671	.....	1,747.20
Cracklings	34,912	.....	1,193.40
Trap Grease	2,506	.....	105.60
Tea Leaves	9,935	.....	585.20
Rabbits' Feet	7,210	.....	59.60
Bottles	.....	16,266	162.40
Fish Boxes (large)	.....	2,624	3,148.80
Smoked Fish Boxes	.....	989	108.70
Tea Cases	.....	410	246.00
Leather Clippings	14,272	.....	18.40
Rabbit Crates	.....	3,662	439.20
Horse Hair	4,721	.....	225.60

Jars		2,574	25.75
Head	1,782		98.60
Iron (mixed)	69,151		148.25
Waste Paper (controlled price)	110,730		1,320.00
Rags (mixed)	27,583		3,552.00
Rope	240		14.40
Rubber	360		16.80
Sacks (various)		28,087	5,055.60
Canvas Sacking	8,114		462.00
Rabbit Skins		68,898	8,268.00
Tin	61,665		1,320.00
Wire	9,287		38.40
Meat Wrappers	29,178		2,496.00
Swill Disposals			13,169.65
Manure Disposals			6,478.20
Total Salvage	831,252	123,510	$83,925.00

Anyone familiar with this class of trade will appreciate the knowledge of grades, prices and market conditions necessary to ensure the maximum profit. Too great credit then cannot be given to those who are performing this unmilitary, uncongenial task with such ability in order to reclaim whatever dollars may be possible from the wasteage of the war.

CHAPTER XI.

THE SHORNCLIFFE AREA.

Witley and Bramshott are the training areas for Canadian infantry, artillery and signallers but it is at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, that the Cavalry draft and the Army Medical Corps draft are prepared for their duties on the firing line. This spot is a long established English military depot, for which reason more permanent quarters are available than in other Canadian camps and comparatively little new construction work has been necessary.

Who has not heard of the Sussex Downs? those hump-backed chalky hills whose feet are washed by the waters of the English channel and whose heights are swept by the bracing ozone of sea-breezes. It is amid such fortunate surroundings that Shorncliffe is located and the robust appearance of the men pays eloquent tribute to its healthful properties.

The camp lay-out and equipment are similar to those already described and, making allowances for the requirements of different arms of the service, training methods are much the same. First the new comer is practised in the walk, trot and gallop mounted on veteran horses who know their drill as well as the instructor himself and can perform the various evolutions without word of command. Then comes trick riding to make the cavalryman thoroughly at home on his mount under all conditions until finally sufficient progress is made to commence squadron and regimental drill and operations.

The Shorncliffe Reserve which reinforces the Brigade, or four Cavalry Regiments, at the front consists of as many squadrons organized as follows: (A)

Drafted from Toronto Depot and reinforcing the Royal Canadian Dragoons; (B) Drafted from Calgary Depot and reinforcing Lord Strathcona's Horse; (C) Drafted from Winnipeg Depot and reinforcing the Fort Garry Horse; and (D) with no particular Depot in Canada which reinforces the Canadian Light Horse. In addition to these there has recently been added a squadron of Royal North West Mounted Police, part of which has been sent to France as a fourth squadron of the Canadian Light Horse and the balance held as general reinforcements for the Brigade.

Moving on to the practise field of the Army Medical Corps, numerous groups can be seen at work under service conditions. At one end, casualties are lying round the ground and stretcher bearers are sent forward from the Field Dressing Station in parties of four. When a casualty is found the nature of his injuries are determined and first aid treatment given. Then he is carefully placed upon the stretcher and carried off the field shoulder high: suddenly an unexpected cloud of gas (represented by an ordinary smoke screen) arises and the party halts to put on the mask of the wounded man as well as their own. On arrival of the Field Dressing Station each casualty is examined by a medical officer, any further necessary preliminary treatment is administered and a tag put on giving a diagnosis of the case, after which the patient is ready to be placed in the ambulance that carries him back to the Casualty Clearing Station.

Although there was a scorching sun overhead on the day of the Mission's visit, and physical exertion while wearing a gas mask is little short of torture to the inexperienced at the best of times, both bearers and casualties went at their work with all the enthus-

iasm of an absorbing game with the exception of one big, rawed-boned individual who, on seeing us, began to emit the most dismal groans from the depths of his mask and became so weak as to require support. Our sympathies were aroused until we learned from a stoical but long suffering officer that this man was the prize malingerer of the Depot, whereupon we left him to the tender mercies of military discipline without further compunction.

There is no more trying and difficult task imaginable than that of bringing a severely wounded man out of action on the western front under the heavy fire that is almost invariably encountered. In rainy weather when No Man's Land is a knee-deep sea of sticky mud it is impossible for four bearers to carry their burden more than a few hundred yards and an attempt to double the number proved that so large a party afforded only too good a target for machine gun fire. A relay system has therefore been adopted, successive groups crouching in shell holes or other shelter until their turn for duty comes.

The enlisted men, however, are not the only ones to require training for the newly arrived medico, although holding captain's rank, knows little or nothing of his military duties and special attention has to be paid to turning out efficient officers as well as skilled surgeons or physicians.

The Army Medical Corps Depot has two main functions; firstly that of a reserve unit with an organization similar to that of an infantry battalion, which prepares all C.A.M.C. personnel for service in the field, in hospitals and elsewhere; secondly that of a training school which carries on five courses, as under:

1. An officers' training course in which all offic-

ers taken on the strength of the Army Medical Corps undergo a six weeks' course that teaches them not only to do things themselves but also to teach others to do them, as also the necessity for rigid discipilne.

2. N.C.O.'s Training Course in which selected men are trained as non-commissioned officers.

3. General Training of Private Soldiers which is further sub-divided into (a) training of category "A" men for service overseas, and (b) training of category "B" men for service in England.

4. Instructors' Course in Physical Training.

5. Officers' Course in Anti-Gas Measures. All ranks receive a thorough training in this very important branch but, as the instructions and methods change from time to time, all officers are given a five and a half day's course immediately prior to their departure overseas, so that they reach the front with the latest training fresh in their minds.

Still another institution at Shorncliffe is Number XI. Canadian General Hospital which is second to none in its situation directly overlooking the sea and in the comprehensive character of its appointments. Established in May, 1915, as Moore Barracks Canadian Hospital, it received its present designation in December, 1917. The institution contains thirty-five wards, one of which is fitted up for officers; eleven hundred beds; and has had to date. 37,226 potients.

In addition to looking after those admitted to this hospital, it acts as a centre to which Medical Officers of various units send their patients for specialists' reports. There is also an X-Ray school and a Pathological Laboratory where training is given; while Queen's Canadian Military Hospital, Beachboro' is a subsidiary institution whose military personnel, also forms part of that in No. XI C.G.H.

CHAPTER XII.

FRIENDS IN NEED.

One of the proudest boasts which stay-at-home Canadians can make in the days to come will be that no soldiers were ever better cared for than those of our own Expeditionary force have been since the First Division reached Salisbury Plains. No estimate unfortunately can be made of all the socks and sweaters that have been knitted; of all the books, eatables and smokes that have been packed by the mothers, wives or sweethearts of individual soldiers; nor of the letters written which mean more to Tommy in the trenches than anything else, but there are several organized agencies providing luxuries or necessities that cannot be issued from Quartermaster's stores. Of these perhaps the most prominent are the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Y.M.C.A. whose devoted efforts will be dealt with in due course. I am now concerned, however, with a unit of which, although known to those who seek diligently to do good, comparatively little has ever been heard by the general public: the Canadian Field Comforts Commission.

Although officially the Commission was appointed by the Department of Militia in September, 1914, to take charge of the distribution and forwarding of gifts to the Overseas Military Force of Canada, it is really the creation of Miss Mary Plummer and her devoted aide, Miss J. L. Arnoldi who with the respective Commissions of Captain and Lieutenant came to England with the First Division and were at Salisbury Plains until March, 1915, when they were first moved to Ashford for some weeks and then to Shorncliffe, where the Commission has had quarters in the

barracks of the Royal Engineers ever since. Lieutenant Arnoldi has visited Canada several times in connection with the work but Capt. Plummer refuses to leave her post, even for rest, until the job is finally done.

With the growth of the work, additions to the personnel became necessary and four other women officers were accordingly appointed in 1916, while a provisional establishment of eighteen N.C.O.'s and men has since been authorized and many Canadian women resident in Folkestone or Sandgate pressed into service as voluntary workers. The various departments are divided as follows: Lieut. Arnoldi, in charge of packing and shipping; Lieut. Lenore McMeans, in charge of personal parcels; both quartered in the packing hutment: Lieut. N. I. Finn, in charge of purchasing and accounts; Lieut. N. R. Gordon, in charge of records, acknowledgments and enquiries; both quartered in the Commission's office: and Lieut. S. E. Spencer, in charge of unpacking and stores, who is quartered in the unpacking hutment.

It is of interest to know that the Commission is the only organization which undertakes to forward addressed cases and parcels from Canada to Canadian units and individual soldiers; that with it moreover originated the term "field comforts" which is now applied to all comforts for soldiers in the field. The work done falls under four principle headings: General Distribution of field comforts to all Canadians at the front, Forwarding packages to designated units or individuals in the Canadian Forces, Filling requests from the front for special comforts, and Ordering supplies which are purchased locally and despatched to the front as directed by friends in Canada for their own men.

Gifts for the Canadians are regularly sent to the Commission by many hundreds of individual contributors, apart from more than one thousand women's societies, representing no less than eight hundred and fifty-one towns in Canada, who have direct correspondence with it. Supplies are forwarded from Canada through the Department of Militia and consignments should be addressed to Captain Mary Plummer, Canadian Field Comforts Commission, care Lt.-Colonel W. J. Stewart, A.D. of S. & T., Montreal, or care Lt.-Colonel C. D. Spittal, Officer in Command Water Transport, St. John, N.B. Be it noted, however, that, while the work of forwarding consignaments to designated men or units is gladly undertaken, the Commission prefers to receive donations to be distributed at its own discretion. There is a sympathetic interest in supplying one's own battalion or one's own relatives with comforts but these may already be well cared for and it is more practical, more truly charitable to help others who are entirely unprovided for. Where the recipient is designated, care should also be taken to give the most accurate and recent address as an almost incredible amount of time is spent in locating men whose whereabouts is incorrectly indicated.

Captain Plummer who received the Canadian Press Mission cordially and conducted them personally over her domain, is a capable lady of apparently robust constitution, possessing the added asset of a pleasant face which is eloquent of vigorous intellect and generous idealism. Lieut. Arnoldi was on home leave at the time but the other officers are all attractive but hard-working young Canadian girls, the daughters of parents whose names are well known in their own Provinces. When off duty, a military uni-

form similar to that of the Nursing Sisters, is worn but during working hours, this is protected by a neat over-all gown in some art shade of pink.

Just what has been accomplished by this little band of tireless workers can be seen from the following extracts culled from an official statement.

"During 1917, 10,416 cases and boxes and more than 83,000 parcels were forwarded by the Commission to the troops in France. From January 1st to June 30th, 1918, 3,883 cases of comforts have been received from Canada which come duty free as gifts for the Canadian Forces. . . . .

The forwarding work, especially the care, record and delivery of thousands of small parcels is very heavy. From January 1st to June 30th, 1918, 30,357 personal boxes and parcels were received from Canada and 28,989 were despatched. There is always a balance in hand for enquiries as to addresses which frequently need correction. Parcels sent in this way go free from sender to soldier. . . . .

Every endeavor is made to send what is needed in reply to requests from the front and the following list shows the variety of supplies asked for during this month (June, 1918). About ten per cent of the requests come from N.C.O.'s or men for small parcels; the balance are from officers for their men:

Supplies:	Requests
General comforts for unit	7
Socks for unit	4
Comforts for dressing station	1
Primus stove for dressing station	1
Tobacco or cigarettes for unit	10
Books for unit	5
Games for recreation room	2
Cards for unit	5

Gramophones for unit	4
Gramophone records for unit	5
Gramophone spring and case for unit	1
Writing materials for unit	2
Baseball outfit for unit	12
Baseball bats, balls and gloves	4
Baseball uniforms for teams	2
Football uniforms for teams	2
Football boots for teams	3
Footballs	9
Cricket outfit	1
Indoor baseball sets for unit	2
Tennis balls, 3; boxing gloves, 2; Badminton bird, 1, for unit	6
Mouth-organs, 3; banjos, 2; violin, 1; band instruments, 1, for unit	7
Mess kit, 1; cooks' aprons, 1; polish, 1; cheese-cloth, 1; pudding-cloths, 1; flag (for burials), 1; kneeling-cushions (for Chaplains), 1	7
Parcels of comforts for individual soldiers	34
Running-shoes for individual soldiers	6
Sweaters for individual soldiers	5
Shaving kit, 1; pen, 1; chess, 1, for individual soldiers	3
Total	150

Of these requests, 138 have been answered and the remaining twelve articls will be sent as soon as the supplies asked for can be obtained.

Last Christmas, 8,000 parcels were packed and addressed to Canadians at the front in the name of their home circle or town, besides many cases of supplies ordered for special units. The Commission have sent a small Christmas gift each year of the war to all Canadians at the front, to ensure that every man

should have at least this small remembrance of home. Last year the Commanding Officer of every unit was asked for the names of his men who were known to receive few parcels; 5,159 nams were returned and an extra parcel of comforts was addressed to each of these. Many of the men have written that this was the very first parcel received by them since going to the front. (Incidentally it may be said that officers frequently report cases of "lonely men," who have no relatives, to the Commission, which has also on record one case where a private reported his "lonely officer").

From January 1st to June 30th, 1918, the following number of pieces were despatched to the front or delivered to Canadians in camp here:

By post (11 pounds or under)	5,053
By rail (56 pounds or under)	6,408
By delivery	1,843
Total	13,304

An advance note is sent of every box or bale despatched. At least seventy per cent of the total shipments are voluntarily acknowledged which in view of the difficulty of routine work at the front, is considered very satisfactory, especially as many forwarded pieces are acknowledged direct to the senders in Canada. The winter correspondence is much heavier than now but 597 letters from the front have been received this month (June, 1918) and the Commission can justly claim to be in touch with all ranks of Canadians in the field."

Receipts for the last financial year were approximately $57,165.60 and the amount required to take care of all demands is between twice and three times this revenue. It is not easy at this stage of the war to

ask for or to give money for patriotic purposes but during its stay in Europe, the Canadian Press Mission saw no organization which was performing a more urgently needed function, and there is certainly none which has received less financial support from Canada. If the Commission has not sufficient funds to meet all requests, it simply means that a number remain unfilled, that some lonely soldier or isolated unit has to go without field comforts.

Those of my readers, therefore, who are in a position to contribute either supplies or money may be sure that it will be put to the best possible use and will be warmly appreciated by the men whose lives it helps to cheer. Cheques, drafts or money orders should be made payable to the Canadian Field Comforts Commission.

CHAPTER XIII.

BEHIND THE FRONT.

Whatever success the submarine may claim elsewhere, its impotence against the main traffic routes of the English Channel has been abundently demonstrated since the earliest moments of the war. Daily, and almost hourly there ply between the Channel ports of France and Britain, transports laden with soldiers and women-workers either going on leave or returning from it, together with reinforcing drafts and every variety of supplies or equipment, on a schedule as uninterrupted, as devoid of incident as the ferry crossing between Levis and Quebec. These are the lines of communication which work the undoing of the Hun, against which he can only gnash his teeth in helpless rage and, accordingly the Canadian Press Mission made its way across and back again without other excitement than the explosion of a drifting mine by gun-fire from an attendent destroyer.

There are civilian train services in France but they are not only slow and infrequent but subject to cancellation and the most convenient mode of travel is in a General Headquarters motor car, speeding at the average rate of forty-five or fifty miles an hour. To do this, however, it is necessary to be a spoiled protege of the British Government or an officer attached to the General Staff.

The roads of Europe are renowned for their smooth perfection but the rough usage of four years' war traffic has worn away the surface and only the most pressing maintenance work can receive consideration. This fact, coupled with furious driving has,

in turn exercised a baneful influence upon springs so that it is not safe for more than two persons to occupy a car in addition to the chauffeur. A staff car usually serves its proprietor as a perambulating billet wherein he eats when he can and sleeps if he is lucky: it is therefore of closed type and may be expected to have a folding table attachment upon which despatches can be written or maps consulted. Open cars are usually equipped with a wind shield in the rear as well as the front seat. On and near the coast, towns and villages present much the same appearance as those of England, except that traces of air raids are more in evidence, and there is quite as much civilian as military traffic on the roads. As one moves inland, however, the scene gradually changes to a more martial aspect.

In England it is still possible to see men of military age but physically unfit in civil costume but in France there are no such men of any description out of uniform. Go where you will there are only women, children and old men. In consequence buildings and premises present an appearance of neglect, depressing in itself. In contrast are the well cultivated fields and flourishing gardens which pay silent tribute to the patient industry of the Frenchwoman.

At every turn there is the military policeman or "Red Hat" who, recognizing an official car, makes way except in rare instances where orders have been issued to stop all traffic. Then there is a searching scrutiny of passports, a close comparison of faces with photographs before the traveller is allowed to go forward. Everywhere, too is the motor lorry which rests by the roadside in day time and rumbles over the highroad at night. Every vehicle bears some mark or insignia denoting the unit to which it belongs, but

no information must be given to the enemy and their meaning is clear only to the initiated. Some of these are quite artistic, as for instance the silhouette of a chateau and some amusing, as a spirited likeness of that well-known London music hall artist, Chirgwin, "The White-eyed Kaffir."

In and out of the traffic dodge goggle-eyed despatch riders on motor cycles, while now a marching squad of infantry is overtaken or a slow moving ambulance truck. Again an artillery battery is encountered or a sullen group of German prisoners engaged in mending the roads. Along the road side are scattered aerodromes, ammunition dumps, sanitary detachments and reserve camps, all carefully camouflaged to escape the prying eyes of observation planes. Indeed one of the first principles of life at the front is to avoid attracting fire at all times.

Coming closer to the front, buildings begin to show the disastrous effects of bombs and shelling while the civil population becomes increasingly sparse. Military units billeted here reside in cellars which are made proof against gas and, for the most part, ascend to the upper air only after dark. The splendid bordering of trees which marks the main trunk lines of France also commence to look frayed and ragged from shell-fire and the occasional dull reverberation of distant guns is heard.

Closer still, in the "back areas," towns and villages are nothing but a heap of unsightly and deserted ruins and, at intervals can be seen reserve trench lines, each having its wire entanglements already in place and having some name similar to those of Hindenburg, Siegfried or Wotan displayed in black lettering on a neat white board. The voice of the guns is much louder and the rattle of the mitrailleuse

makes itself heard. On the horizon is an endless row of captive observation balloons, like so many corpulent sausages nodding and curtseying at the end of a string, which follow the sinuosities of the battle line. Before the air was finally mastered by man, to ride on a camel was supposed to be the ne plus ultra in mal de mer but its terrors are as nothing to life in the basket of a captive balloon and two hours is the limit of endurance for the strongest stomach. All around the trees have been scorched by fire, blasted by noxious gases or brought low by some artillery barrage; what was once a well-wooded copse is now only a group of splintered stumps and only occasional vestiges remain of the proud border which used to shade the road.

