

FIVE SHIPLOADS OF "ORIGINALS" RETURN

Victoria Cross Men and Heroes With Other Decorations Among the Returned Men—Many of the Soldiers Were Accompanied by Blushing Brides—A Party of Officers and Forty Men of the First Newfoundland Battalion on One of Ships at St. John.

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 18.—With green sprigs on their tunics in honor of the day, together with faded red sashes—evidence that they have given freely of their blood in the cause of liberty—nearly two thousand officers and men of the "originals" though not all actually first contingent men arrived yesterday on trains Atlantic liners from the Old Land.

More than five hundred little children were on the ships, children whose mothers were the sombre color of widowhood. Twenty-four hours before one of the liners entered the port, on board a pair of girl babies came into this world and both children and mother are doing well. The twins were orphans from the moment they were born, their father, Private J. Clarke, of a western regiment having been killed at the battle of Passchendaele.

The big liner which brought back the bulk of men of the "original first" was a veritable ship of romance. Many of the soldiers had with them blushing brides from the Old Land, glad to go to a country where comparative peace reigned. Fresh looking lassies with the tinge of the English primrose in their cheeks were full of interest on their first sight of the "colony" and the "colonials" as they expressed it, while they clung to the arm of the bravest and best colonial in the Canadian army.

Some Heroes Who Won the Victoria Cross

"You know I got a bar to the Victoria Cross," said the famous Corporal J. C. Kerr, the first Maritime Province soldier to win the highest decoration within the gift of the British War Office, and he pointed, as explanation for his statement, to his English bride who stood proudly by his side. "I prize the bar more than the Cross," he said.

Kerr, V. C., enlisted in the 66th Battalion and on arrival in England was drafted to the 49th the non the firing line. In trench warfare Kerr had always shown his valor but when the real testing time came at the Somme he proved to be a soldier anyone but his dainty little English bride but he is eager to get home and see his aged father and mother who live in a little hamlet outside of Parrsboro, N. S.

There was another famous Canadian soldier in the party in the person of Captain H. Straham, V. C., M. C., of Chauvin, Alberta, who won his decoration with the Fort Garry Horse. Straham is a six-footer who claims Scotland as the land of his birth. He enlisted with the Fort Garry Horse and finally reached the firing line. He had not been there many months before his constant gallantry under fire was noticed by his superiors and he was decorated with the Military Cross.

It was in the Cambrai sector that a larger opportunity came. The British had made a big push and the Straham was seen at the head of a cavalry squadron to pierce the enemy's lines. The commandant, when he gave the order, did not mean for Straham to try to reach Berlin with his squadron in one push but at all events Straham with his forty men determined to "up and at 'em" with all their might. The charge was made and before many minutes the progress he had made, he realized the progress he had made, he was no less than eight miles behind the German front line. Here he was in enemy country, surrounded by several army corps, with forty men, many of whom were badly wounded. There was but two things to do, try to get back or surrender, but the latter expedient never suggested itself to the squadron commander, who of his men began to hack his way through eight miles of German soldiery back to the Canadian lines.

"I will never be able to describe our experiences," said Straham when speaking of the incident. "It was some fighting and we did not get back. Yes, we went in mounted. We did not reply to a question, but of us. Those who were fortunate enough, reached our lines on foot and the remainder of us crawled in our stomachs too weak from wounds to walk."

This was one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of the Canadian army in France and Captain Straham was decorated with the Victoria Cross. He is home on leave and intends to return to his old unit.

the Fort Garry Horse, in about two months.

The only Canadian officer in charge of a Russian hospital unit on the eastern front was Major J. G. Hunt, of London, Ontario, who arrived with the party. Through the chaotic scenes in the Russian armies following the abdication of Czar Nicholas and the birth of the revolutionary regime, Major Hunt passed.

"The Russian soldier is a good fighter but he is like an overgrown child. For the most part illiterate but given good leadership a splendid soldier. The first phase of official proclamation that soldiers were not required to salute their officers, was the signal for the crumbling of discipline in the Russian army," he explained.

"There is going to be utter starvation in Russia before long," said Major Hunt. "The Bolsheviks think that the upper classes have been living from their efforts for centuries and now they are determined to live in ease and let the Bourgeoisie classes maintain them, the result will be starvation."

ALLIES PROTEST AGAINST HUNS

LONDON, March 20.—The foreign office tonight issued a statement embodying a protest of the entente premiers and foreign ministers assembled in London against Germany's action, in the name of German peace, toward the Russian people. The protest concludes: "Peace is loudly advertised, but under the disguise of verbal professions, lurk the brutal realities of war and the untempered rule of a lawless forces."

