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DR. S. MAGNESIA.

FORTY SECOND YEAR.

Cape to Pretoria

Pte. Smethurst Was in All Engagements With the Nineteenth Brigade.

Had a Very Narrow Escape at the Battle of Thaba N'Chu.

He Writes of the Regiments, Long March and the Many Fights.

The official record of the work accomplished in South Africa by the Nineteenth Brigade, of which the first Canadian contingent formed a part, showed that they had fought ten general engagements and 27 minor ones, took part in the capture of ten towns and marched 620 miles. A large number were of course absent on some of the occasions, but some took part in every engagement. One of the latter was a native son of Victoria, Henry Smethurst, one of the first to volunteer when the call for volunteers was made. He started with the contingent from Victoria and was in the ranks on every occasion that there was serious work to be done. Pte. Smethurst had the best kind of training for the work he undertook when he went to the front. A great deal of his time during his boyhood was spent in the woods and mountains around Victoria, and as he grew older, while he continued to be interested in outdoor sports, spent many hours in the drill hall, being an enthusiastic member of the Fifth Regiment.

In a letter to his mother, John Smethurst, he tells in an unassuming way of the long march and the many fights. The letter is written in a simple, direct style, where the Canadians were doing garrison duty, and is dated July 5. "I have come through the war safe and well," he says, "but had a narrow escape on one occasion at Thaba N'Chu. We had a short but lively battle on the way to Pretoria, the Boer shells falling all around us. One of our men was killed in the chest by a shell and was terribly mangled. One shell struck the ground four feet from me, but fortunately did not burst. The Boers tried to check us at the Zand river, but our artillery soon put their guns out of action and they scattered. After we crossed the Zand river we marched to the Vaal river, the Boers were in the front, but without opposition, and the band played "God Save the Queen" for us were in the Transvaal. Our first fight in the Transvaal was at Dorkop, just outside of Johannesburg, and it was a hot battle. The Boers had Long Toms and pom-poms, but they could not stop the British from advancing. The brave Gordon Highlanders charged them twice with bayonets and made them fly for their lives. So one more battle won and the credit given to the Nineteenth Brigade. We marched into the Transvaal on the 10th of the month, and camped there for a day. Then we were moved three miles from Johannesburg and rested several days before continuing our march to Pretoria. We reached Pretoria on June 4, a terrible battle raging at the time. The Boers were in the front, and we were sent 80 miles to Elandfontein, and from there by train to the Springs, to do garrison duty. On the 30th the Boers came to us, but in three minutes the Canadians were ready for them, and drove them off with loss.

"Of the 25 Victorians only five of us marched into Pretoria."

"We thought our marching was over, but we still had work before us. The Boers threatened from the Springs to the front, and we were sent 80 miles to Elandfontein, and from there by train to the Springs, to do garrison duty. On the 30th the Boers came to us, but in three minutes the Canadians were ready for them, and drove them off with loss.

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TO KIDNAP ROBERTS.

A Suggestion That Commandant Botha Knew of Plot.

Pretoria, Aug. 18.—The trial of Lieut. Cordua, of the Straits Artillery, charged with being concerned in the plot to kidnap Lord Roberts, was continued to-day. The prisoner admitted his implication, but declared that he was persuaded to join the conspiracy by a man named Gano, who was the originator of the plot and who professed to be a British agent. The prosecution tried to connect Commandant-General Botha with the affair. Cordua admitted the suggestion of Gano and Gano started out with the object of visiting Botha, but were both captured and sent back to the camp. Cordua testified conclusively to show that Botha, although Cordua denied it. Several witnesses testified that Cordua had been drinking heavily of late.

Political Leaders Home

Head of Opposition and Cabinet Members Return From Europe.

Sir Charles Expresses Himself as in Good Form For the Fight.

From Our Own Correspondent. Quebec, Aug. 18.—Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Blair, Sir Louis Davies and Sir Charles Tupper arrived this morning from Europe. Hon. Mr. Fielding was not communicative. He stated that he and his colleagues had been to Europe on a purely of pleasure trip. Sir Louis Davies said he found trade indications excellent for Canada, and anticipated an increase in the volume of business between the Dominion and the Mother Country. Like everyone else, he had felt the heavy weather encountered on the Atlantic. Mr. Blair was in quite a talkative mood compared to his colleagues, but he seemed to be in good form for the fight. He said he had seen little of Paris, but what he had seen had been very greatly to his liking. He especially mentioned the Canadian exhibit and the attention it was receiving. It could not fail to be the biggest kind of an advertisement for Canada, and would attract much trade in this direction. Sending the South African contingent had also been a capital thing, and was having a great effect. On all sides he heard Canada spoken of, and he was the highest bidder for the prize. She was by long odds the most talked of, and apparently the most popular colony. The Boers seemed to be anxious to see Mr. Blair considerably. He said that the matter had not even been discussed yet, especially at the cabinet had been scattered so long.

Sir Charles Tupper was in a talkative mood. He said he expected the elections would take place in October, and he was in good form for the approaching campaign. Montreal, Aug. 18.—Hon. Mr. Tarte arrived here this morning. He was a passenger on the steamer Lake Superior, but came up from Rimouski by train. He declined to be interviewed. Arthur Deltelle, advocate and ex-member for Portneuf, said yesterday: "I will not support the Liberal school. I will be a candidate in the county of Portneuf at the coming election as an independent Liberal, and I am ready to fight the highest bidder for the prize. I do not wish to say more," added Mr. Deltelle, "but do not forget that I am Liberal. I am not a fanatic. I will support a good administration, be it Liberal or Conservative. I will not pretend that I will favor the Conservative party, but one thing is certain—I will support the present regime, in which it is not the chief who governs, but his colleagues."