Reverting to the habits of wild nature, those at or near the front work by night and sleep during the day, and traffic assumes a feverish activity with the fall of dusk. Then supplies are brought up, guns are shifted and troop movements take place. Then too, the bombing planes are abroad and I know of no more trying sensation than to sit in a darkened billet and listen to the distinctive drone of an enemy machine, wondering whether it will "lay its eggs" upon your head or not. On one night seventeen men were killed in this way, not far from the place where the Canadian journalists were quartered, and similar events occur in every sector of the front.

CHAPTER XIV.

AT THE FRONT.

"The Front"—that is a scene as wonderful as it is terrible which every correspondent privileged to be there has attempted to portray but to which the most able have been powerless to do justice: the thing is too immense in its ever shifting phases and myriad details to come within the limitations of any pen picture. In spite of this realization it is still incumbent upon me to convey to my readers some conception, however remote, of all the labor, all the havoc, agony, and death which is contained in those two short words. I am further handicapped by failure to witness any actual operation of proportions greater than a trench raid too insignificant to find its way into published reports; having therefore no tale of daring adventure or devoted gallantry to narrate I can do no more than rough in the outlines of a few hasty and disconnected glimpses of trench existence.

That life and death struggle at the front is never-ceasing though of varying intensity so that the veteran soldier is able to distinguish two broad conditions which he tersely contrasts as "peace-time" and "war" although the difference between them is only that of intermittent showers and steady rain.

It is peace-time on the Arras sector when we set out in the inevitable motor to visit the lines of a Canadian Battalion at "Le Point du Jour." The sun is bright, the sky is clear and all nature smiles with savage irony on the horrors encumbering the ground or mercifully hidden in its depths. In front of us the interminable line of British "sausages" stand out against the blue, tugging continually at their re-

straining ropes while those of Fritz are hazy in the distance. Overhead a flight of aeroplanes is darting and swerving with throaty drone, while puffs of snowy fleece which Tommy has christened "woolly bears" mark the peril of some enemy craft from our searching shrapnel shells. At intervals the bark of Canadian batteries commands attention or a dense shower of dirt, thrown up to a height of thirty feet and followed by a dull explosion, indicates the billet of a Bosche projectile.

The road along which we travel is masked by a screen of netted camouflage which shelters us from all observation save that directly overhead but presently this comes to an end and we are halted by a "Red Hat's" peremptory hand: it is prohibited as dangerous for vehicles to go further. After some altercation and the production of credentials we are permitted to pass and thankfully escape a needless eight miles' trudge. Now we are moving at top speed for we are under observation and it is not healthy for a motor car, which generally means a staff officer, to linger in one spot. Finally we pull up in the lee of a friendly bank, don "tin hats" and adjust gas masks to the "alert", make an appointment with the driver to meet us later on which we hope both contracting parties will be in a position to keep, and take one wistful look at our chariot scudding for safety before setting out across a vast open plain to ascend the gentle Western slopes of Vimy Ridge.

There are four in our party and we must string out so that, in the event of misfortune, someone at least may bring back the story of our fate. It is also necessary to keep tight hold of one's courage as for the first time is heard the sighing whistle of a "Whizzbang" overhead. Fortunately we are soon

able to determine that these have not "got our numbers" on them but are consigned to the address of some object of hate in the rear and we breathe more freely, even interesting ourselves to distinguish from the sound between those going over and those coming in.

The effects of these massive shells are visible all around in the crater-pitted terrain. They vary in diameter from four to fifteen feet and in depth from two to eight according to the calibre of projectile and their age can easily be determined. Those of long standing are overgrown with grass and lanky weeds while those of more recent origin resemble a rough-scooped excavation, usually with a muddy puddle in the bottom, and those formed only a few hours past are spattered with rusted shards and loose earth stained with noxious gases.

The ground is strewn with old cartridges, abandoned bombs, worn out equipment, shell fragments and half buried "duds" while in our progress we pass by decrepit entanglements and old, grass-grown, barrage-battered trenches for whose possession thousands of strong men have fought or fallen and whose caved-in recesses form the graves of many a pitiful wreck of what was once a human body. Surprising it is to find that our movements attract no unwelcome attentions from the Hun but we are few in number and there is, not a gentleman's understanding—for all the gentlemen are on one side of the bloody line—but a mutual understanding to leave working parties unmolested. Certain tasks of no vital military significance must be performed by both belligerents and it is not worth while to waste a shot on the off chance of wiping out an odd man or two.

Eventually, however, we come to a point where

this care-free strolling is no longer advisable and are met by an Intelligence Officer of the Battalion we set out to visit who leads us into the winding communication trench that we must follow. I have spent an amusing hour in threading the verdant maze at Hampton Court but I should not care to venture fifty yards in a modern trench system without some thoroughly expert guide. Doubtless their construction follows some well-ordered plan but to the uninitiated their sinuous ramifications are simply bewildering and our main pre-occupation must be not to lose sight of the man ahead.

After a half mile of tiring trudge we gain the battalion headquarters—a glorified dug-out—situated in a support line where we are warmly received by a youthful Major in the absence of his Commanding Officer who is busied elsewhere.

From the Battalion headquarters we resume our journey, now under the Major's guidance, along a communication trench leading over the crest of Vimy Ridge and down the decided incline of its eastern slope to the front line and "No Man's Land" below. As before we string out as a precaution against possible shell fire, gaining further protection from the continuous zig-zagging of the trench. Under-foot are what Tommy calls "duck-boards" and the Canadians, "bath-mats"; these have an uncomfortable habit, when stepped on at one end, of flying up and hitting either the stepper or the man behind, in the face so that progress must be made warily for several reasons.

Our first warning that we are getting into close proximity of the Hun comes in the form of a number of shrapnel bullets, still warm and powder-blackened, which have fallen in the bottom of the trench. "A

nasty spot" comments the Major, stirring them with his foot, and we carry on with a tendency towards weakness of the knees. Presently we are invited to climb up on the fire-step and look over, which we do with considerably more caution than our guide. Below us and about a quarter of a mile in front lie the German trenches, whose course is plainly distinguishable although, like our own, they show no signs of life. Beyond the ridge there stretches a level plain over which we have observation for many miles and we are told that, given favorable atmospheric conditions, even Douai can be seen ahead.

After some minutes we climb and move on, nor have we proceeded far when the sudden w-h-i-z-z-z of a shell makes us look back involuntarily to where the dirt flies up from the parapet where we had been standing and there comes a detonation of awe-inspiring weight. In such a position there is no choice but to carry on and trust that luck will hold but it is with deepest gratification that we note the increasing distance between the shelling and ourselves.

At a turn in the trench we come on a carefully concealed artillery O.P., or observation post, which we enter and are allowed to gaze through a glass on the lens of which is an arrow whose point rests directly upon what we are informed is a German Company Commander's head-quarters. The observer gives the range to his battery in the rear by telephone and receives an answering message that the shell is going over; then we wait breathlessly for several seconds before we see the familiar cloud of dirt fly up from the very point of the arrow, so accurate has been the shot. By the time that each member of the party has been entertained in this way, Fritz becomes peevish and starts a strafe of his own which renders

another move advisable and accordingly we take leave of the observer who assures us that we have probably been responsable for doing in several of the enemy.

At various points are the remains of the concrete "pill boxes" upon which the German High Command used to set its trust and in one place a half-buried field gun with a shell still in place bears testimony to the efficiency of our barrage fire. Again we come upon a working party making local improvements. Not only is the spot painstakingly camouflaged but each spadeful of earth is carried away in sacks for a German plane, if it saw what was going on, would speedily bring down a hail of steel upon the workers. Next it is an ordinary observation post where every move of the enemy from hour to hour is noted, much as one would stalk a nobler wild animal, and regular reports sent back to battalion headquarters. The telescope is handed to us and after some direction we are able to make out a party of Huns walking about a thousand yards behind their line. These be it noted, were the only Huns out of captivity which it was our privilege to see.

From here we go to the Battalion canteen where chocolates, tobacco, cigarettes and small necessities are sold. It is much too close to Fritz to permit of smoke or flame but here is a smoldering coke fire at which the men can heat their food within a few hundred yards of the firing line.

There is nothing to distinguish the front line from any we have already traversed except for the men posted at intervals on guard and we descend into a dug-out within whose darkness some forty men are snatching a hard-earned rest. The steps lead down almost perpendicularly towards No Man's Land for thirty feet, so that only a shell landing on the actual parapet can damage it in any way, and it is surpris-

ing to notice the purity of the air which is due to the presence of a second passage giving a continuous circulation.

On our return to headquarters we notice a battered German helmet on the wall of the trench, and our curiosity being aroused, we learn its history. Shortly after midnight on the preceding night, a patrol of ten men, mostly recent drafts, had encountered thirty Huns in No Man's Land. Now it would have been quite permissable in view of the disparity of numbers for the Canadians to have retired and made their report, but that is not the habit of our men, and it was not long before the enemy were glad to withdraw, leaving one of their number badly wounded on the ground. Here again there would have been no breach of military etiquette in considering the incident closed, but pressing on, the patrol rounded up the casualty for purposes of identification and brought him to headquarters, where he died soon afterwards. The helmet in question once adorned this Hun. The cream of the affair, however, is that the enemy did not know he had been picked up and laid down a barrage in the supposed vicinity of his body throughout the day, and when they went themselves to recover it after dark, a further pleasant time was had.

It is now noon and, with appetites sharpened by our exercise and experiences we sit down in the Battalion Mess to an excellent lunch which includes hot meat and apple pie cooked in the trenches. All too soon we are obliged to retrace our steps and the question of our motor car begins to occupy attention. Fortunately it is waiting for us at the point agreed upon and in a few moments we have placed a respectable distance between ourselves and the hazards that our men have been facing for four dreary years.

CHAPTER XV.

A GLIMPSE OF WAR.

In a previous chapter I have described "peace-time" on Vimy Ridge as it was my privilege to see it and the picture will now be rounded out by an impression of "war" before the mighty fortress of Verdun. The Canadian Press Mission had risen from a moving picture entertainment given for its benefit in the bowels of the Citadel when a rumor spread among the members that a trench raid was to take place not long after midnight: investigation proved that the Chaplain, who administered the consolations of religion to those involved, stood sponsor for the statement and so, although the possibility of such an event was laughingly pooh poohed by the Commandant, a small party led by the Padre set out for a coign of vantage on the heights above to see what might be seen.

It was a beautiful star-lit night and the towering circle of forts which guarded the virgin city against the most powerful hammer-blows of the Hun stood sharply silhouetted against the dark blue sky. Given happier conditions you could have heard a branch snap under-foot half a mile away, so still was the air. Beneath our feet the ruined city slept, ghostly and deserted.

No sign of human activity was visible but, outside the fortress, from the depths below, ascended the rattle of cart-wheels and the rumble of a busy light railway train. In the distance guns spoke intermittently and the rare staccato of machine guns testified to ceaseless viligance on both sides.

It was then a quarter-past eleven and the Padre said the "show" was to begin sharp at twenty min-

utes to one and would last for just fourteen minutes. As time dragged on, one shivered slightly—in part from excitement and in part from the cool night breeze—while watches were consulted and compared at frequent intervals. Still there was no sign of anything unusual afoot and we began to ask ourselves "will the raid really take place"?

Then, after what seemed like hours to us who were watchfully waiting, but doubtless like seconds to those about to risk their lives in order to capture a few prisoners for the sake of the intelligence that might be gleaned from them, several signal rockets climbed up into the vault of Heaven and—all Hell was unchained.

Guns of every calibre roared forth defiance as the French barrage was laid down. Two of the frowning forts spat forth death in belches of livid flame and the battered, grass-covered fortifications on which we stood rocked with the concussion. Above the duller reverberation of heavy artillery could be heard the sharp continuous roll of the mitrailleuse while flares and signal rockets shot up one after the other as French or German signalled for further aid. Literally it seemed impossible that anything engulfed in that seething maelstrom could survive and even at the safe distance from which the journalists looked on, it was easy to gain some fanit conception of the terrible test of endurance to which human nerves are put in this struggle to which prostituted science has lent hitherto unimagined terrors.

Precisely fourteen minutes later the chaos of sound subsided with the same startling suddenness it had arisen and, in the contrasting silence, we seemed to be the sole occupants of an abandoned world. Once again the rattle of cart-wheels reaches our ears, and

the storm dies down to a fitful crash of distant guns. The operation is over; begun and ended on schedule time; and we climb down again into the tragic ruins after an experience that no one of us will soon forget.

Despite the vivid impression created, it was disappointing to remain in ignorance of so much that we were anxious to know. Presumably the raid was successful but there was no indication of the fortunes of the fight, nor could we learn how many men were killed or wounded in the action, how many Germans were captured or laid low, nor what information if any was wrung from their unwilling lips. In fact the whole affair formed so small a detail in this warfare of giants that it never found its way into any official report.

Before we leave the front we must experience the desolation of other ruined towns from Lens and Vimy to Properinghe and Ypres and my next chapter will be devoted to their description.

CHAPTER XVI.

VALLEYS OF RUIN.

There are many ancient ruins in the world whose contemplation evokes only a sense of interest in their revelation of the life of a former age but the ruined cities of the charnel pit in Flanders and Northern France are so numerous, the gaping wounds of their wreckage are so recent as to arouse a mingling of deep depression and passionate anger. In most cases, if we could forget the Central Powers' initial crime of aggression, it must be admitted that some justification for this havoc exists on the ground of military necessity: indeed no small part of it is due to Entente Gunners who launch their missiles against the homes of France as Lucretia plunged the dagger into her own breast, defiled by Tarquin's guilt. For Doullens or for Louvain, however, no excuse, no expiation can be possible.

Nowhere probably can the desolation of a war-swept land be more fully realized than in the Valley between Vimy Ridge and the heights of Hill 70 and Lens. To cover this area we must take an eighteen mile trip by light railway: embarking at Gouy Servins we pass by Ablain St. Nazaire where a road-side cross marks the last resting place of Mme. Celinie Delabre who was shot by Germans October, 1914, for refusing to betray her countrymen. The grave almost buried in grass and wild flowers looks out on the gaping foundations of what was once her home. In this neighborhood thousands of French or Canadian soldiers lie buried and as many wooden crosses shine white in the sun like some huge garden of lilies. Behind Ablain is Carency and beyond it,

Souchez where the Canadians conquered in a bitter fight. East again is Givenchy en-Gohelle, where as we turn south to Vimy we see on the horizon the outlines of Neuville and Mount St. Eloi. Circling Vimy Town there can be discerned Thelus, Farbus, Willerval, Arleux en-Gohelle and Acheville. Returning north towards Avion, Drocourt, Rouvroy, and Mericourt lie on our right hand. Descending from our train we inspect some fine examples of German dug-outs with concrete reinforcement and proceed cautiously through the ruins of Avion to a front line trench round the end of which across a flooded flat we look out on the German position astride the famous "Green Crassier" or slag-heap, less than four hundred yards distant. Here a youthful guard belonging to an Imperial Battalion exchanges greetings and tells us with eager pride that he is "going over the top tonight." We wish him the best of luck and he passes out of our lives as, only too possibly, he has passed out of the world.

Retracing our steps and climbing back on to the little flat car the train turns hard west to Lievin and on to Cite du Moulin in the very outskirts of Lens. This is the heart of the coal country and pit-mouths can be seen all round. Here again we are in uncomfortable proximity to the Hun but fortunately it is not long past four o'clock on a misty morning and low visibility protects our movements.

Leaving Lens we turn north-west to Cite St. Pierre in whose shattered station and railway yards are more than a score of much needed and still usable freight cars which it has not yet been possible to salvage. From here we can look out on Cite St. Auguste and Loos but continue westward past Fosse Calonne to Grenay, still in fair preservation and boasting a

small civilian population, and Bully Grenay where our journey ends.

Mark well that we have only named the principal urban centres of this ruined valley, in which are dozens of villages and hamlets too small to enumerate here, but one thing they all share in common and that is destruction utter and absolute. Here dwelt four years ago perhaps upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand souls: today they are scattered in exile and of their peaceful homes scarcely one stone is left standing upon another: certainly no house is habitable or capable of repair. One would say that the places had been struck by some super-natural power for there is no sign whatever of the means by which all this ruin has been accomplished.

Let us now make a flying jump into Flanders and take a similar train bound for Ypres: this is a far more risky journey and we make it despite the advice of friends and the instructions of authority. From Poperinghe past Vlamertinghe right into the now historic ruin we are under direct observation both by aeroplane and from the summit of Kemmel Hill, though we are somewhat favored by a cloudy sky.

It is still "peace-time" but the guns are more actively engaged in counter-battery work than has been our experience up to this time and the falling shells can be detected by their clouds of dirt in numerous places and at frequent intervals, nor are our own heavies by any means inactive so that the air is filled with percussive sound. Incidentally it should be explained that there are no longer any "cushy" jobs near the front: the position of batteries is constantly checked and the ranges are corrected daily. When the infantry is comparatively quiet the artillery is

showered with shells and casualties are often heavy, if the guns are not kept on the move. The railroad also comes in for its share of attention and the wrecking crew is kept busy in repairing the damage that the enemy has done.

Arrived in the outskirts of Ypres we stroll on foot through its empty streets where the poppies spring up between the cobble stones and gaze on the noble remains of the old Cloth Hall. An enemy plane has detected our entrance and shells begin to fall in our vicinity so that it is necessary to seek shelter until the storm has passed. We then continue on our way to the Lille Gate, over whose barricade of sand-bags we take a hasty peep at the distant enemy lines.

As an example of destruction Ypres was disappointing to me for the houses had been by no means so completely razed as I had been led to expect and I have seen other places such as the village of Fleury near Verdun where it was practically impossible to say that a habitation had ever stood. Still the work of demolition is fairly complete after some fifty months of almost uninterrupted hate and the enemy has every reason to be satisfied with his efforts. Many tales have been told of houses with the front wall torn away and the interior exposed just as the occupants had left it but, neither in Ypres nor in any other of perhaps a hundred ruined towns which I saw was there any apparent instance of this kind with the sole exception of Poperinghe where there were several pathetic pictures of a rudely interrupted domestic life.

Leaving the city our engine breaks down and we visit a battery in the neighborhood while repairs are attempted and enjoy the experience of firing eighteen pound High Explosive shells against the

Bosche. What results are obtained can never be known but we like to think that the execution done was terrible. Finally it is announced that the engine cannot be induced to move and accordingly we set out to walk home along the track in a decidedly apprehensive procession. Such fears as are entertained gain little relief when a shell lands almost directly ahead of us though at a safe distance. As we move forward the shells continue to fall and it seems as though the enemy was bent upon our destruction. Soon, however, we are able to see that it is a battery and not ourselves who are being favored and we negotiate the danger zone without casualties.

Just what would have happened had we really been under fire could be imagined by looking at a fair sized crater which had been formed almost directly upon the points of a switch, proving that the German gunner is capable of deadly precision when he is not pressed. After tramping along the ties for about a mile and a half another train meets us, we pile in with undisguised thankfulness and are soon back to a point of safety where we can boast of our successful adventure.

CHAPTTR XVII.

OLD BATTLEFIELDS.

During their sojourn at the front the Canadian journalists were afforded the opportunity of traversing no less than three battlefields which had already grown old in this feverish struggle where fortunes are reversed as it were overnight and machinery becomes obsolete before it is worn out. These three, Verdun, Ypres and Vimy Ridge, were all the scene of some important, if not decisive, action in the war and a proper appreciation of their significance can only be obtained upon the ground itself.

Imagine a circular range of hills with wooded slopes concealing a chain of powerful forts. In the centre is an isolated elevation to which clings a picturesque city of twenty-two thousand inhabitants, surmounted by a frowning citadel while the winding valley of the Meuse bisecting the circle, laves its feet: that was Verdun before the war, whose main asset lay in its strategic position. In early days Verodunum was a stronghold of the Romans, the old citadel rising as we have said on a steep hill in a bend of the river which protects it on all sides but the west.

Today it faces Metz and is one of the strong cities on the Meuse River, such as Mezieres, Namur and Liege. In 843 it was given with Lorraine to the German Emperor by the Treaty of Verdun in the partition of Charlemagne's Empire but, when it was captured from Charles V together with Metz and Toul in 1552 the three cities had long been under French Princes. In the eighteenth century Vauban fortified Verdun and a new town was built. It was taken in two days by the Prussians in 1792; and was again

taken by them in 1870. The present fortifications include part of the works of Vauban but mostly consist of forts built by Sere de Rivieres, Director of Engineering at the French War Office in 1874, after the disastrous Franco-Prussian war, as part of a line from the Jura Mountains to the Ardennes connecting the great strongholds of Belfort, Epinal, Toul and Verdun. There is also a second line which runs between and includes Besancon, Dijon, Langres and Rheims and the best tribute to the genius of his work lies in the fact that none of these places has yet been taken. Indeed so strong were they considered by Germany that the High Command preferred to risk British intervention by the violation of Belgium rather than attempt to break through the double chain. Even Nancy, which was no part of the original system and had only been fortified just before the war in a few months time, has been able to withstand all assaults. The Verdun forts of 1874 are thirty in number and cover a front of thirty miles.

The German Crown Prince engaged large forces against the city in 1916, the attack opening on February 9th; his object was to gain a clear road to Paris along the westward flowing valley of the Marne and there is very little doubt that, had he succeeded, the French Capital would have been obliged to stand another siege. So confident was the enemy that elaborate preparations had been made for a triumphant entry on March 1st, but the poilu had adopted as his motto "Ils ne passeront pas" and the Crown Prince was eventually obliged to retire after accomplishing nothing more than the capture of two outlying forts, Vaux and Douaumont, and the demolition of the city together with its surrounding villages, such as Fleury and Vascherauville.

During the battle, for want of proper railways, an endless train of lorries running at three minute intervals on roads kept in repair day and night by whole regiments poured into Verdun men, food and munitions. The Canadian Press Mission be it said reached the city by this same route from Bar-le-Duc which is now known as "La Voie Sacree" in commemoration of the part it played in saving not only France but civilization. Gas and liquid fire was used by the Bosches who pushed their attacks in wave upon wave, charging over the very bodies of their dead and varying the shock of forty-two centimetre shells with the hail of cunningly hidden machine guns. Notwithstanding every effort both Douaumont and Vaux were retaken in October and by December the Huns had been driven back to their original positions, having lost 700,000 men in those three hundred days.

Fort de Vaux was taken by the enemy in June, 1916, after a siege of several months and attacks of incredible violence. So closely was it hemmed in that the only issue by which it could receive supplies or report to headquarters was a steep path under constant shell-fire. Daily volunteers presented themselves for the hazardous trip and, out of five, only one or two would turn. Finally that too was cut off and the garrison was without food or water: four hundred against 100,000 they fought on for another week before surrendering. Vaux was retaken by the French in a few hours some four months later.

On September 14th, 1916, the following decorations were received by the unvanquished city of Verdun from President Poincare on behalf of the several Governments: The French Legion of Honor and Military Cross, the British Military Cross, the Italian

Medal for Military Valor, the Belgian Cross of Leopold, the Russian Cross of St. George, and the Serbian and Montenegrin Medals.

At the time of the journalists' visit there was not a tree nor a dwelling standing in all that great hollow within the thirty mile chain of forts and every foot of ground was pitted with shell holes that merged one into the other. On both the outer and inner slopes of the encircling range between le Cote du Poivre to the north and Fort du Vaux to the East there are successive lines of battered trenches by means of which the Germans fought their bloody way up to the summit of the forts and were afterwards pushed back by the heroic French literally yard by yard. At the furthest point of the enemy advance Fort Souville was outflanked and only the inner forts of Belleville and St. Michel stood between the invader and Verdun. The ground is still heavily strewn with all the wreckage of war and in the Ravine des Morts lie the bodies of a million men. So thickly are the dead buried in some places that bones and rags of uniform spot the walls of a trench like raisins in a slice of cake. Even at this late date ghastly souvenirs are still exposed: thus the Government Photographer, who accompanied the party, a dare-devil if ever there was one, picked up an old German helmet only to drop it precipitately when part of a human skull and human brains fell out upon the ground.

To outward appearance, Verdun has not suffered so much as many other cities, except for the old fifteenth century quarter which with characteristic frightfulness the Hun destroyed by incendiary shells, and the majority of the buildings look as though they could be restored but, alas, it was made plain to us by the Governor that there was not one of them that could

be saved, not one within whose hollow walls a single room remained: Verdun is dead!

In common with Ypres and Verdun, Vimy Ridge shares the unenviable distinction of being one of the bloodiest battlefields of the war. Extending from near Souchez on the north to the outskirts of Arras further south, it occupies the same relation to that part of the front between Lens and Soissons that the famous Chemin Des Dames does to that between Soissons and Verdun, serving as a natural bastion upon which the line may pivot backward or forward according to tactical necessity. Once remove that bastion and the defending flank is left dangerously exposed. Although commanding a wide-sweep of lower-lying country on both sides, the western slope, as has been explained in an earlier description, rises generally on a gentle grade to the summit which will go down to history under the graphic title of "The Pimple." The Eastern slope, on the other hand, is ruggedly abrupt so that the Ridge is more difficult of attack from that direction.

In an early period of the war, a gallant attempt to storm this position was made by the French who actually reached the summit after a terrible toll in casualties had been exacted, but were unable to hold their gains, being driven back to the plain below. Since that time, the Arras sector had been occupied by both French and British in turn but no serious attempt to recover the Ridge was made until this heavy task was assigned to the Canadian Army Corps under Sir Julian Byng on April 9th, 1917.

For some months previously ,both our own soldiers and those of Germany had been carrying on an extremely bitter warfare of mines and counter-mines in which success depended upon ingenuity and eng-

ineering skill. One side would burrow forward under the other's trenches and the other would dig to meet them, then when both mines were in readiness it was only a qustion which could be exploded first. As in so many instances of attempted frightfulness, the Hun got the worst of his own medicine and gradually discouraged this mode of offensive until today mining operations have been almost entirely discontinued.

The natural result of all this was that the terrain became ploughed up into yawning craters, many of them approaching the dimensions of a large quarry, each of which formed a stronghold for machine-gun crews and bombing parties. Slowly the Canadians fought their way forward, linking up crater to crater as each was cleared, until they reached striking distance of the summit. Then, unsuspected by the enemy, a gigantic subterranean labyrinth capable of concealing whole Divisions was excavated in the chalky soil, wooden roads over which artillery could be rushed forward were constructed and everything was in readiness for the great attack.

This was the first occasion on which the present intense barrage was attempted by British troops, and a hitherto unheard of concentration of guns of all calibre was effected behind the line. Men for the first wave of assault were eagerly waiting in the labyrinth and the whole vast operation had been minutely co-ordinated in its smallest details when a veritable hail-storm of steel descended upon the Ridge and its holding force, with unremitting fury. Taken by surprise, the enemy was blasted out of his seemingly impregnable position and down the precipitous eastern slope in disconcerted confusion. So terrible was the barrage that the Pimple disappeared in showers of dirt while the whole terrain was churned as though

by some titanic harrow. Finally a signal announced the arrival of "Zero Hour" and the waiting infantry leapt over the top and stormed successive lines of trenches, most of whose occupants, unnerved by shock became easy captures, nor did they stop until the entire Ridge was in Canadian hands and Fritz ensconced in the open Eastern plain, where he was doomed to suffer the same ceaseless harrying to which he had exposed the Allied soldiers for three long years.

At the time of the action the whole field was one sea of fluid, thigh-deep mud, from which every blade of grass had been worn away but long before the visit of the Canadian Press Mission, prolific Nature had reasserted herself in a green mantle spread over the naked horrors of that slaughter and crimson poppies nodding from the parapets of demolished trenches. There was even a vegetable garden, cared for by low category men, which supplied the needs of a Division, so that the only reminder of destruction was afforded in the litter of cartridges, bombs and shell fragments stumbled over at every turn.

Ypres! other battlefields may boast their great engagements but you have been the scene of four year's never-ending, and often hand-to-hand struggle: you the guardian of the Channel Ports, standing with bloody but unbowed head between the shores of Britain and the malice of her envious foe. Who is the historian to fitly record the homeric deeds performed within sight of your tragic walls?

"Wipers," as the soldier knows it, stands in a plain which is dominated on the East by Gheluvelt and on the West by the heights of Cassel. To the north is the water-shed of the Yser and to the south are Kemmel and Dramoutre. In this small area are such deathless names as Pilkem, St. Julien,

Zonnebeke, Vlamertinghe, Gheluvelt, Dickiebusch (Dicky Bush), Voormezeele, Zillebeke, Le Clytte, Wytschaete (White Sheet), Messine, Wulverghem, Neuve Eglise, Dramoutre, and Ploegsteert or "Plug Street": heaps of ruins over which the tide of battle has rocked backward and forward with inexhaustible rage.

Ypres offers a very poor position to protect but necessary as outflanking Kemmel to the south, whose possession would otherwise seriously endanger the whole defense system of the Coast. And this is why it has always been held despite the heavy sacrifice involved and the complaints of a certain not fully informed section of the Canadian public.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SHOCK TROOPS.

Whether you call them "Shock Troops" as in English or "Sturmtruppen" as in German the term implies a picked body of men, the most aggressive and resourceful at the disposal of the General Staff, upon whom it relies to carry difficult positions and conduct great offensive actions. In the British Army there is no Corps which enjoys a more deservedly high reputation for these qualities than that which bears the proud insignia of the Maple Leaf. Even to us in Canada who know the stock from which our sons were bred, the environment in which they were reared to virile manhood, it seems surprising that they should have earned such prompt pre-eminence among the professional fighting forces of the great European Powers.

It may therefore be not without profit to analyze the elements of character which have combined to produce this remarkable result. In the Canadian soldier experts have long since recognized the *elan* of the French "Poilu" in attack and the stubborn courage of the British "Tommy" in defense, coupled with a degree of resource and initiative peculiar to himself. Possibly because of this latter quality also, he evinces marked adaptability, a capacity for rapidly absorbing instruction: thus, the First Division was not long after its arrival on Salisbury Plain in earning a reputation for—informality let us say—in matters of military etiquette and regulation. A brief experience in the trenches, however, was sufficient to convince all ranks of not alone the desirability, but the sheer necessity of rigid discipline with a consequence that today

there is no smarter martinet in France or Flanders than the Canadian, whether he be commissioned officer or enlisted man.

Underlying this again is mutual sympathy and respect between the two, less demonstrative than that obtaining in the French Army where the men are "mes enfants" and the officer, "Mon Lieutenant", but no less real. Such a quality can only be cultivated on democratic soil and largely escapes the British organization, where an ingrained caste system exerts its petrifying influence even in the New Army which has been sometimes known as "Kitchener's Mob" though to a lesser extent than was true of the "Old Contemptibles." There is an old established tradition of the bond between the British officer and the men under his command but it is more the admiration of junior employees for a severe but just and capable boss, than such a relation as exists between youngsters and a wise older brother. In all these respects, be it said in passing, the American has already shown himself to be cast from the self-same mould as the soldier who calls the Dominion to the north his home.

Military science has undergone a steady process of evolution from the hand-to-hand encounters of rival tribesmen down to the complex operations of modern destructive genius and, as it has evolved, it has become increasingly exact. While there must be a resultant gain from such a process there are also certain disadvantages and the highly trained professional soldier is generally at sea when confronted by conditions which do not conform to any thoroughly established law or precedent. Thus, it is a fact not generally known that a certain engagement was won by the Canadian troops after Imperial forces had made repeated attempts and given the job up in dis-

pair. All went well in the earlier stages of each operation but a point would come where the advancing infantry would outstrip the protecting barrage and be mown down by machine gun and shell fire. Few troops would have returned to the charge so often under such gruelling punishment and certainly none could have hoped to succeed, but heavy rain had made the roads impassible and the artillery could not be pushed up sufficiently to give the essential support. There was the problem which had proved too much for British Commanders when Arthur Currie, the Pacific Coast real estate agent of Ontario origin, was asked and undertook to solve it. What he did was simple enough; just plank roads laid down over some two and a half miles of muddy swamp; but it enabled him to bring on his guns and protect his infantry right up to the point of their objective—a feat which aptly illustrates the powers of improvisation with which an amateur fighter may be endowed in comparison with his more convention-tied professional colleague.

Next may be considered the element of thoroughness: in every arm of service, be it forestry, railways, artillery, intelligence, supplies and transport, cavalry or infantry you will find the Canadians spoken of as amongst the most proficient units in the British army, for which credit must be largely given to their thoroughness of method. Your Englishman fights as he played his games, a brilliant dilettante, and is only now acquiring this faculty of thoroughness in the school of bitter experience. He would scorn, for instance, to practise and train for a match as do our Canadian College football or hockey teams, as a grind only fitting for professionals, and the result of this attitude shows in a disregard of detail, an occasional

slipshodness which mars the skill of his broader strategy.

Still another constituent element in Canadian success can be found in *esprit de corps*. It may be asked in this connection, "what of the splendid traditions of the British army"? but the reader must remember that practically every Imperial Battalion now on active service is a new organization with its traditions only in the making, while those with a history as long as it is honorable have been wiped out of existence not once but several times, so that their ranks have perforce been filled with raw levies. In fact the whole military machine has been so enormously expanded that something of the old sense of oneness has disappeared. It is true that the Canadians also have no traditions to fall back on but they have felt the necessity of upholding the prestige of a new nation among the representatives of an older civilization and, being themselves the small army of a people small in numbers, they share the feeling of *esprit de corps* which made the "Old Contemptibles" perhaps the finest fighting force the world has ever known.

Again, I must not omit the important quality of physical fitness. Britain's civilian army has been recruited from men whose life in a population mainly congested into urban centres has not destroyed the strength of their spirit but has resulted in softening the fibre of their muscles, the soundness of their stamina. Young Canada, on the other hand, brought up close to nature in the open spaces is a natural athlete from his birth while every form of out-door sport contributes to maintaining a healthy body in perfect unison with a healthy mind.

In conclusion, I am brought to the element of

morale which is really the sum or supreme expression of all those other qualities here discussed. The Canadian veteran, unit of an Army Corps which has never lost a fight, which has never failed in any duty that has been assigned to it, has seen his old comrades in arms "Go West" one by one, he has been far from his home and his home circle for four deadening years, he has endured every hardship and suffering which human flesh can sustain; through no fault of his own, he has seen the first earnest of victory transformed in a moment to threatenings of disastrous defeat. All these things he has experienced with unimpaired morale and even when things were at their darkest last Spring, when even the purpose of French and British soldiers showed signs of a momentary faltering, although "fed up" with slaughter, he never relinquished his perfect confidence in an ability to whip the Bosche anywhere, at any time and under any conditions.

It is in a sense of satiety that lies the one possible source of danger to morale. I had left the front before the first of the present staggering offensives and doubtless any depression has ere now been eclipsed in the flush of triumph, but, should it ever appear that all the sacrifices he has endured are of little worth to the people on whose behalf they were made, that he cannot depend upon the whole-hearted support of the civil population at home, then the Canadian soldier may begin to ask himself "Why should I do all the worrying"? For this reason it is of vital importance that our resources in men and money should be strained to the uttermost, that there should be as little unseemly bickering and murmuring as possible. "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for a friend", but "He that hath friends must show himself friendly."

CHAPTER XIX.

CANADIAN ORGANIZATION.

I have paid tribute to the sterling qualities of the Canadian troops, not in any endeavor to cover them with a fulsome flattery which they would be the first to resent, but to ensure that their devoted efforts are appreciated in this country at their real worth. It must not be supposed, however—and there is some danger of it—that our battalions are the only shock troops of which the British Army is possessed or that the Army Corps of this Dominion is winning the war on the Western Front single-handed. Such a delusion would be as silly as to suppose that it is deliberately placed in the most dangerous positions in order to save exhausted French and British Armies: the percentage of British casualties is at least as heavy as those of Canada and there has been much hard fighting in which the Canadian Corps had no hand whatever, much to its own disgust.

The truth is that by sheer efficiency it has been able to accomplish spectacular results out of all proportion to its numerical strength; that this efficiency finds recognition in selecting the Corps to take its turn with the Imperial Guards and other crack units in gaining important objectives or holding vital positions.

It was immediately after the sojourn of the Canadian Press Mission in the region of Vimy Ridge that its members were received at his headquarters by Sir Douglas Haig: on a wall there was a huge map of France and Belgium on which the positions of all the various Armies and Divisions of both the Entente Allies and the Central Powers were marked by flat-

headed pins of different color. This arrested the attention of someone who asked to have it explained to him, which was patiently done. "Now Sir Douglas," the inquisitive journalist continued, "would it be improper to show us just how much of the front the Canadians are holding at the present time"? For a moment the Field Marshal hesitated with apparent embarassment and then saying, "well, we're all doing our best you know," he pointed out the Arras Sector.

If the reader has no war map available, let him take down a good Atlas and turning to the map of France and Belgium let him draw a line from Westende on the Belgian Coast through Dixmude, Gheluvelt, Armentieres, Lens, Arras, Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Fere, Anizy-le-Chateau, Rheims, Verdun, Pont-a-Mousson, Blamont and Thann to the Swiss Border west of Courtelevant. That roughly represents the whole western line, a distance of some four hundred and fifty miles, without taking all the windings of the actual trenches into consideration. Let him then take four thumb tacks and place them on that line, one south of the town of Vimy, one in Arras, one in between, and the last one behind the third: there he will see what Sir Douglas Haig showed to the journalists, the position of the four Divisions of the Canadian Army Corps upon his map. From the strategical point of view the line they held is important but in extent it is insignificant, while the four pins were lost indeed in the swarm of other pins dotting the front to represent French, British, American, Belgian, and Portugese Divisions or those opposite them which indicated the units of the German host.