WELCOMING THE SOLDIERS HOME

Quebec Gives Civic Reception to Invalided Canadians on Their Arrival.

Quebec, Aug. 18.—Ten invalided Canadian soldiers from South Africa arrived today on the Parliament at Quebec. The reception this morning by the civic authorities to the ten soldiers was as follows: Pro-Mayor G. Tanquary was at the landing with the city clerk, and read an address of welcome, landing the soldiers and patriots. Following is a list of the soldiers who arrived: Sergt. J. G. McConnell, "D" company, from the G. F. R. G. Ottawa; Privates Cook, McLoughlin, S. M. Ward, Clarke, Watson, Lynch, Palky, Ginach and McGee. Lynch is from St. John's, and belongs to "B" squadron, Strathcona House. Privates Clarke and McGee are from Ottawa, and belong to "D" company. They have all been suffering from enteric fever. Pte. Palky comes from St. John's, N.B. Flags are everywhere on the principal streets of the city and on public buildings in honor of the event.

More Details About Peking

Allies Enter the City From Two Sides After Blowing Up Gates.

Marquis Li Declines to Accede to Li Hung Chang's Appeal.

London, Aug. 18.—Admiral Bruce telegraphs to the admiralty: "Peking captured August 15, Legations safe." The second edition of the Daily Telegraph publishes a special despatch from Shanghai, which says: "The allies entered Peking unopposed, and met with a friendly reception from Prince Ching. All hostile elements escaped from the city. The imperial court left for Shen Si on the 11th, with Manchuria. The Kansu troops have gone southward, with the object of joining up the allies and preventing them from following the court."

Bridge River Undertaking

Immense Amount of Capital Is Being Expended by American Company.

Work Already Commenced Will Continue for Years—Road Needed.

A change of property in the Lower Bridge River has led to the prosecution of development work up in that section which will probably lead to the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars in the mining industry. The lease has been held by the Bridge River and Lillooet Mining Company, a Hamilton, Ont., affair, and comprised 15,000 feet at the junction of that famous stream and the North Fork. Upon the latter 3,000 feet was taken over. Returns on the property were only getting on, and the company was expected to spend about \$85,000. This will bring 5,000 inches of water from the North Fork down into the main river, above the junction with the smaller stream, which washing will first be undertaken, and then the water will be let down to the point of commencement. Two No. 4 monitors, with seven-inch nozzles, will be put in for the purpose. 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Big Storm At Cape Nome

Causes the Wreck of Three Vessels and Loss of Much Property.

Destitute Miners to Be Shipped Out by the Military Authorities.

From August 2 to August 4 Cape Nome was swept by a heavy storm, and three large steamers were wrecked...

The Centennial left Nome August 5, and the Centennial arrived at Seattle...

The smaller craft did not dare attempt such a course. The wind was blowing from the east on the coast...

The beach was then covered with driftwood, and the water was several feet higher than normal...

The first steamer to meet disaster was the Yukon river steamer, the Merwin...

The second vessel of any consequence to be wrecked was the tug, the Seattle...

Disturbances have recently occurred here, owing to certain men being under the influence of alcohol.

Disruptions have recently occurred here, owing to certain men being under the influence of alcohol.

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A DISCOURAGING EXPERIENCE

The Shirt-Waist Man Was Obligated to Don a Coat.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Does the coat make a man? That is the question one of Baltimore's pioneer shirt waist men is asking.

It happened on one of theizzling days of last week that this gentleman left his desk in the office of a large manufacturer...

Said he: "The costume I wore was one in which I would not have my family, where none but my own family would sit at my table in it."

Added to the above fleet, too, are the ten vessels specially chartered by the Kaiser's government...

It is also reported that all the steamers from Fremantle, mostly to the United States government...

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Great Fleet Of Transports

Thirty Tramp Steamers Bound to This Coast From Various Ports.

Those in Charge of Log Rafts Are Warned to Show Lights.

There are thirty tramp steamers on their way to this coast—perhaps many more...

Following is a list of vessels known to be coming to this coast to load:

Name and Source. Tons. Bostia, Ger., Philadelphia. 4,839. Chancor, Br., Callao. 2,732.

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The Growing Of a Yarn

A Discussion on Gold in Siberia and What Followed.

Things Fitted In and Story of Russian Expedition Was Born.

Some days ago a few mariners assembled in one of the places where shipping men do congregate...

"Had not the Alpha gone close to the Siberian coast within eighty miles of the coast line near the Sea of Andaz?"

The Alpha surely had, and by the aid of their powerful glasses the sailors and gold-seekers may even have seen the gold sticking out of the blue foothills...

It was in April last that all this occurred. The Alpha had followed the ice pack which shut off navigation in the Behring sea right across its face...

Those who saw the beginning of things and watched the yarn go through its several stages appreciate the joke.

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Italy's New Ruler

A Sketch of Emmanuel III. and Queen Helena.

From Montreal Star.

Italy's new king, Vittorio Emanuele, was born in Naples on November 11, 1869.

He has been well educated under the direction of his father, who is a good scholar.

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Provincial Legislation

Estimates Complete noon Sitting With Opposition

The Vancouver City Committee 8 a.m.

At the legislature yesterday consideration of the estimates and in a couple of hours reported all their labors...

Immediately after the presentation of the estimates and in a couple of hours reported all their labors...

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