Notwithstanding all this, the Canadian Overseas force is an extremely elaborate organization that it

is interesting to study as typical of the larger Imperial organization of which it is a working part. At the head of things are four men, two of them soldiers, Sir Arthur Currie and Sir Richard Turner; two of them civilians, Sir George Perley and Sir Edward Kemp; an apparent duplication which has aroused considerable mistaken criticism in this country.

Sir Arthur Currie, as Corps Commander directs the operations of the four Divisions which comprise our belligerent force; Sir Richard Turner as General Officer Commanding in England has jurisdiction over all units in the British Isles and acts as a technical adviser to Sir Edward Kemp. Included under his command are the Administrative Offices in London, the Military Training Areas, the Military Hospitals and the Discharge Depot at Buxton.

Sir Edward Kemp is Overseas Minister of Militia and Defence and transacts all business in France and England on behalf of his Department. It has been suggested that the Overseas Minister is a fifth wheel whose functions could be performed with equal efficiency and greater economy by Sir George Perley and Sir Richard Turner. As to this I shall hope to show that the former already has quite sufficient to occupy his attention while there are many things that the latter from the nature of his position would be at a disadvantage in dealing with. Thus for instance, if a matter affecting the Canadian Forces came up for discussion with the Imperial authorities, Sir Richard as a soldier could not deal direct with the War Office but would have to refer it to the Minister of Militia in Ottawa, who could only embark upon what would probably be a lengthy, and possibly unsatisfactory exchange of correspondence. Sir Edward, on the other hand, can take the matter up in person with

the War Office and obtain a prompt decision one way or the other. The overseas military organization is moreover quite big enough to warrant the Government in keeping a non-military representative on the ground to supervise what is going on. In this connection Sir Edward Kemp has promoted efficiency and economy by very greatly reducing the unwieldy staff in the Administrative Offices in London, nor is this the only instance that might be mentioned. In passing, attention must be drawn to the inconvenience caused by the wide separation of these offices, which are fairly numerous, from each other. One is situated off Bond Street, another is in the City, a third in Westminster and so on. Presumably the demand for office space together with considerations of expense and suitable accomodation have made this unavoidable but the actual situation is certainly bewildering to the public and a great deal of time would be saved if they could all be brought nearer together.

Sir George Perley is the Canadian High Commissioner, an office which has been in existence for many years; Sir Charles Tupper and Lord Strathcona having been former incumbents. At the present time Sir George not only looks after the interests of a large number of Canadians resident in or visiting England but he also transacts public business of a non-military character with the Imperial authorities on behalf of the Dominion Government and the war has so greatly multiplied his duties in this connection that it would be impossible for him, in addition, to devote the necessary amount of time and attention to the affairs of the Department of Militia and Defense. To sum up, the work which each of these four gentlemen is doing appears not only urgent and valuable but there is no suggestion of any duplication or overlapping whatever.

The public by this time must be thoroughly familiar with the Organization of the Corps into platoons, companies, battalions, brigades and divisions but it is not so generally known that each of these is practically a self-contained unit in itself. Thus a platoon includes in addition to the regular infantrymen, bomb-throwers, machine-gunners, signallers and other specialists sufficient to meet every emergency: the organization becoming more and more comprehensive as the size of the unit increases until, with the Division, you get what is really a complete and independent army, linked to other Divisions only by the Corps Command. While Sir Arthur Currie is generally regarded as our "Commander-in-Chief" there are three services over which he exercises no control: the Cavalry, which is commanded by Brigadier General Paterson and is brigaded with an Imperial cavalry division; the Forestry, commanded by General Stuart, which comes under Lord Lovat, Director of Timber Operations in France; and the Railways under General Stewart who reports to General Headquarters. In succeeding chapters I shall have something to say about each of these, as also the various departments of the Canadian Corps, which are "A" and "Q" Branches, Engineers, Medical Services, Ordinance, and Chaplain Services.

CHAPTER XX.

OUR CAVALRY BRIGADE.

It was at a tiny village in the district of Amiens that the Canadian Cavalry Brigade was put through its paces one rainy day for the benefit of the Canadian Press Mission. In rolling sparsely wooded fields they were drawn up and manoeuvred with rigid precision, every man and horse among them evidently in the pink of condition. Each unit there present, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathcona's Horse, the Fort Garry Horse, the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, the Machine Gun Squadron, the 7th Canadian Cavalry Field Ambulance, and the Mobile Veterinary Section had formed part of the first Division which sailed for England in September, 1914; the Fort Garry Horse dismounted as the 6th Battalion, Fort Garrys, in the 2nd Brigade and the others as independent units.

In December of the same year the present Cavalry Brigade was formed in England under the command of Brigadier-General J. E. B. Seeley, a former British Cabinet Minister, except that it then included King Edward's Horse, an Imperial unit, while the Fort Garrys became a reinforcing unit under the name of the Canadian Reserve Cavalry Regiment. Thus constituted, it was despatched to France after the second battle of Ypres and served nine months as Infantry in the trenches where it did some particularly good work and notably at Festubert.

In February, 1916, the Brigade was again reconstituted as cavalry, the Fort Garry Horse taking the place of King Edward's Horse which returned to the Imperial Service; being attached successively to the

1st Indian Division, the 2nd Indian Division, the 3rd British Division, and finally to the 5th Cavalry Division (formerly the 2nd Indian), replacing the Meerut Brigade which was sent elsewhere. During the summer of 1916 it was used in various capacities, being constantly in the line and doing very useful work in the construction of roads, railways and trenches. On July 14th the Brigade went into action near Bazentin-Le-Grand and again on September 15th, in conjunction with the first appearance of the tanks, in the neighborhood of Delieville Wood. During that winter the horses were left in a back area with a few men to look after them and the remainder went forward dismounted, taking their turn in the trenches with various formations.

Word was received on March 10th of the following year that the Germans had evacuated their front trench system and were in full retreat around Peronne. For various reasons, the Canadian Cavalry Brigade was the only one available for immediate action and was accordingly ordered to Peronne which it reached on the twenty-third in very cold weather with frequent snow-storms, going into action the next day and covering the infantry advance on a twelve mile front. There were important engagements at Ytres, Bois de Vallulirt, Etricourt Station, Equancourt, Longavesnes, Lierahont, Guyancourt and Saulcourt before the end of the month in which all the mounted regiments took part while pursuing the enemy back to the Hindenburg Line. Conditions were most difficult owing to weather and lack of water, the enemy having poisoned all wells and ponds as he retired.

In this fighting which was the first of an open character in more than two years—the village of Ytres, taken by the Fort Garry Horse, being the first

captured by British Cavalry since the early days of the war—it was proved that enemy infantry with machine guns, which would hold out to the last against infantry attack, was badly frightened and surrendered readily when attacked by a mounted force: prisoners unanimously expressed their fear of horse and sword combined. It was here that the Brigade made a first step towards establishing its present high reputation as a fighting force.

On June 21st General Seeley met with a severe accident and command was taken over by Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Paterson until his return on August 24th. The Brigade next moved to Poperinghe early in October and remained in reserve there until the sixteenth, during the first battle of Passchendaele. On November 9th it again moved forward, having been selected as an advanced guard for the proposed operation at Cambrai. An engagement took place at Massieres following which a move was made toward St. Quentin, leading to further engagements at Vaucelette Farm, Villers Guislan and Gauche Wood. The work done on these two occasions won the greatest praise from the higher authorities and a reputation of being, as stated by the Corps Commander, the best fighting Brigade in the British Cavalry.

General Seeley left for England on March 20th, of the current year and command of the Brigade was again taken over by Lieut.-Colonel Paterson, D.S.O. This date found the unit at Athies from which point it took an important part in the critical retirement upon Amiens of last Spring. Space does not permit any adequate account of the numerous engagements in which it participated but the mere recital of its movements will give some idea at least of the terrible exertions made necessary in stemming the tide of German

invasion. The Brigade marched from Athies to Beaumont, where eight hundred dismounted men under Lieut.-Colonel McDonald of Lord Strathcont's Horse were despatched to Ugny in response to an urgent request, while the remainder moved to Varsnes, thence to Guivry and Berlancourt. After a bitterly contested delaying action at Villeselve to cover the infantry retreat, the cavalry continued its retirement in orderly manner to Guiscard and Murancourt where it was hoped that some rest could be obtained. A further retirement was however necessary through Bussy and Sermaize to Lagny. Engagements were fought around Catigny and Bois des Essarts and the Brigade was then reassembled under the command of General Seeley near Compeigne on March 28th and moved to Guyencourt next day, going into action at the Bois De Moreuil. During the course of these operations General Seeley was placed in command of two Brigades and turned the Canadians over to Lieut.-Colonel Paterson.

Next came the capture of Rifle Wood at Hourges, which earned the personal thanks of General Rawlinson, commanding the Fourth Army, as very important to the defense of Amiens. He said "Although I knew that you were very tired, and had already done more than your share, I called upon you for the task as I felt that there was no one else available who could do it successfully" and added "I have asked that a cable be sent to Canada informing the people of your splendid deeds and asking that reinforcements be forthcoming in order that such a splendid Brigade may be enabled to keep up its proud record."

On May 20th, General Seeley was again ordered to return to England and Lieut.-Colonel Paterson was promoted to be Brigadier General and to com-

mand the Brigade. On July 5th, the unit took part in the Australian attack on Hamel and the Bois de Vaire as a special reserve, the Hon. Mr. Rowell being present on this occasion and an interested spectator of the battle. I have now carried the history of Canada's Cavalry up to the time of the journalists' visit and there I must leave them, pointing only to their two hundred and fifty decorations, which include three Victoria Crosses, fourteen Distinguished Service Orders, forty-one Military Crosses, thirty-seven Distinguished Conduct Medals and a hundred and fifteen Military Medals, as evidence of the stuff of which they are made. It is also right that I should acknowledge my deep indebtedness in this and succeeding articles relative to the various Arms of the Canadian Service to memoranda very thoughtfully prepared and supplied to me by the several Commanding Officers.

CHAPTER XXI.

FORESTRY AND RAILWAYS.

A memorable incident in the experiences of the Canadian Press Mission was its visit to the Forest of Conches, not far from Paris, where, under strange surroundings, it saw familiar Canadian logging and lumber operations in full blast. Transported across the Atlantic by some black art the journalists saw a home-like saw mill working at capacity yet it was no big-framed agile lumber-jacks who handled the "peavies" but sullen German prisoners under the watchful eye of armed guards.

Altogether, there are some sixty Companies in the Canadian Corps scattered through the timber areas of France and England and each is an independent, self-contained unit, capable of handling all classes of work. Are huts required for the army, or tent-poles, or axe-handles or a dozen other wood products? It is the Forestry Corps which fills the want. Again must plank roads be laid down to bring up the guns, who finds the planks but the Forestry Corps? Indeed practically all the timber operations for the French and British forces are conducted by this efficient force, so typical of Canadian industry.

Towards the end of March, 1917, a Directorate of Timber Operations, France, was organized to take over the work of the Canadian Forestry Corps presently operating for the British and French Armies in French forests. The demands of the armies for timber were ever increasing, and the quantity of shipping tonnage available to handle that timber was decreasing rather than increasing to meet these new demands.

Since that date, the production of the Canadian Forestry Corps in France has been steadily increasing, and, from a total of 11,500 tons in March, 1917, made up of 5,500 tons of sawn material, 3,500 tons of round and 2,500 tons of fuel, it has steadily grown until in May of this year it had almost reached a total of 150,000 tons, made up of 90,000 tons of sawn lumber, 10,000 tons of round timber, and 50,000 tons of fuel. During this same period the strength of the Corps increased; rising from a total of slightly over 2,000 in March, 1917, to a total of just under 13,500 at the end of May, 1918.

When the work was taken over by the present Directorate, there were approximately seven mills being operated by ten Canadian Companies, whereas, at the present time, there are fifty-one saw mills and two re-saw plants being operated by fifty-eight Companies, in addition to which two other Companies are specially employed on aerodrome construction work with the Independent Force, R.A.F. Another interesting fact illustrating the growth of the Corps is that the production for the first six months of the present year was practically 50% in excess of the production for the whole twelve months of 1917.

During the first six months of this year, over 183,000,000 feet of sawn product have been produced, and, if approximate comparative values are given to the quantities of sawn lumber, round timber, and fuel produced, the value of the sawn lumber is almost 85% of the total value of the products of the Corps. At the present time, sawn lumber is being produced at the rate of over 1,400,000 feet per day and in order to meet the heavy demands of the Armies for standing gauge and other sleepers in connection with their railway construction programmes over 350,000 sleepers are being produced each week.

The main sources of supply of standing timber for this sleeper production are the oak forests of Normandy and Central France, and the immense pine areas of the "Landes", south of Bordeaux. This latter area comprises over 2,000,000 acres of almost flat sand lands, which have been planted with Maritime pine since the end of the 18th century. One of the main sources of supply of sawn lumber, in addition to the those mentioned previously, is the large fir and spruce forests in the mountains of the east of France, in the Department of the Vosges, Doubs, and Jura, which are being largely operated by the Canadian Forestry Corps for the French Army. The forests in the former of these Departments are mainly located in mountainous country presenting many difficulties from a lumberman's point of view, and in one case the timber has to be lowered by cable to the mill from a slope of over forty-five degrees.

In most of the operations of the Corps, the logs are transported from the stump to the mill by railroad, since climatic and natural conditions do not permit of adopting the usual Eastern Canadian methods of winter hauling over snow or ice roads, and floating by river or lake from the forest to the mill. About ninety miles of railroad are now in use, including short spurs of standard gauge, and long stretches of one metre, three-foot and two-foot gauge track. The cars which are operated by these narrow-gauge railroads have been mainly built by the Corps, and various means of traction are employed, including steam locomotion, petrol tractors and horses. In this connection General Stuart points with pride to a petrol locomotive built by his men in No. 2 District Machine Shop within eight weeks time. The engine is from an evacuated Jeffery truck, the differential

from a captured Mulhausen (German) truck, and the remainder of the parts from scrap material of all kinds gathered from the dumps, adapted and utilized for the purpose. To prove its efficiency I need only add that, at the first test, it hauled a load of trucks approximating twenty-one tons.

As with Forestry so the Railways are a distinctively Canadian contribution to the cause of Allied victory. The Germans, who were not less prepared in this respect than any other for the conflict, had employed narrow-gauge lines for some time before the Canadian Corps received permission to experiment with their use. Certain details were set apart for maintenance and operation but it was not until their urgent necessity had been amply demonstrated that a Railway Corps was authorized and formed Today the front is grid-ironed with these light roads over which bucking little trains ply on business of all sorts and it is the Canadians who are in charge of the work—and particularly dangerous it is—in practically every case.

On the light railway, troops are brought in to action and the wounded are brought out; on them too supplies are brought up to the trenches and ammunition to the guns, while even these unwieldy monsters are moved from one point to another by their good offices. When the wind is favorable a train will be loaded up with hundreds of gas tanks and despatched to a rail-head close to some enemy position: then the tanks will be discharged and Fritz receives a wholesale gassing new in his experience.

When an advance is made, the construction troops are on the spot to link up their forward lines with those formerly owned by the enemy and in a few hours, the trains are scurrying gaily over that erst-

while "No Man's Land". As an experienced officer said to me, in fact, "they can do pretty well anything that a standard gauge road can do, they can be laid down very much more quickly and repaired without difficulty, while almost any sort of fuel can be used for locomotion."

I have referred to danger and not without cause; even narrow-gauge roads are permanent works that do not admit of camouflage and switches, sidings, junctions, bases or rail-heads inevitably attract artillery fire; nor could a better target be desired by any battery than a train moving forward over track, every foot of which has been accurately registered by repeated observation.

For some of the most impressive and adventurous trips while at the front I am beholden to the Canadian Railway Corps, whose members ply their profession under new conditions and frequently under heavy shelling with the same matter-of-fact skill that they did when building "a mile a day" for some one or other or our own great transcontinental roads.

CHAPTER XXII.

REINFORCING THE FRONT.

It is important to an understanding of Canadian army organization that some explanation should be given as to the method by which reinforcing drafts from the military training areas in England find their way into the firing line when the necessary period of preparation is complete.

All Canadian reinforcements are carried on the strength of a formation known as the "Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp." The majority actually live in the Camp area, although in certain cases they are attached to units in the Corps Area.

The Assistant Adjutant General, Canadian Base, is responsible for keeping record of the strength of all units and under normal conditions he orders the Commanding Officer of the Reinforcement Camp to despatch personnel to units as required by the information received by him.

The supply of reinforcements divides naturally into two portions: 1. The recording of casualties and 2. The replacement of casualties.

At the commencement of any operation a "ledger account" is opened for every Infantry and Machine Gun Unit in the Corps, the opening entry showing the original strength of the Unit.

In these units casualties are very heavy and it is not possible for the Officers responsible for reporting them to do more than give an approximate figure.

When an important action commences, and as soon as any casualties have occurred in an Infantry Unit, the Adjutant telegraphs or sends a message to Brigade Headquarters where it is sent on to the Division and Corps.

At the same time a copy of the message is sent to the Assistant Adjutant General at the Canadian Base who at once issues orders to the Reinforcement Camp to make good the losses.

If the Division is still in action it may not be possible to do this at once but the order can be acted on as soon as the Division is in a position to receive the new personnel.

Meantime a record of all the casualties and the strength of the unit from time to time is kept in the casualty ledger at "A" Branch so that the number of reinforcements which will be required after the operation will be known and arrangements can be made to receive them and further so that the Corps Commander may be aware at any moment of the strength of the units under his Command.

In the case of other units such as Artillery or Signals actual casualties can, as a rule, be ascertained and are reported once daily, through similar channels.

During ordinary operations casualties in Machine Gun, Signals and Artillery units are, as above noted, replaced at the Canadian Base, but during a battle, when it is necessary to 'speed up,' the control of all the reinforcements for these units is taken over by "A" Branch which issues orders for the replacement of losses simultaneously with the arrival of the wires advising of casualties.

Briefly, all reinforcements are normally kept either at the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp or in the case, for instance, of Artillery, in the neighborhood of their units although away from shell fire.

When an operation is in prospect, which is at some distance from the Reinforcement Camp, "A" Branch is responsible for arranging that so soon as a

Division comes out of the line its Infantry reinforcements are ready to meet it.

A Depot must be established at the nearest railhead to the scene of the battle and these Infantry reinforcements with sufficient reinforcements for Machine Gun units must be collected there ready to take the places of those who fall. So far as possible the Infantry reinforcements will reach this advanced depot at the same time as the Division leaves the line, but the Machine Gunners must be there beforehand and go up to their units as the casualties occur.

The reinforcements for other arms are attached to different units and taken to the locality of the operations under special arrangements made by them, so that they are ready to replace casualties from the commencement of the fighting as soon as ordered to take their places in the line.

In connection with all this, arrangements must be made for the billeting and feeding of the reinforcements and for their employment while awaiting to be sent to their units.

Although this is not a direct responsibility of the "A" Branch of the Corps yet, with a view of doing all possible to ensure that the flow of reinforcements from England to the reinforcement camps is maintained, estimates must, so far as possible, be made of the casualties likely to be incurred during a battle and any information possible given to the Headquarters Overseas Military Forces of Canada to guide them in calculating how many reinforcements will be needed.

Experience has shown that such forecasts can be made with a degree of accuracy which makes them of actual value, and they are also useful in determining the number of infantrymen who should be held at the advanced depots.

On arrival at the sea base the Assistant Adjutant General's office posts all officers and other ranks of Infantry, Pioneers and some individual units, this posting being done by "Pools" in the cases of Artillery, Machine Guns, Engineers, Army Medical Corps, Army Service Corps, Signals, Ordinance Corps and Labor. The sea base is used as a staging depot from which all ranks are passed through from their port of disembarkation to the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp and this last is subdivided into four Divisional Wings; the Engineers, Signals, Machine Gun and Ordinance Corps Reinforcement Depots; five Divisional Artillery Reinforcement Depots; the 8th Artillery Brigade, Field Artillery Reinforcement Depot; and the Army Service Corps Reinforcement Depot.

Consolidated returns of infantry strength are forwarded to Corps Headquarters every week and from here they are transmitted to the Assistant Adjutant General who is the sole authority for deciding what reinforcements shall go to a unit. If, however, any battalion becomes depleted through the week owing to special circumstances a special demand may be made. On receipt of a draft, all ranks are taken by the unit on its Effective Strength.

Officers and other ranks thus placed upon the Effective Strength of any Unit who require a rest may be exchanged for a similar number on the strength of the Reinforcement Camp but are liable to be returned within a few days if the necessities of the situation demand. On their arrival in Camp these exchanges are inspected by the Commanding officer and any obviously improper cases are immediately sent back. If other cases are subsequently discovered which do not appear to fulfill the conditions of exchange a

report is made to Headquarters and an investigation instituted.

Men admitted to field ambulances through sickness who do not return to their units within seven days are considered as evacuated out of their Divisional area and are therefore shown as struck off the effective strength of their unit and reinforcements are demanded to replace them. During heavy fighting "Special Battle Postings are made by Canadian Corps "A" Branch in order to ensure prompt reinforcements to replace casualties; the great aim being to keep every unit, except the Infantry, engaged in combat, filled up to strength during all the operations and to be ready to fill the gaps in the Infantry the moment they leave the battlefield.

CHAPTER XXIII.

OUR GLORIOUS GRAVES.

It is impossible for anyone to stand as I have done in a peaceful cemetery such as that at Villers-au-Bain—one of hundreds in the wake of destructive force—and to look round on that sad but inspiring sight of our glorious graves, well-ordered, well-kept, and row upon row, without marvelling how time should be found, amid this ceaseless welter of carnage, for so great an undertaking as that involved.

By the time that Peace returns it is probable that there will be few families in Canada without a vested interest, if not a vested right in one of these tragic plots and at that time there will be no keener desire in the hearts of thousands of women than to be able to visit the spot where their loved ones are at rest, having endured the greatest ordeal with which life's fitful fever has yet scourged humanity. It is therefore important to know that the work of burial is thoroughly organized, it is of supreme interest to know exactly how that work is carried out and I am glad, as the result of memoranda supplied to me, to be in a position to furnish this information.

The duty of clearing the battlefield and giving respectful burial to our deed is carried out under the general supervision of "A" Branch, and perhaps more care has been given to the provision of an organization for this purpose by the Canadian Corps than by any other. As is generally known, all burials in France are carried out under the Department of Graves Registration and Enquiries, but in the Canadian Corps this is supplemented by a purely Canadian organization.

Whenever the Corps is to make an attack or to carry out operations in a new area "A" Branch is responsible for obtaining the location of all authorized Cemeteries and the best means of reaching them and advising all units who may be taking part. The Canadian Corps has a properly organized Burial Office and each Division has a similar organization, on a smaller scale.

As soon as any officer or man is killed the remains are, whenever possible, despatched by Light Railway to one of the authorized Cemeteries maintained by the Department of Graves Registration and Enquiries, where a service is held by the unit Chaplain. If the situation is such that this cannot be done, as in the case of heavy fighting, new Cemeteries are prepared in the forward area, and the interment carried out there. In a few cases it is necessary to carry out isolated burials, as for example during the very heavy shelling at Passchendaele when parties moving about would have attracted the attention of the German gunners.

In either case a report is sent by the Officer who conducts the burial to the Canadian Corps Burial Officer, and the effects of the Officer or soldier are also forwarded to him and despatched to the Base, from where they are sent to the relatives.

After the Passchendaele battle a large party was left behind under the Corps Burial Officer to continue the Canadian burials, as it has not been found satisfactory for this work to be left to other incoming units. There are, of course, casualties among these parties, the work is unceasing, not pleasant and attended with risk for all concerned. One officer has been killed while at duty and Other Ranks have been killed and wounded.

Reports are rendered not only to the British, but to the Canadian authorities. The Canadian Record Office is thus placed in a position to give authentic information regarding graves at the earliest possible moment, and it has frequently been found that more satisfactory information is available at the Canadian Corps, where a complete system of records is now maintained, than elsewhere.

Records are kept not only of all actual burials carried out by the Canadian Corps, but, so far as possible, of the location of all Canadian graves. Many, of which no satisfactory record existed, were visited and checked in the Ypres area.

Difficulty has been found occasionally owing to shortage of crosses, and it has been necessary to supply a large number from our own resources. To give one example, practically all the crosses for the French Soldiers buried by the Canadian Corps were furnished by the Canadian Engineers, as were also very many of the memorials erected after the Vimy operations.

With regard to the number of interments which have taken place, it may be stated that after the Vimy operations there were 3,572 interments carried out and recorded, that is to say that many of those whom units reported as missing were afterwards found and buried. After the Passchendaele battles, in spite of the almost insuperable difficulties, there were over 1,900 Canadian burials and nearly 600 others. It is hoped by those in charge of this sad duty that all may clearly understand how near this matter is to the heart of everyone in the Corps and how much affection is shown and labor is expended in securing burial for the fallen and care for their graves.

Provision is not made alone, however, for the burial of Canadians and the work of interring the

remains of French Soldiers on the Lorette Ridge and in the Souchez Valley, is now practically completed.

The following Cemeteries having been made for the purpose:

Cimitiere de la Vallee, Cimitiere de la Chapelle, Cimitiere Notre Dame de Lorette, Cimitiere du Bois, Cimitiere de Neulette, and Cimitiere de la Sucrerie.

Altogether the remains of 2,129 French soldiers have been buried in the above areas, of which 604 have been identified. Cimitiere Notre Dame de Lorette, does not contain many graves, and the remains there were already buried. The Cemetery was, however, put in order, and fenced around. Practically all the work of finding and burying the remains, and securing the documents, discs, etc., for identification, was done by the men of the 122nd Labor Company, who worked very hard, and with great interest in this duty, under the supervision of the Corps Burial Officer.

In addition to the foregoing, the French Cemeteries in the area, which are very numerous, and most of which had fallen into disrepair, or become so overgrown as to be practically unnoticeable, have been put in such repair as possible. The shortage of crosses has made it impossible to mark all graves, whether French or British, but 2,000 are, however, now being made at the Corps Royal Engineers Park, and from those enough will be made available to mark the French graves.

In addition to the Cemeteries already referred a certain amount of work has been done on a large French Cemetery and on a number of scattered graves in Neuville St. Vaast.

CHAPTER XXIV.

"Q" BRANCH.

The "Q" or Quartermaster General's Branch deals with all questions of supply and equipment, housing, ammunition supply, the supply of food, forage, water, and fuel; billeting, tents, traffic control, baths, trophies of war, claims against the Government, Courts of Enquiry, the provision of horses and Veterinary Service, the hire of land, salvage, stores, clothing and transport. Orders for moves and operations are issued by the General Staff but all administrative arrangements are carried out and co-ordinated by "Q" who is, in fact, a sort of military Pooh-Bah or Lord High Everything.

The above duties include feeding, clothing and housing a population that varies from 100,000 to 120,000 and all arrangements must be made far in advance as the supplies are packed at the Base four days before they are consumed by the troops. They are delivered at standard-gauge railhead by "Army" whence they are taken by "Corps" in lorries or by narrow-gauge railway to "refilling points" and on by horsed transport to the Units, from where they are "man-handled" on to the front line.

There are three "echelons" of transport: the mechanical transport, controlled by Corps, which draws supplies, ammunition and stores from the railhead and delivers them to the Division; the divisional train and divisional ammunition column which draw the supplies and ammunition respectively by horsed wagons from the Corps and deliver it to the Units; and the "first line transport" which is under the control of the Units themselves and carries out all transport duties within them.

Supplies are packed at the Base on the first day in sections numbered for each formation, the strength varying as notified from day to day by the Senior Supply Officer of Divisions. A railway train arrives at the railhead on the morning of the third day and the supplies are then unloaded by a Mechanical Transport Company into lorries, or sometimes light-railways or horsed wagons, and taken to re-filling points of which there are four to each Division. They are next divided up by the men of the Divisional Train whose wagons are loaded up in the afternoon of the third day and remain in their own "Park" overnight. On the morning of the fourth day the Train wagons deliver these supplies to the Quartermaster of the Unit at its horse lines or permanent camp and his staff divide them up to the various messes, companies, etc., by whom they are actually consumed on the fifth day.

When the First Canadian Contingent arrived in England, the supply system obtaining in Canada was temporarily continued. The Imperial System was then adopted. This entitled the issue in stated quantities per man per day of meat, flour, tea, sugar and salt. To this was added an allowance of 11c. per man per day which each Quartermaster was permitted to spend as was considered advisable, thus the satisfaction of our Troops depended largely on the capacity of the Unit Quartermaster who very frequently was handicapped by the absence of adequate markets in which to make his purchases.

To meet this situation the Canadian Forces developed and introduced a rationing system peculiar to themselves. A Department was created with a Dietetic Expert at its head to prepare and issue Diet Sheets to our different Area Units. These Diet Sheets, in addition to laying down the dishes to be

served for each meal, include instructions to the Unit Cook with regard to the preparation of the meal, quantities to be used, etc. Each troop includes on their Establishment an Inspector of Catering, whose duty it is to instruct cooks and to ensure that the regulations regarding rations are being adhered to.

The change to our present system has proven not only an unqualified success insofar as the satisfaction of our men is concerned, but also has effected a very material saving as compared to the cost of the previous system had been adhered to. During the past twelve months the average cost of feeding each Canadian Soldier per day has been 28.815c. The actual saving to the Canadian Government by the issue of the Varied Ration instead of the Imperial Ration for the year ending 1917, amounts to $1,014,115.73.

It is worthy of note that the Australians have followed our example and adopted the Varied Ration System. The New Zealanders and certain of the Imperial Commands are adopting a somewhat similar System.

Ammunition is sent up by the Army as required and handed over to Corps, either at the rail-head or at the Army Dumps, where there is always a reserve. It is then delivered by Corps to the Divisions at their re-filling points, a Corps dump being also maintained where any surplus is stored in reserve. Almost all Corps ammunition is handled by light-railway in normal times, thus saving mechanical transport. The Divisions un-box it at the re-filling points and send it forward by the horsed wagons of the Divisional Ammunition Columns, which are fitted to carry it in individual compartments. Rifle ammunition for the infantry is handled in the same way but is small by weight in comparison with that for the guns.

Owing to the congestion of the men and the scarcity of water in many localities it has been necessary to provide central baths and laundries. These are established in every locality where troops are billetted and each man's reserve change of underwear is kept by the Division at these baths. When a man bathes he is thus given a complete change of clean underwear and a towel, while his clothes are disinfected and vermin-killed in specially constructed disinfectors. Soiled clothing is then sent away under Corps arrangements by railway to the central laundries from which clean clothing is received in exchange.

The constant check maintained on Transport Services has made it possible to reduce the number of vehicles in operation and at the same time increase the mileage procured from equipment in operation and the following figures represent the consolidated returns from the monthly reports:—

The total petrol used during the year 1917 was 377,500 gallons or an average of 31,465 gallons per month. The average amount of petrol used monthly for 5 months of 1918 has been 18,175 a saving per month of 13,290 gallons representing a value of $7,200.00 per month or $86,400.00 per year.

The Canadian Postal Services are distributed throughout the Canadian Forces both in England and in France and they are responsible for the correct delivery of all mail matter arriving for Units. All mail either posted in the British Isles or arriving from Canada for the Canadian Troops in France is dealt with by the Canadian Postal Corps in England, being sorted and in separate bags for each Unit in the Field, and despatched to France daily. On arrival there it is received by the Canadian Postal Services in France and distributed to the various Units.

For the year ending April 30th, 1918, the number of letters and parcels forwarded to France amounted to a total of 615,000 bags, which were distributed to cover 553 separate Units. Of these there were over 300,000 registered items.

During the same year, the approximate number of parcels forwarded to France was over 3,650,000.

One of the principal features of the operations of the Postal Services in England, is the re-direction of mail, which represents at least 25 percent of the total mail received. As an illustration of this, in the last year over 125,000 registered items had to be re-directed. The total number of parcels received from the different areas in England and re-directed in addition to those forwarded from the London Base to France was approximately 6,500,000.

To handle all this mail, the Canadian Postal Services in England employ 7 Officers and 152 Other Ranks. This includes a staff of 4 Officers and 74 Other Ranks required in London to handle the mail from France.

The responsibility for securing satisfactory accommodation for Troops, Hospital Patients and Administrative Departments of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada rests with the Quartermaster-General.

Since 1917 the Quartermaster-General has been able, by means of exchanges, termination of leases, etc., to release 17 Hospital and administrative buildings, for which Canadian funds were liable and has secured from the Imperial Authorities a like amount of accommodation without charge to the Canadian Public.

Hutted and canvas accommodation for troops held on charge to Canadian Formations necessarily

fluctuates according to the number of troops we have in the British Isles. At present time there is a total of 92,000 hutted and canvas accommodation divided into seven camps.

The Quartermaster-General today has charge of 23 Primary Special and Convalescent Hospitals, with a total bed capacity of 19,119. Of the above over 7,000 beds are in Canadian Convalescent Hospitals which confine themselves solely to Canadians.

The Engineer Field Formations are the combatant Units of the Engineer Corps, which co-operate with the Fighting Units in the Field Operations.

Engineering Services, however, are administered by the Quartermaster-General and comprise such Army Services as deal with the performance of work connected with all expenditure of Army Funds for the provision of permanent defence schemes, military buildings, etc.

The actual conduct of the Engineer Services divides itself into three heads:

Maintenance of existing works and buildings: erection of such new work, alterations and improvements as may be sanctioned; and the current working of various services such as Army Telegraphs, Pumping, Electric Power and Lighting Plants, etc.

The chief duties of the Canadian Army Service Corps is the provision of food supplies and forage in accordance with the authorized scale and for all duties in connection with the accounting for their receipt, issue and custody, the provision, operation and maintenance of Horse and Mechanical Transport, the supply for all Canadian Areas and Hospitals of Barrack equipment, the training of all personnel required for duty in this branch of the service.

As indicating the reduction in personnel em-

ployed, it may be stated that in July, 1917, there were in the Canadian Army Service Corps in England 191 Officers, and 4,348 Other Ranks, supplying 85,597 Troops.

In July, 1918, there were 131 Officers and 2,489 Other Ranks supplying 84,352 Troops.

With a view to enabling our Personnel to secure their tobacco requirements without payment of duty, a special Department has been organized. As a result, our men in England are now receiving three times as much tobacco for $1.00 as was the cost formerly. In addition, the tobacco is imported from Canada and a market thus found for a Canadian product.

In arriving at the selling cost, provision is made for the cost of operation, so that in so far as the Canadian Public are concerned, the operation of this Department does not cost them $1.00.

The Clothing Repayment Department was organized in order to enable our Officers requiring uniforms, new outfits, etc., to escape the excessive charges they were called upon to pay to the civilian dealers. 5 per cent on cost is added which is sufficient to cover the cost of operations.

The Canadian Ordnance Corps supplies Clothing and Equipment to the Canadian Forces, and provides skilled artificers and the necessary Ordnance Workshops for the repair of rifles and Field Artillery, also equipment for all Canadian Hospitals, Beds, Bedding, Utensils, etc.

In accordance with regulations and orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief in France, all captured trophies are labelled with the name of the Unit making the capture, shipped to the Base, and eventually to the War Trophies Ordnance Depot at Croydon. Claims are submitted by the Units concerned for

these Trophies to the War Office for approval. All trophies are carefully examined at Croydon and any which are useful to the service either for use against the enemy or for instructional purposes are handed over for such use. Trophies so used will, if available be handed over to the Dominion concerned at the conclusion of the War. Canadian Trophies found to be of no use to the Service are from time to time handed over to the Canadian Authorities and, in accordance with instructions from the Militia Department at Ottawa, shipped to the Controller of War Trophies, care of the Quartermaster-General, Ottawa. All distribution of Trophies therefore is made in Canada.

In order to protect Canadian interests, the Overseas Minister some time ago appointed Col. K. C. Folger, Director of Ordnance Services, as the Canadian Representative on the War Office Trophies Committee, and also on the Committee of the Imperial War Museum. Two shipments of Trophies have already been made to Canada and another large shipment is in course of preparation which will be despatched at the earliest possible moment.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE ENGINEERS CORPS.

With the Canadians, the Engineers Corps is a fighting unit. This is due to the fact that our force is composed of four permanent Divisions whereas in other Army Corps the Divisions are constantly changing. The work of the Engineers falls naturally into four main departments under General Staff, Artillery, "A. and Q." and Engineers. The work of each department is closely involved with that of other departments and it is due to the splendid co-ordination and co-operation of all that such good results are obtained. Under the Chief Engineer are defences, roads, tramways, water supply, mining and tunnelling, and the supply and manufacture of the necessary Engineer Stores, and accommodation for troops and horses.

The general policy of defence to be followed is laid down by the General Staff, and the defences are constructed by, and under the supervision of the Engineers. This includes wiring, construction of trenches, deep dugouts, machine gun emplacements, infantry subways, infantry and mule tracks, roads, battalion, brigade and Divisional Headquarters, etc. In addition to the defences of the sectors actually held, defences in rear must be provided in case of an enforced retirement. For an advance, there must be the necessary materials and defences to enable the troops to hold the ground they have gained. The artillery are particularly affected in the question of the provision of materials for and the construction of gun emplacements and dugouts for the protection of the personnel, camouflage, and the provision and maintenance of tramways and roads to facilitate the movement of

their guns and the maintenance of their ammunition supply.

The main question is, however, the provision of necessary facilities for the existence of what is practically a "moving city" with a population varying from 105,000 to 160,000 people and from 25,000 to 60,000 horses,—the whole or part of which moves on short notice. This involves the erection of the necessary hutting for headquarters, officers and men, and in winter, standings and shelters for horses; the necessary sanitary arrangements such as ablution tables, latrines, and incinerators; the provision of water for man and beast; and the hundred and one things which are required for the maintenance of a very attenuated "city" of this size in the field. Arrangements have also to be made for the reception of the necessary supplies, rations, forage, and ammunition, provided by "Q", which involves arrangements for railway sidings, "in" and "out" roads to them, and the development and maintenance of well defined traffic routes to enable the heavy traffic to move without interruption. Supplies and ammunition are cleared to dumps and refilling points from which they are distributed. At these dumps and refilling points there must be facilities for means of access, footings, cover from weather, and protection from damage by bombs and shell fire.

In addition to the construction and maintenance of the necessary roads to enable the movement of traffic of the Corps, the construction of forward roads, mule tracks, or infantry tracks, must be undertaken to enable the Corps to advance. As this is in the forward area, it generally has to be carried out at night and under great difficulties. In an enforced retirement provision for the demolition of roads and bridges must also be made.

All the construction, maintenance and operation of tramways in the forward area is carried out under the Chief Engineer. The line of demarkation between the Army organization of Light Railways and Corps Tramways is roughly the points to which the Army Light Railways can safely deliver in bulk by steam in daylight. All in front of this is carried out by the Corps Tramways, who take over the cars at the transfer sidings and deliver in detail forward. The Corps Tramways Companies of this Corps are operating and maintaining about 75 miles of line in the forward area, and handle the delivery of all ammunition to the guns; also trench munitions and supplies to the forward area. They carry working parties up. and Brigade reliefs, evacuating wounded to Dressing Stations beside. In the Corps area about 150 trains a day are operated forward and an approximate daily tonnage of about 2,000 tons is carried into the forward area, practically all of which would otherwise have to go in by horse transport, pack animals or by hand.

Beside providing the water supply necessary for drinking, cooking or washing for the men and horses, arrangements have also to be made to take care of a sudden advance into a new area by whatever number of men and horses is involved,—an area in which little is known of the facilities available. An important feature of the question of supply for horses is that they must all be watered three times a day, and the strain always comes on at approximately the same hours.

The arranging of offensive or defensive mining requires working out in great detail. The tunnelling is carried out to provide shell-proof cover in dugouts for the Headquarters, the personnel of all units in the forward area, and subways to facilitate the passage of men in the forward area through a zone which is subject to heavy barrages. The construction of

necessary bridges to facilitate traffic in the areas occupied, must be looked after, for duplicates of bridges likely to be destroyed, and for any required in an advance, while careful arrangements must be made for the destruction of all bridges in a retirement.

It is now impossible to purchase any stores or material locally as the country has been stripped, and the French reserve to themselves anything which is left. In consequence the requirements of the Corps as regards Engineer Stores have to be foreseen, estimated and asked for six weeks ahead, and obtained through regular army channels from outside sources. Engineer stores include cement, corrugated iron, felt roofing, steel joists and rails, posts and wire for entanglements, steel shelters, wire netting, expanded metal, hurdles, canvas and frames for revetting, trench boards, bricks, baths, stoves, iron-mongery, timber of all sizes, electrical stores, mining and tunnelling stores, water pipes and fittings, pumps, etc., etc.

The activities of the Canadian Engineers within the Corps also includes the provision and administration of Signal Services,—a vast and intricate system of wireless, telegraph and telephone communication carried under the Assistant Director of Signals. In addition, an Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Company operates searchlights at night to assist in the protection of the Corps against hostile aircraft.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE ORDNANCE CORPS.

The Ordnance Corps reigns supreme over the supply of guns, equipment, clothing and stores of all kinds for our troops in the field. The supply of ammunition is not created by Ordnance but the Corps' Assistant Director of Ordnance Service is responsible for its care, preservation and all technical questions connected with it; also for the location and arrangement of dumps. For these purposes he has at his disposal one or more Ammunition Sections detailed from the Army: each consisting of one officer and nine other ranks; the Assistant Director also administers all Canadian Ordnance Corps personnel in France, outside the Corps.

Attached to each Division is an Armorer Sergeant-Major, to each Infantry Brigade an Armorer Quartermaster-Sergeant, and to each Battalion an Armorer Staff Sergeant, each of whom belongs to Ordnance.

These Armorers are charged with the supervision and repair of all rifles, revolvers, machine guns and bicycles in the Corps. Minor repairs are carried out regimentally by the Battalion Armorer Staff Sergts. and Armorer Corporals, of whom there are four in each Battalion, and more important repairs are effected in the Armor Shop, there being one of these in each Division, assisted by men attached from Battalions who have had experience as mechanics in civil life and are being trained to qualify as Armorer Corporals. Each Divisional Armorers' Shop also has two Watchmakers for the repair of watches, binoculars, compasses and clinometers.

For the repair of guns (Field, Heavy and Siege) and their carriages and mountings, and repair of horse transport vehicles of all kinds, there are in the Corps two Light Ordnance Mobile Workshops, and a Medium Ordnance Mobile Workshop.

These Ordnance Mobile Workshops are each in charge of an Inspector of Ordnance Machinery, with a staff of artificers, turners, fitters, hammermen, wheelers, etc.

The Light Shops deal with field guns and carriages and transport vehicles and to a certain extent with Heavy Artillery, and the Medium Shop with Heavy and Siege equipments. In each Army there is an Ordnance Mobile Workshop Heavy which has more elaborate machinery than the Light or Medium Shops and which is capable of undertaking the most delicate and extensive repairs. Equipment the repairs to which are beyond the scope of the Corps Shops are sent to the Heavy Shop.

Each Brigade of Field Artillery and each Battery of Heavy or Siege Artillery has an Armament Artificer, attached for minor repairs and the general supervision of the mechanical details of their equipment.

All demands for guns, arms, clothing, equipment and stores are submitted by units to the Deputy Assistant Director administering them.

No stocks are maintained at the front other than a small reserve of box respirators and containers, steel helmets, a few odds and ends in constant demand such as camp kettles, and a few rifles in the Divisional Armorers' Shops. Each Army, however, has a Gun Park where a stock of guns and carriages, trench mortars, machine guns and spare parts and accessories is maintained.

Units' indents are checked by the Deputy Assistants with the Mobilization Store Table of the unit, which lays down, in detail, the stores it is entitled to, and with their records of issues to, and returns from, the units concerned.

Each indent bears a certificate of the Commanding Officer of the unit that the stores demanded are to replace those lost or rendered unserviceable through the exigencies of the service, or, that they are a first supply. In the later case the authority for the issue is quoted.

In the case of demands for stores to replace unserviceable articles, the indent is only passed when it is accompanied by the unserviceable articles, which are then returned to the Base as salvage. In the case of guns, carriages, sights or optical instruments and vehicles, the indents for replacements must be supported by certificates that the articles are beyond repair in the local shops. Indents may also be submitted for certain articles of officers' clothing and equipment, on repayment, but this is discouraged as in each Army there is an Officers' Clothing Depot where officers can obtain direct almost anything they require. When indents have been checked they are passed to the Base or to the Gun Park, as the case may be, for supply.

Demands for certain articles which come under the head of what is known as "bulk" such as clothing of all kinds, horse shoes, mess tins, steel helmets or anti-gas appliances, are consolidated into one demand for each Division or Corps Troops and sent to the Base by wire. A fixed programme exists for the days of despatch from the Base of the different natures of "bulk" so that everybody knows exactly on what day of the week they will arrive at railheads. For in-

stance boots, uniforms, drawers, puttees, grindery, etc. are loaded at the Base on Mondays and arrive at Railhead the following Wednesday; shirts and socks are loaded on Wednesdays and arrive at Railheads on the following Friday. Stores other than "bulk" are despatched from the Base as soon as the demands for them are received. It usually takes five days till the articles demanded are ready for issue.

Stores from the Base are sent up to Divisions and Corps Troops daily in the Supply Park Trains and are off-loaded at Division and Corps Supply Railheads. Here they are collected by the lorries attached to each Divisional and Corps Ordnance and taken to the different Refilling Points where they are collected by the regimental transport of the units for which they are destined. The average quantity of stores arriving from the Base daily is approximately six tons for each Division and Corps. Stores from the Gun Park are collected daily by one or two lorries as may be necessary and delivered to the Ordnance of the formations concerned, whence they are collected by Units' regimental transport.

A table showing comparative issues and returns of certain "Bulk" articles to the Four Canadian Divisions and to the Army of which they form a part per thousand men during the month of April last will clearly demonstrate the rigid economy of our Ordnance Corps.

	Army Average.	Canadian Average.
Great Coats:		
Issued	44	15
Returned	28	33
Ankle Boots:		
Issued	128	109
Returned	103	140

	Army Average.	Canadian Average.
Jackets:		
Issued	122	91
Returned	109	146
Pantalons (Mounted):		
Issued	194	151
Returned	115	134
Trousers (Dismounted):		
Issued	150	118
Returned	109	134
Puttees:		
Issued	132	108
Returned	90	95

CHAPTER XXVII.

INTELLIGENCE.

Before considering the actual composition, functions, and methods of procedure of the Intelligence Organization and what part it plays in the Corps Organization, it is necessary to have a clear general understanding of the nature of the work for which it has been authorized.

Picture the Corps then as a football team with the Corps Commander the Captain, and each Unit a player, responsible to him for marking and fighting the opposite player. For instance, a Front Line Battalion is concerned with the opposite number—the enemy Front Line Battalion. The Field Artillery, Trench Mortars and Machine Guns are affiliated with it to help it fight, worry and kill the enemy's troops in the forward trench area.

Meanwhile the Counter Battery Office is marking for the Corps Commander the enemy's Artillery Battery Positions.

In this game, Corps Intelligence is tactical fighting Intelligence and is responsible for each Unit having a knowledge as complete as possible of its enemy opposite number, including the disposition of the enemy's troops; the location of his Battalion, Regiment and Divisional Headquarters; the routes of Approach for his Infantry and Transport; the location of his Battery Positions with their routes of ammunition supply; his successive lines of defence; and his detailed defences, Machine Gun Emplacements, Trench Mortars and Observation Posts.

For this each Unit in the Corps has an Intelligence organization whose duties and responsibilities

in each case are to supply information for the direction of our aggressive blows.

Each Battalion has two officers, one an Intelligence Officer, who is in charge of the Intelligence Section, and the other a Scout Officer, assistant to the Intelligence Officer; two N.C.O.'s (a Scout Sergeant and Corporal) sixteen Scouts (eight especially trained in observation) and eight snipers, the Company and Platoon having their own respective Scouts and Snipers.

Gunnery and Intelligence go hand in hand. One thing is to shoot and the other is to find the target to shoot at, which latter is the function of the Artillery Intelligence. The Forward Observation Officers of the Batteries are the Artillery "Eyes" together with the Balloon and Aeroplane, and this also applies to Trench Mortars. The Corps Counter Battery Officer, to locate enemy's batteries, has Observation Flash Spotting Stations, also Sound Ranging Instruments. Then, in the air, he has the aeroplane and the balloon watching for flashes of the enemy's guns; the information from all these sources being co-ordinated and confirmed by aeroplane photographs. In addition photos show the enemy's tram railway system by which he feeds his batteries with ammunition, and these, together, with prisoners' statements and captured documents, help to make a complete story for the Counter Battery Officer of his opposite number.

The Anti-Aircraft Officer, as well as fighting the enemy's aeroplanes, watches and plots on a chart the flight of each enemy plane observed, and the enemy's aerial activity, when studied, is an interesting and valuable source of Intelligence. With listening sets, again, to overhear the enemy's conversations and his forward trench communications, and with Intercept-

ing Stations to intercept his wireless messages, a complete study is made of the enemy's communications.

Corps Observation Posts, manned by Corps Observers are distributed over the Corps front and are responsible for the general observation of the enemy's movement opposite. At the end of each day, their reports are co-ordinated with those from the Artillery and Infantry Observation Posts, and the Officer in charge is responsible for appreciating what these various "eyes" have seen. If abnormal movement is noticed in a certain enemy divisional sector and there is reason to believe a relief is in progress, night harassing fire is accordingly distributed.

Intelligence Corps Officers must be able to speak German fluently and have a thorough knowledge of the German Army Organization. The interrogation of prisoners and the translation of captured documents is their principal work. Each Divisional Staff has an Intelligence Corps Officer attached, and Corps Headquarters has two. To assist them in active operations, each Brigade has two German speaking N.C.O.'s.

Each Infantry Brigade has an Intelligence Staff Captain who is responsible to the Brigadier, for co-ordination and co-operation of its sources of Intelligence. Each Division has two General Officers, with an Intelligence Corps Officer attached whose duties are similar to those just outlined. Similarly, Artillery Brigades have a Reconnaissance Officer at each Artillery Brigade Headquarters; a Divisional Reconnaissance Officer at Divisional Headquarters and a Reconnaissance Staff Officer at Corps Headquarters where the Commander also has a General Staff Officer who is responsible to him for the co-operation and co-ordination of the sources of Intelligence of the Corps.

In conclusion, Intelligence as outlined above, with a number of other sources, such as prisoners, documents, and Secret Service throughout the Corps in each respective Unit realizes two responsibilities:

First—The lives of our own troops:

The first question an Intelligence Officer of any Unit must ask himself after an operation is—Would it have been possible for me to save the lives of some of our Unit if my Intelligence machinery had been better organized and more alert?

Second—Spending ammunition:

The effort in making a 9.2-inch shell at home, shipping it overseas, bringing it up the line of communication, and placing it in the gun, is finally spent and directed by Intelligence, which has thus a great responsibility.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE ARMY PAY CORPS.

The Canadian Army Pay Corps attends to the financial needs of our Forces overseas, and is composed at the present moment of more than two thousand civilians and soldiers of all ranks; The personnel varying in numbers according to the strength of our Forces, owing to discharges to Canada, casualties, etc., on the one hand, and reinforcements from Canada on the other.

The functions and duties of the Paymaster-General are generally to administer and control the financial services of the Overseas Forces; to be responsible for the proper accounting and disbursing of all public funds received for their pay, allowances and maintenance; and to ensure the prompt settlement of all claims arising out of their activities, whether in England or France.

Headquarters in London is the centralising point for correspondence on financial matters between Canada and the British Isles, and the British Isles and France, and the dealing with all conditions affecting the members of the Forces or their dependents overseas.

The services of this Department may be divided under three headings:—

1. The pay, allowances and claims of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men, and payments to their dependents.

2. The payment of all claims for maintenance and equipment and procuring the reimbursement of amounts due to Canadian Funds for reciprocal services performed on account of British and other Dominion troops.

3. The administration or Headquarters section which deals with and circulates information of all rulings and regulations affecting the financial affairs of the troops; the control of postal matters, telegraphs and cables; and the personnel, their appointments, promotions, etc.

Pay and Allowances are deposited monthly to the credit of his account in such Bank as may be specified by the individual Officer, where he desires such payments to be made, and approximate over $20,000,000 annually. The number of accounts of Officers and Nursing Sisters at the 31st July, 1918, was more than ten thousand for the former and nearly two thousand for the latter. Payments for lost kits, travelling expenses and subsistence allowance are also made in the same manner.

A section is also organized to take care of all items which affect the Pay and Allowances of Officers, such as their promotions, reversions or Staff appointments, requiring the investigation of numerous documents and authorities to thoroughly ensure that payments are properly made. Casualties, discharges to Canada, or transfers to Imperial or other services of Officers are also attended to in this Branch.

Cheques for Separation Allowance and Assigned Pay to dependents in England are forwarded monthly. Assignments payable in Canada are deducted from the Officer's emoluments through his ledger account and the balance only deposited to his credit.

The amount paid out on this account during the past year in England approximates $2,000,000. An average of 2,500 Separation Allowance and Assigned Pay cheques are issued each month, averaging $150,000 per month.

The duties of another Branch are to keep individual ledger accounts for all Warrant Officers,

Non-Commissioned Officers and men recording therein all transactions and information affecting their position and showing clearly at all times the amounts due to or by the soldier, and to remit to soldiers' dependents or other parties, either by Assigned Pay or Family Remittances, such sums as may be authorized.

Proper control is kept over payments made in this Branch by Controlling Accounts, and individual ledger-keepers are required to balance their ledgers monthly. In the recording of payments made in the Field, in England, Scotland or in the widespread Forestry Detachments throughout France, these must be entered in the soldiers' ledger accounts without delay. The accounts contain the full financial details or the soldier, so as to enable a Last Pay Certificate to be prepared immediately.

At the present time, there are over 300,000 active ledger accounts in operation. There are also a large number of accounts that are not active owing to death or discharge. The earning capacity of the soldiers is approximately $100,000,000 per annum, and the undrawn balance represents the large sum of over $30,000,000. Interest on the deferred part of this amount bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

The Accounting Branch is responsible for the maintenance of all cash receipts and payments from the time that funds are received from the Finance Department, Ottawa, or other sources, until they are finally distributed and accounted for. It also controls the inter-departmental accounting in order to see that the amounts disbursed by these Branches are properly vouched for.

It prepares all Financial Statements, and returns, as may be called for by the Auditor General, or by the Minister, Overseas. It is responsible for the

prompt settlement of all claims, and the compiling of accounts for reciprocal services against other Allied Governments and depositing to the credit of the Receiver-General at Ottawa, such amounts as properly belong thereto.

It also controls the accounting of all Command Paymasters, Field Cashiers and Regimental Paymasters, Acquittance Rolls and accounts being forwarded direct to this Branch for reconciliation. Acquittance Rolls for payments made to soldiers in France are often received in this Office within five days of date of payment, thus enabling a very close check up to be maintained.

The cash handled by this Department in twelve months aggregates nearly $125,000,000, exclusive of cost of maintenance of our troops in France.

Headquarters Section includes the General Headquarters of the Corps and is the authority for its general administration; the co-ordination of the Service with the Paymaster General's Office, Ottawa; interpretation of Orders-in-Council and advisement to all parties concerned; the oversight and control of all financial matters and the discipline and control of the military staff of those located in London. The discipline of the men in a large city is a serious matter, but this Corps has always been fortunate in having had exceedingly few breaches of discipline to deal with, and these almost entirely of a minor nature.

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There are no more vital units in the Canadian Corps than those which comprise the Medical Services and none where the finest type of heroism can more frequently be met with. It is one thing to rush to meet your foe in a "kill or be killed" encounter and quite another to administer first aid or perform some particularly delicate operation in blind uncertainty as to how many minutes of life are still ahead. Both in France and England the Canadian journalists found Medical organizations from the Dominion enjoying the highest possible prestige alike from the point of view of equipment and that of personnel. The general public in all probability however has only the most hazy idea of precisely how casualties find their way from the scene of action to the base hospital in France or "Blighty" and I propose to give some brief description of the routine which the most recent experience has dictated.

Let the reader suppose himself to be a wounded soldier—not necessarily a hopeless case of course—and presently Regimental Stretcher Bearers come up, one of whom applies a First Aid Dressing. He then walks or is carried by the Bearers to the Regimental Aid Post where his wound is examined and redressed if necessary. This done he is conveyed by Field Ambulance Stretcher Bearers to an Advanced Dressing Station at which the same performance is repeated if the casualty's condition renders such a course advisable. Having successfully reached this stage he is conveyed by Field Ambulance Transport, Trench

Tramway or Horsed Ambulance wagon to the Main Dressing Station in which the Field Ambulance performs emergency operations or administers any further treatment required. The casualty is now shelved as comfortably as possible in a Motor Ambulance Convoy bound for the Casualty Clearing Station from where, after a stay varying from a few hours to a few weeks according to the gravity of the wound, he is borne to the Base Hospital by railway train.

The whole object of the organization thus outlined is to do whatever is necessary to preserve life and pass the patient back to the base where he can remain until discharged without choking the lines of communication. During a prolonged period of intense action such as that which has been in progress for the past two and a half months, to keep a man an hour longer than absolutely essential would dam the stream of casualties until the backwater swirled over and swamps the unavoidably limited facilities of the Regimental Aid Post, with a resultant increase in the percentage of deaths.

The Services as a whole are under a Deputy Director and there are Assistant Directors for each Division. Among the principal organizations are the Sanitary Sections, the Machine Ambulance Convoy, the Field Ambulance, the Regimental Stretcher Bearers, the Water Detail and the Dental Section.

In the Canadian Corps are five Sanitary Sections, each consisting of one Officer and twenty seven Other Ranks. Each Sanitary Section looks after a sanitary area.

All members of the Medical Services, however, are concerned in and have responsibility in matters pertaining to the prevention of disease.

This responsibility begins with the Regimental M. O., who keeps up a daily observation and inspection, comprising:

1. The Quality, sufficiency and preparation of the food.

2. The Purity of the water.

3. The Hygienic condition of the trenches, billets and dugouts.

4. The Hygienic condition of the men, their clothing and blankets.

5. The inoculation and vaccination of troops.

6. The insulation and disinfection of cases of and contacts with infectious disease.

7. The location, sufficiency and condition of latrines.

8. The proper disposal of excreta, manure and garbage.

Each Field Ambulance is commanded by a Lieut.-Colonel and has two Majors, six Captains, a Dental Officer, and a Quartermaster. On the establishment of a Field Ambulance are two hundred and thirty eight Other Ranks, seven motor ambulances, three horse ambulance wagons and forty five horse in addition to general service wagons, limbers and water carts.

The Ambulance is to treat slightly wounded and slightly sick and to evacuate and transport sick and wounded.

The Regimental Medical Officer is in command of the medical detail of the Unit, consisting of sixteen regimental stretcher bearers, five water details and two orderlies.

The regimental stretcher bearers belong to the Battalion and are attached to the Medical Officers

for duty. They render first aid to the wounded and carry wounded men to the Regimental Aid Post. The present establishment of stretcher bearers is sufficient in ordinary times but in active hostilities has been found to be too few. On these occasions special parties are detailed from other formations.

The Water Detail's duty is to see that the water supply of the Unit is pure. It accompanies the water carts going to and coming from the refilling points, and sees that all water is chlorinated, and tested from time to time to see that the proper amount of chlorine is being added.

Any sick in the Infantry and Artillery, parade to the Regimental Medical Officer who sends those not fit to remain on duty, to the nearest Field Ambulance.

Cases of slight illness are sent to the Corps Rest Station, or in some cases when such exist, to Divisional Rest Stations. The Corps Rest Station is capable of accomodating up to six hundred sick and there is a special ward for Officers. This extra equipment is provided by the Canadian Red Cross.

Case of Skin Disease, are sent to the Corps Rest Station where there are special facilities for bathing and for the sterilization of clothes and blankets and a specialist is in attendance for the treatment of Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat cases.

The Canadian Corps Dental Laboratory, is situated at a central place in the Corps Area. There is a special clinique for Officers, and a clinique for Other Ranks. Here all impressions for dentures are sent from the Dental Officers in the Field Ambulances and the dentures made. By this arrangement a man can be fitted with a new denture within a week.

A Dental Officer is situated at each Field Ambulance to attend to the Dental work in the Brigade.

Finally the Canadian Red Cross provides all extra comforts and equipment not provided by Ordnance, which include special heating apparatus, fruit, games and tobacco.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE CHAPLAIN SERVICE.

In every self-respecting battalion there are two non-combatants for whose safety every Tommy in it would give his life's blood with cheerful pleasure but whose unerring instinct for the hottest corners, the most exposed places, is a source of mingled pride and anxiety to all ranks: these are the Doctor and the Padre, but particularly the latter by right of his cloth. Where all have done well beyond belief, as a growing list of decorations and more than one "killed in action" testify, it is doubtless invidious to institute comparisons but I know that my readers will learn with much interest of the peculiar devotion in which Canon Scott is held for his power of the spoken word and his entire unconsciousness of danger.

The tales which illustrate this latter quality are so numerous as to have become almost legendary and an admiring Major declared to me that when the real history of the war is written, a special chapter will have to be devoted to Canon Scott. Two incidents I heard at the front for whose accuracy I can vouch.

There was a particularly unhealthy place where an officer had been killed and his blood-stained gas-mask was left lying on the parapet: the Canon who was visiting in the vicinity insisted on going to that spot and an expostulating junior officer thought best to accompany him as the only hope of inducing some small measure of caution. Arrived on the scene Canon Scott gave a quick look around and said: "so this is the place? well I don't think I will stay here to recite poetry to you."

On another occasion a battalion was suddenly caught by a heavy gas attack, the news of which

reached the Commanding Officer at Battalion Headquarters and caused him natural anxiety. While he was busied in certain instructions, however, a figure in a gas-mask strode into the dug-out and, when the diabolic apparatus was removed, was seen to be the Canon. "What are you doing here at such a time, Sir? I will report you for exposing yourself" declared the O.C. "O that's alright my dear boy," Canon Scott rejoined, "I have just been taking a stroll in the lines and I thought you would like to know that your lads have all got their masks on and are alright"—"what can you do with a man like that?" asked the officer later in recounting the experience.

As we have said each battalion is proud of its own particular Padre and incidents such as the above could be multiplied indefinitely, but we are here concerned with the collective rather than individual services of the army Chaplain.

The work of the Chaplain in the field is primarily to look after the spiritual welfare of the troops. This includes the holding of Parade and Communion Services, Bible Classes, Classes of Instruction to prepare men for confirmation or for admission to full Church membership in their particular denomination.

The present establishment for the Canadian Corps allows 78 Chaplains to minister to the 4 Divisions, the 5th. Divisional Artillery, Canadian Corps Heavy Artillery and Canadian Corps Troops. There is a unified administration for all Chaplains work in the Corps. The Senior administrative Officer is the Assistant Director Chaplain Service and associated with him is the Deputy Assistant Director. The latter is a Roman Catholic and is responsible for the direction of matters connected with the work of Roman Catholic Chaplains which are purely eccle-

siastical. In each Division there is a Senior Chaplain who administers the work of his Division and has under him 16 Chaplains who are responsible for ministrations to the Infantry, Artillery and attached units.

With few exceptions each Chaplain goes into the front line with the unit to which he is attached during its tour of duty. He usually lives with the Medical Officer at the Regimental Aid Post. His work consists of visiting the men in the dugouts and trenches, holding personal interviews with them, distributing stationary and cigarettes, arranging for coffee stalls which provide free coffee to the men in the trenches, and conducting voluntary services in dugouts and cellars in the support line. It is quite impossible to state explicitly the great variety of ways in which the Chaplain helps his men. Generally speaking they regard him as a faithful unfailing friend who is anxious and ready to help them in every difficulty, and nowhere does he come into more intimate touch with them or find them more responsive to his leadership than in the trenches, where he shares their dangers.

Before an action the Chaplain usually meets the men of his unit at a Parade Service. His duty is to inspire in them a deeper appreciation of the ideals for which they are fighting and to strengthen their determination to achieve a victory. The number of men who make their Communion before a battle is usually very large and following the service the Chaplain has innumerable commissions from the men who are going into battle which he will carry out in case they do not return from the fight. During an action the Chaplain's first duty is with the wounded. One or two Chaplains are posted for duty to each

Regimental Aid Post. Here they minister to the dying, help dress the wounded and organise stretcher parties to clear the wounded from the battlefield. At the advanced dressing station, which is the first large collecting point for wounded behind the front line, there are usually two or three Chaplains who take their work in reliefs so that there is one of them on duty constantly both night and day. The first obligation is always to attend to the dangerously wounded cases, to give them the ministrations of their Church and secure messages for the next of kin from the men who are dying. They also assist in distributing food and hot drinks to the wounded. At the main dressing station, through which all casualties from the Corps front pass, Chaplains are held in sufficient numbers to make adequate provision for the wounded to receive every attention.

When the battle is over the Chaplain gives his attention to assisting with the collecting and the burial of the dead. He is always helpful in securing the identification of the soldiers who have fallen and sees that they get Christian burial. He has a large correspondence with the next of kin of dead and wounded soldiers and supplies them with information concerning their representative on the field of battle. In this way the Chaplains form the links between the men at the front and their homes in Canada and the letters of the next of kin testify to the universal appreciation of the efforts that are put forth to treat the soldier, in life or in death, with every possible consideration and to supply his family with a record of his heroic work in the field.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE RED CROSS.

There is very little to be said about the Red Cross with which the General Public is not already familiar through the very excellent reports which are given a wide publicity from time to time nor was I able to make any detailed study of its workings. At the same time I have a very pleasant recollection of the supply depot run by that organization near the then location of the Canadian Corps and also of the thoroughly equipped and efficiently administered base in a celebrated French sea-port town.

As a matter of fact the record of one depot is the record of them all, just as one Division or one Corps is typical of all the rest and I can give an adequate impression of the Red Cross under active service conditions simply by describing the Paris Depot which was visited by the Canadian Press Mission while in the French Capital.

The Paris Depot, then, of the Canadian Red Cross Society was inaugurated in August 1915 by Lt.-Col. Blaylock, then Assistant Commissioner in France, the Hon. Philippe Roy, Commissioner General for Canada, receiving the first small shipment of 800 cases. In November, two months later, Mr. R. W. Hardie was asked to take over the management as it was clearly seen that it was growing rapidly and would require undivided attention.

As the Depot was established principally to help French hospitals, an arrangement was entered into with the French Army Medical Corps, or Service de Sante, whereby the Canadian Red Cross should associate itself with several similar "war help" organizations grouped in one large Central Depot known

as the "Entrepot de Dons". This arrangement, while in no way curtailing its independence of action, augmented its usefulness by bringing it into daily contact with the French Military Government who officially, through a Central Bureau in the Entrepot, makes constant application for such supplies as are carried in stock.

Orders or "Demandes" as they are officially called, whether direct or through the Service de Sante, are filled on the day—and often the hour—of receipt, rushed to the proper station by the lorries of the Service de Sante and reach the General Hospital, Field Ambulance, or Casualty Clearing Station as the case may be, within the shortest possible time that human energy and organization can contrive.

Up to August 1st, last approximately 70,000 cases, valued at nearly $3,000,000 have been received at the Depot of which 60,000 have been distributed in this way so as to serve nearly 3,000 French Hospital institutions which are located in all parts of the country as well as with the French Army in the Orient (Salonique), Africa and Italy.

Essential things rather than "articles de luxe" are carried by the Paris Depot, Canadian pyjamas made by the women of the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific being perhaps the most popular article issued: during the warm weather they are worn by convalescents from the hospitals as convalescent suits. Other articles issued by the Depot include: Balaclava Caps, bandages, day socks, operating socks, nightshirts, day shirts, hospital shirts, surgical shirts, mufflers, blankets, quilts, sheets, slings, wringers, dressing gowns, hospital suits, hot water bottle covers, towels, nurses' aprons, wash cloths, bed jackets and pneumonia jackets.

It must be understood of course that this much appreciated service to the French Hospitals is quite apart from the splendid service rendered since the very commencement of the war to the Canadian Hospitals in France, which are supplied by direct lorry delivery from the Society's Principal Depot on the French Coast where the Executive Assistant Commissioner in France, Captain David Law, has his headquarters.

A Canadian Ambulance Convoy of five cars is attached to the Paris Depot, driven by British Red Cross Society Voluntary Aid Detachment chauffeurs. These meet all trains on telephone call and conduct the wounded to the different hospitals in Paris and its environs. Needless to say the girl drivers have no regular hours but, like firemen, sleep always with one eye open, ready to answer emergency calls promptly. The ambulances themselves were donated to the Red Cross by the Grand Trunk Railway Employees, the Sunshine Circle, the Public Library Board, and John Green & Co., all of Toronto and during July last made 5,220 miles to carry 938 patients, besides many hospital supplies.

The Canadian Red Cross in fact has been extremely generous to the French people. Large cash grants have been given to the French Red Cross and other similar societies, while the splendid new hospital at Joinville le Pont, south of Paris, which was formally handed over to the Service de Sante by the Canadian Prime Minister during his stay in France, is probably the most scientifically laid out and fully equipped modern hospital in France today: an added source of pride can be found in the fact that it is commanded, administered and staffed by Canadian medical men from Laval University, Montreal.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE RED TRIANGLE.

As with the Red Cross, so the work of the Red Triangle, or Y.M.C.A., is sufficiently well-known to be in no need of further publicity at this late time of day; at least this would be so if it were not for all the mistaken criticism—generally of an accusing nature—which this devoted institution has had to contend with and which renders a few plain explanations desirable. Here I may say at once that, after repeated questionings of all ranks both in France and England, I have not only been unable to obtain a single complaint but all have been unanimous in their praise of the work being done by the Red Triangle on active service.

The fact is very little recognized but exists nevertheless that the Canadian Y.M.C.A. in France is a regular Unit in the Overseas Military Forces of the Dominion, equally with horse, foot or guns, with an authorized establishment consisting of fifty one officers and five hundred and five other ranks. It seeks to serve all the Canadian Forces in France; three quarters of the work being done in the Corps Area and the remainder among railway troops, the forestry and cavalry corps. The whole work is administered from the Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, Canadian Corps, and the Senior Officer reports to Lt.-Col. Birks, Chief Supervisor, London, on general policy but is directly responsible to the Corps Commander through the usual "A" and "Q" channels. The organization within the Corps consists of a Headquarters Company and a Field Company with each Division and with Corps Troops. The Y.M.C.A. does

not pretend to be a Church or sect itself but acts on behalf of all the Churches in Canada to provide comfort, entertainment and inspiration for the troops; in carrying out which programme the work falls naturally into five well defined departments: Business, Athletics, Entertainment, Education and Religion.

The financial policy of the National Council in Canada includes the spending on the Canadian troops of any surplus remaining at the end of the war from canteen operations or from funds subscribed but, in the meantime, a contingency account of $50,000 is maintained of necessity in France as some sort of protection against losses in the field. Canteen Depots are carried near the front lines to the value of $300,000 alone, on which no insurance can be placed as a few well-placed shells could destroy the entire stock.

The main point of criticism against the Y.M.C.A. has been in connection with its operation of canteens and, accordingly, I propose to devote particular attention to this feature of its work. Canteens are operated as a service to troops, particularly in the line where civilian supplies are not available and to gain money to spend on the troops. During 1917 the sales totalled approximately $2,032,000 and, as the average sale is twenty cents, about twelve million men must have been served. To do this business, however, it was necessary to establish over two hundred and fifty centres in order to operate fifty five canteens continuously; the constant movement of troops rendering business conditions extremely difficult. With the exception of that in Paris, these centres were in the Canadian Corps area and sixty five per cent were in advanced positions where civilian stores do not exist.

The cost of all these operations was just $80,000, made up as follows: Canteen equipment and expenses, $40,000; War Contingency account, $25,000; and Transportation, $15,000. The second item covers damaged goods, pilferages, and supplies destroyed by fire, shell-fire or submarine: eight dug-outs being "crumped" by the enemy during 1917. With reference to the third item it is not generally known that the Y.M.C.A. pays railway charges on all supplies which are sent forward on trains to the railhead; in adition to which there are incidental expenses made necessary in transporting supplies from railhead to the forward areas. The net profit therefore was $320,000.

But it will be asked, "why not sell at cost instead of allowing such a surplus to accumulate"? and there are three good reasons in reply. The first is, that all canteen selling prices are fixed by the War Office and must be adhered to by the Y.M.C.A. in common with everyone else, although most Canadian lines were as cheap on Vimy Ridge as they are in Canada and there have been free drinks in all canteens since January 1st., 1917. To supply soft drinks the Red Triangle operates a factory of its own with a capacity of 1,500 gallons per day. The second reason is that the Association's Purchasing Dept. buys in the best markets of the world and the third, that the business administration in France is well adapted to field conditions and the operating cost is small.

If it be further asked "what is done with the profits?" the Y.M.C.A. answers that it has all been spent on the troops and proves it as follows:

$150,000 was given away in cash, food supplies and hot drinks. Of this amount, $70,000 was given in cash to the officers commanding Units in the Corps

on a pro rata basis according to their ration strength, to provide the men with extra rations and other comforts which the Association was not in a position to supply.

$125,000 was spent on new huts, marquees and equipment, including rent, heat and light; $35,000 went for writing materials, religious and educational literature.

$55,000 paid all the expenses of cinemas, concerts, pianos, gramophones and other supplies used in entertainment. Thirteen movies are operated in France and in many of these, two or three crowded houses are amused every night without charge of any kind.

$40,000 was the total expenditure on athletics. Large quantities of baseball, football, tennis, boxing and other supplies were available throughout the summer of 1917 and a very large programme of sports run off, to which the Corps Championships furnished an appropriate climax.

$30,000 is the cost of administration in connection with all these services, which are separate and distinct from the canteen operations. The total expenditure on the troops thus comes to $450,000, leaving a net deficit of $130,000 to be made up by subscriptions in Canada.

Just how big a part the Y.M.C.A. actually plays in maintaining the morale of Canadians at top pitch can be seen from the following statistics for the first six months of 1918.

Meeting.	Number.	Attendance.
Concerts	1,195	539,621
Cinemas	1,682	697,192
Religious Services	639	130,888

Bible Classes	243	11,679
Good-night Services	655	27,758
Athletic Games	6,892	406,853
Educational Lectures	498	104,693
Educational Classes	612	13,798

Finally, and in order to satisfy a number of people who have been going round Canada asking 'who ever saw a financial statement of the Y.M.C.A.?' I intend to reproduce such a document here: the statement of the Asociation's income and expenditure account for the fifteen months ending March 31st., 1918, which can very easily be verified for those who may still be skeptical:

	Income	Expenditure
Profit from Canteens	$447,711.36	
General Contributions	462,405.39	
Huts, hut equipment, tents, marquees and decorations		$284,314.43
Free distribution of hot and cold drinks, biscuits, cigarettes, etc., including service to wounded and other troops in special emergencies		96,518.00
Cash distributed to troops for the purpose of providing extra rations, comforts, etc.		92,346.54
Free Cinemas, Concerts, Lectures, Pianos, Music, Gramophones and Records		92,405.97
Free Athletic Supplies and Prizes		61,313.36
Free Stationery, Magazines, Religious and other Literature and Religious work		58,118.65

Transport Equipment and running expenses		26,770.70
Paris Hotel:—		
Rental to Mar. 31.	$ 6,600.00	
Upkeep	3,787.50	
	$10,387.50	
Less rent of rooms	4,199.08	
		6,188.42
Salaries, Wages, Mess Fund, Extra Rations, Travelling Extra Rations, travelling expenses of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men		24,497.14
Administration Expenses ...		27,675.12
Contribution to War-Work Dept. of National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s of England and Wales in recognition of services rendered to Canadian Troops		37,159.09
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure for the period, used as part Working Capital for Supplies in Transit		102,809.33
	$910,116.75	$910,116.75

CHAPTER XXXIII.

BUXTON AND BLIGHTY.

There is a magic meaning in these two words for every war-scarred veteran of Canada: Buxton is the Discharge Depot through which he must pass before embarkation in some westward bound transport and "Blighty" is just home with all that it implies to such a man after such experiences.

Having taken the reader in fancy through an average soldier's life from the different training areas to the front line trenches it is only logical that the record should be made complete by reference to the process through which he regains civil life.

On arrival at Buxton, with a party in charge of an Officer from the Reserve Depot, men about to be discharged from service are met at the station by the Orderly Sergeant of the Canadian Discharge Depot, who checks them up by a Nominal Roll, and marches them to the Depot. Here the Officer in charge of the Party hands over all documents concerning the men under his charge, to the Adjutant.

Entering the Depot, every man is first paraded to the Dining Hall, where a meal is served, despite the fact that each was given the unexpended portion of the day's rations when leaving his Reserve Unit. When the meal is finished, a few preliminary instructions are given. The individual is told the time of parades for the morrow, warned as to what is expected of him regarding behaviour whilst at the Depot, and warned against smoking in his billet. Immediately there follows a parade to the Quartermaster's Stores, where his kit is handed to the Quartermaster for inspection.

The man is next taken to the Medical Officer, who examines him for venereal or other infectious diseases. Here he is also inspected for his physical fitness, and if unable to carry on the light duties of the Depot, he is given a Red Card excusing him from parades and all duties. If he should find it a hardship to go up and down stairs, he is sent to the Cripples Room on the Ground Floor. These preliminaries over, the Officer in charge of the Receiving Company conducts him to his billet for the night.

Arising at Reveille, the man washes, dresses, and makes up his bed in the regulation manner, and helps tidy up the room before proceeding to Breakfast. His first parade is then at 8.15 a.m. for registration, at which he has to go through a regular cross-examination. At the first table he gives the clerk his Number, Name, Address and where he enlisted in Canada, also where he wishes to go for his discharge or furlough. This information enables the Orderly Room Staff to compile index cards, showing to what Company the man will be posted whilst in the Depot. The Pay Office representative is at the same table, compiling cards to enable the Pay Office to keep track of the man's "Last Pay Certificate". Passing to a second table, the man gives information for the filling out of his "Procedure of Discharge". At the third table, a clerk from the Post Office obtains the necessary information for forwarding mail. At a fourth table, another representative of the Orderly Room obtains information for index cards, and at a fifth table the man receives his "Identification Ticket' recording his Name, Number and Military District. It is a protection, as its use prevents any man going into the Dining Hall more than once, and cheating others of their fair portion of rations.

After registration parade, the man is then paraded to the Dental Officer, who examines his teeth for any necessary work, and for Trench Mouth. Dismissed from parade, he next proceeds to the Quartermaster's Stores, where his kit bag, which was deposited there on the previous evening, is opened by him and checked and he is advised as to how he may obtain any necessary issues, or to obtain repairs. Every man leaves the Discharge Depot for Canada, fully supplied with clothing allowed by regulations.

This inspection over he goes for his mid-day meal, and then waits for the 1.30 p.m. parade on which he passes out of the hands of the Receiving Company and is handed over to the Company controlling his Military District in Canada. Being now posted to a Company, the man is conducted to his billet, reissued with blankets, palliasses, and bed or bedboards and makes himself at home until such time as he proceeds to Canada. He is also under the Company for discipline and duty. His duties consist of light fatigues, guards and picquets. It may be a cook-house fatigue, a dining hall fatigue, sweeping corridors or cleaning up the grounds. His guards and picquets are light patrol work, guarding billets and stores, patrolling floors, fire and light picquets.

After the man's arrival, he is entitled to draw Pay on being four days in the Depot, and every fourteen days thereafter, during the period he is detained. Special concessions are made to him, should he need them, by advancing him larger amounts of money, for the purpose of settling his financial affairs, also to defray the cost of passages for the return of his dependents to Canada, on these advances being authorized by the Paymaster-General. On receipt of the "Last Pay Certificate" he is par-

aded to the Pay Office for the purpose of signing it, but before doing so, his account is explained and if he is satisfied that it is correct he signs it to that effect. Should he dispute the accuracy of his "Last Pay Certificate' his complaint is investigated by the Paymaster, and every endeavour is made to have the same settled as expeditiously as possible, in order that the man may sail at the earliest possible opportunity. No man is allowed to return to Canada, who disputes his account until he is satisfied and signs his "Last Pay Certificate" to that effect. On the completion of this document, and providing all his other documents are in the hands of the Discharge Department, the man is ready for Sailing.

At last all arrangements have been completed and the man is paraded and warned that he is on the Sailing. After having answered his name on parade, he is given instructions as to the date of sailing, parade time, etc. The man then proceeds to the Medical Officer where he is exomined for Scabies, Vermin, Trench Mouth, Venereal and other diseases. Should he have Vermin, he is immediately cleaned up, but if found to be suffering with any other diseases he is struck off the sailing. Passing the Medical Examination, he gives his Name and Number to the Embarkation Officer. He is then handed a Berthing Card, showing him the Deck, section, room and berth number. Finally he is asked if he has signed his "Last Pay Certificate and Complete Sheet". This Complaint Sheet is a statement by the man that he is satisfied with his treatment whilst at the Depot, and if not, it affords him an opportunity of making his complaint or recording any suggestions which he may consider necessary and advantageous.

At 4.30 a.m., the following morning, Reveille sounds; after ablutions and dressing the man packs his kit bag, helps roll up bed blankets in bundles of ten, and tidy up his room, has his breakfast and then falls in according to his Military District; answering his name when called from the Nominal Roll of the Sailing, and taking his place all ready to march to the Station.

Before the Parade moves off it is inspected by the Commanding Officer and a few words of advice are given by him as to their conduct on the Boat and on their arrival in Canada. Then hey for the long desired transport and—Blighty.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

CANADA'S WAR RECORDS.

One of the main difficulties with which the historian of previous wars has had to contend has been a more or less inadequate and frequently unreliable supply of information from which to work. Those who have been actual participants in the struggle have, as a rule, been too much preoccupied with the problems of the moment to concern themselves with the possible requirements of the future and, by the time that the importance of a series of events has acquired its true perspective so as to arouse the interest of the historical writer, first hand facts in the course of Nature have become very difficult, if not altogether impossible to procure.

With a full realization of these things every belligerent nation, certainly all those on the Entente side, has consciously set itself to collect the greatest possible amount of detailed information concerning the part which it has played in this greatest of all wars, while such data is still available and thus it is that the Canadian War Records Office, with Sir Max Aitken as he then was at its head, came into being.

The organization has had an extremely gratifying growth but it is still questionable whether people in this country fully realize the importance of its activities and pioneer work in rescuing whole masses of vital information for the future Canadian historian that would otherwise infallibly be lost. Under Lord Beaverbrook it may in fact be said that the office is making history in more ways than one. The work itself may be divided into three main departments, Pictorial, Records and Editorial.

A large and growing staff of artists and of experts in still and moving picture photography is attached to the Records Office and is constantly engaged in making a permanent pictorial record of every conceivable form of Canadian war activity. At present a considerable revenue is being derived from the syndication of the output in newspapers, magazines and "Movie" theatres but later on this record will constitute a literal gold-mine for writers who wish to illustrate any particular phase of the Dominion's war effort. Let the reader imagine the present value of bona fide sets of photographs covering even such recent battles as those of Trafalgar or Waterloo and then think how priceless similar sets illustrating Vimy Ridge or the Second Battle of Ypres will be in twenty five years' time.

Every Battalion, Brigade, Divisional and Corps Commander is required to keep an official diary, a carbon copy of which is sent to the Diaries Section of the War Records Office, of which a son of Dean Moyse of McGill University, himself an Oxford graduate, is in painstaking charge. Here these important records are carefully filed, indexed and cross-indexed so that they may be readily available for consultation at any moment. Naturally commanding officers have little time and often less inclination for literary labors and some of the diaries are of a decidedly perfunctory character. Still the important thing is that they are regularly kept for, in the last resort, it is from this information and from despatches that the frame-work of the final story must be built up.

Finally there is the Editorial Section, a newly developed branch which controls the production and publication of all books and pamphlets dealing with Canada in the war. The Editor-in-Chief is Captain

Theodore Goodridge Roberts, the well known Canadian writer, of the New Brunswick Regiment and late of Headquarters, Canadian Corps. Working under him is a staff of four privates, all members of the Overseas Force and all journalists or writers: they are J. H. Holland, late 24th. Battalion; Robin Richards, late P.P.C.L.I.; G. E. Hewitt, late 20th. Battalion; and Stuart Martin, late No. 5 Canadian General Hospital, Saloniki. It is the expectation of the Editor to be in a position to employ other writers as the work increases and develops but that already produced, or in course of production, by this section is sufficient to show the importance of the historical compilation being done.

Thus a book of the deeds of the Canadian V.C.'s is now in the hands of the publishers and will shortly be on sale while another book dealing with the exploits of other honors and awards is to follow. A short history of every Canadian Battalion is also in course of preparation: several of them are already being published and will be on sale almost immediately. Again historical summaries of each Canadian Brigade from the time of its organization to recent operations—as far as censorship regulations permit—have been written, most of which have been sent to the Department of Militia and Defense, Ottawa, and have already appeared officially.

A book of "Battle-Pieces", short true stories of personal interest taken from incidents of the war, is further being written to bring home to the public the fighting man with all his sufferings, triumphs and heroisms which rival anything in fiction. Finally a volume on the work of the Canadian Hospitals in the Near East is being prepared, those five Units which went out to Lemnos, Mudros, Egypt and Saloniki in the early days of the war.

But besides all these, the Editor deals with the periodical publications of "Canada In Khaki" and the "Canadian War Pictorial", two productions illustrated by official photographs and sketches or paintings; the contributors being all well known writers and artists. Major Charles G. D. Roberts is also attached to the Department for the purpose of writing "Canada In Flanders", a special history of the Canadian troops. He has access to all official historical documents and is aided wherever necessary by the staff, members of which are sent to obtain personal interviews from eye-witnesses where particular actions or incidents can be re-constructed in no other way. The fourth volume, at present in course of preparation, will deal with the fighting of the Corps at Vimy Ridge.

The profits of all these works are devoted to the Canadian War Memorials Fund but, apart from the immediate value of the work of the Editorial Section, it must be apparent that, were it not for constant literary rescue work, much important data would be overwhelmed in the rapid accumulation of battle incidents, all of which demand preservation. The objective therefore of the War Records Office is to tell the story of Canada in arms to the world contemporaneously and accurately.

CHAPTER XXXV.

AN AFTERWORD.

Having given the reader as best I might under the limitations of censorship and other difficulties, the result of my observations as a member of the Canadian Press Mission to Great Britain and the Western Front I find myself with an exacting task, certainly not completed, but at any rate brought to an end. If there have been any material omissions I can only throw myself upon the indulgence of the public; pleading that certain things have been left out of necessity and others of deliberate intent.

Thus I have had little to say about the Canadian Corps Commander or any head of Division or Brigade because their personalities and biographies have already been made familiar to Canadians through other and better informed sources of information and, after all, the record and prestige of the Canadian Overseas Force is the best comment that can be made upon the character of these men. In the same way I have not spoken of the public men such as Poincare, Clemenceau, and Lord Derby whom the Canadian Journalists met in France for the simple reason that a brief fifiteen minute interview is far too inadequate a foundation upon which to form any independent judgement.

Finally I have made no special reference to French-Canadian troops as it seems to me invidious, where all are heroes, to labor the praises of any special group. Such a course would, in fact, be almost tantamount to an admission that their bravery was open to question: that a man is a Canadian is sufficient credential at the Front and there is no disposition to

inquire into his racial origin. There are certain definitely recognized French Canadian Battalions as, for instance, the famous 22nd., but individuals can be found scattered through the entire Corps, not one of whom has failed to make good. In a far Western Unit I found a native of Chicoutimi whose Colonel volunteered the information that this Corporal was one of the best boys under his command.

It is for these and similar reasons that I would discourage controversy as to whether or not Quebec has "done its bit". If there has been any organized opposition to military participation in the war, even although thoroughly conscientious, it must be a matter for regret by every friend of the French-Canadian. At worst, however, the situation which has existed or may exist is due to mistaken leadership on the one hand and to an intolerance for which the rest of Canada cannot escape responsibility at the bar of history, upon the other. The real fact is that, leaving the British-born out of consideration, a certain number of Anglo-Canadians volunteered for active service and a certain number of French-Canadians. A point was then reached where no more volunteers could be obtained from one nationality or the other and there was just as determined an opposition to the draft among the able-bodied slackers in loyal Ontario as could possibly exist among the passive resisters of recalcitrant Quebec. I am bound moreover to say that the French-Canadian draftees whom I saw in the various military training areas of England presented just as soldierly an appearance, were just as keen in learning the fine points of their new occupation, as those of other nationalities.

Reaching England at perhaps the hour of darkest depression, I left it just as the first dawn of vic-

tory was lighting up the valley of the Somme and so much has happened in the short time that has since elapsed that it is difficult, even if it does not prove misleading, to draw any definite conclusions from what I have seen and heard. Still there are one or two lessons which Canada may draw from this mighty conflict with profit to herself; lessons indeed upon which her future position in the world will in no small measure depend.

It is too recent to have been forgotten how the Entente cause suffered and was nearly lost through division of Command; the British, French and Italians were all fighting bravely and with the greatest skill of which they were capable but under separate leaders and with independent, frequently unrelated objectives in view. This was a delightful situation for the highly Centralized Teuton foe. If, for instance, there was a "bug push" against the British army whose reserves were insufficient to withstand it the French could not send a man by way of reinforcement, although their own front was quiet and their own reserves inactive: that would be a breach of British sovereignty, quite apart from the fact that would also be sound sense. The whole dramatic change in the fortunes of war can be directly traced to the change in policy whereby Marshal Foch was placed in supreme command of the Allied armies and was able to move Brigades, Divisions and Corps irrespective of nationality.

We in Canada have been doing very much the same thing, dividing ourselves into water-tight departments, each of which is striving for the good of the country but after its own fashion, with its own immediate ends to serve. I venture to predict therefore that the Dominion will never fully achieve its

destiny until a unification of purpose and effort is accomplished such as that which recently took place upon the Western Front, nor will there be any greater danger of lost identity than that to which the French and Americans have been exposed while fighting under Field Marshal Haig between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

Another fact which the war has brought home is the almost complete dependence of the modern State upon Labor and a more satisfactory relationship between that class of the population and the employing class will have to be found if an early industrial revolution is to be avoided. Let there be no mistake: Labor has found its strength throughout the entire world and this discovery is expressing itself in a series of increasingly frequent strikes that will eventually tie up all industry and commerce. Exactly what this new relationship is to be it is still too soon to estimate but, broadly, just as the danger has been proved of focussing political power in the hands of a few privileged individuals so the danger is also likely to become apparent of centralizing economic power in the hands of a few equally privileged persons. Needless to say the view-point of Labor is still narrowly selfish and dangerous disturbances will only be avoided while it is acquiring a capacity for government to the extent that public men and employers realize the true situation and assist instead of impeding the process of education.

Thirdly there is the question of the return of the soldier to civil life which will become pressing when demoblization is complete. That such a question exists is fully realized by the Government which has created a special department to deal with it and has already accomplished a great deal but the general

public does not fully comprehend the problem. A wise Belgian lady who returned home from Fort William, Ont., at the outbreak of hostilities and has been nursing casualties ever since, said to me in this connection "when I read in the Canadian papers of disturbances created by returned men and of clashes with the police I know that the people don't know how to treat them. For months and years the soldier has been experiencing the severest discipline, the most complete restraint so that, when he thinks of going home, it is to an entire absence of discipline and restraint". Here the picture rises forcibly to my mind of those patient, pleasant-spoken instructors who nurse the casualties back to military efficiency, concealing the iron of discipline under pretense of the rules of a game, knowing that a single false move can break a man's spirit forever, and the fact is brought home that it is only by such methods as these that the returned men will be successfully restored to the routine of civil life.

So much for internal problems but there are also external ones which will have to be faced. In our relations with the British Empire, for instance, there can be no standing still; the time is drawing near when we will have to choose between a policy of devolution and one of evolution. In other words, we must either cut the painter or determine our future position in the federation of nations. Naturally a full discussion of these issues would require a book to itself but there are several obvious reasons why devolution is undesirable, for the present at any rate. In my opinion the European nations will seek to discourage emigration in order to make good their depleted manhood, in which they will be powerfully aided by the demand for labor for reconstruction

work. The competition for immigrants between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa therefore is likely to be particularly keen and the most desirable class of British settler is unlikely to be attracted to a country where he will lose his nationality.

In the same way there will be a keen commercial competition between this country and the United States for the British, among other foreign markets, and we wil forfeit a considerable advantage in severing our Imperial connection.

There are still other considerations both material and sentimental that I might urge did space permit but I must content myself with recording my sincere conviction that Canada's best hopes for the future lie as a full partner in the great federation of British Nations. To this end we must undertake the future defense of our own shores by sea and on land and must insist on complete freedom in dealing with other nations where Imperial interests are not concerned. We must also insist upon an equal voice in all international agreements which affect either ourselves or the Empire as a whole but how all this is to be done may safely be left to the Conference which is to be held at the earliest possible moment after the conclusion of the war.

Finally it seems well to say that an Anglo-Saxon rapprochement will be an important factor in maintaining the world's peace through the days to come: Great Britain by her island position and the United States by reason of distance, stand apart as it were from the other great Powers who lie check-by-jowl in Europe, and upon them accordingly will rest the main responsibility for preventing the recurrence of any such catastrophe as that which is now shaking the earth. Hence a sympathetic understanding between

the two nations is absolutely essential and, despite anything that may appear on the surface, such an understanding is still to be realized.

If it had not been for the Lusitania and Lafayette, for its own interests and a feeling of sentiment for France, it is doubtful wheher America would have entered the war to support Great Britain. Both in the United States and on a transport laden with troops I have noticed that the British National Anthem can command a good reception but it is the Marseillaise which draws your American to his feet in the same way as the Star Spangled Banner. Such a condition is perfectly appreciated in England where every proper means are being adopted to induce a warmer friendship on the part of those millions of United States soldiers overseas who are surprised to see that Britain is not the effete despotism which their prejudices had conceived. Excellent pioneer work is thus under way but Canada has an important function to perform as an intermediary in interpreting the two national ideals, one to the other, not through selfish motives but in the interests of a lasting League of Nations.

Great then as have been the undertakings of the war, they will pale into insignificance besides those political, economic and social undertakings which must surely follow in the wake of peace.

THE END.