"Peace treaties such as these we do not and cannot acknowledge. Our own ends are very different. We are fighting, and mean to continue fighting, in order to finish once for all with this policy of plunder, and to establish in its place the peaceful reign of organized justice. "As incidents of this long war unroll themselves before our eyes, more and more clearly do we perceive that the battles for freedom are everywhere inter-dependent; that no separate enumeration of them is needed and that in every case the single, but sufficient, appeal is to justice and right."

"Are justice and right going to win? In so far as the issue depends on battles yet to come, the nations whose fate is in the balance may surely put their trust in the armies, which, even under conditions more difficult than the present, have shown themselves more than equal to the great cause entrusted to their valor."

Late Casualties

In the casualties published from Ottawa appear the following names:

DIED
A. T. Cheverie, Bear River.
J. J. Creamer, Soudaie (gassed)
J. H. Martin, Montague.
J. W. McLeod, Alliston.
J. A. Weir, Chtown (gassed).

CONDENSED SPECIALS

WANTED AN OFFICE BOY. Apply Guardian Office. 2955-3-13Mtf

WANTED—TO RENT THREE UNFURNISHED rooms for family of two. Apply at this office. 2597-2-10Mtf.

FARADOR MACHINE TO LET by month or month. Apply to 224 Euston street. 600-10-12Mtf.

WANTED—COMPETENT STENOGRAPHER wishes to do manuscript copying in spare time. Apply "A" Guardian Office. 4069-3-21M2p.

HEAVY BROWN PAPER FOR SALE, excellent for putting under oilcloth or carpets. Apply at The Guardian Office. 732-10-20Mtf.

WANTED—A COOK FOR PLAIN COOKING. Apply evenings between seven and nine o'clock to Mrs. H. W. Longworth, 96 Upper Prince Street. 4061-3-21Mtf.

WANTED TO BUY OR RENT a house with all modern conveniences or building lot. Must be central, with good location. Write, giving full description and price to P. O. Box 202. 485-3-22M3p.

DRUG CLERK WANTED. REGISTERED preferred, or one with some experience in dispensing. A good opportunity and a good salary to a suitable person. Apply to Johnson & Johnson, druggists, Charlottetown. 4067-3-21M6f

MAGNIFICENT WORK BY FRENCH TROOPS

Strong System of German Trenches Penetrated by French More Than Quarter of a Mile. French Raiding Troops Destroyed at Cheppy Wood and Malancourt Wood All the Enemy Works, Heavy Block Houses, and Shelters Which Had Taken the Germans Three Years to Construct—French Suffered Only Slight Losses and Brought Back Some 160 Prisoners.

ON THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, March 20.—(By the Associated Press)—The centre of military interest during the past few days has passed from Champagne to the vicinity of Verdun, where both the French and the Germans have broken into marked activity.

In the Verdun region the correspondent watched the execution of trench raids on a large scale carried out by the French on Saturday evening and at dawn Sunday, the results of which exceeded all expectations. Within twelve hours the French had penetrated the remarkably strong system of German trenches in both Cheppy Wood and Malancourt Wood to a depth, at some points, of more than a quarter of a mile. They destroyed all the enemy works, heavy block houses and shelters, which had taken the Germans three years to construct and brought back two batches of prisoners, each comprising eighty men, while the French themselves suffered only the slightest losses.

General von Gallwitz's army, acting under the direct orders of the German Crown Prince, displayed evident nervousness under this pressure, as was shown by the hurried arrival of large reserves in motor lorries. They were too late, however, to hinder the French.

Ground Very Unfavorable to French Attack

The Cheppy Wood operation was to the French attack, owing to the clayey soil, in which immense shell holes from former battles had become filled with water to a depth of some six feet. Among these the raiders were forced to pick their way under the constant peril of slipping in and drowning. In the heavy preparation, however, was so overwhelming that the French met with but slight opposition to their progress.

The Cheppy Wood operation was the easier of the two, owing to the fact that it was daylight, and within five minutes after the assaulting troops had left the parapets groups of prisoners could be seen running toward the French lines. Everything was carried out on a time schedule and when the French returned to their own lines they had secured about eighty prisoners.

Second Raid Upon Malancourt Wood
The second raid, that upon Malancourt Wood, was a wonderfully impressive spectacle. In the darkness just before dawn, the correspondent passed the night on a knoll opposite the objective, from which nothing but the occasional rattle of a machine gun could be heard and only a flash of light seen now and then until a half

hour before the time it had been arranged for the attack to begin. Then the German gunners evidently suspected that something was up, let fly salvos all along the line, after which quiet reigned again, until with a thunderous crash, all the French batteries opened fire simultaneously, the signals flashed, and the infantry went over. Colored lights showed that the troops reached their objectives at the various times previously arranged. The groups of prisoners began coming back, and eventually the Frenchmen, after completing their work of destruction, returned to their own lines, bringing further squads of captives, the total reaching eighty.

Meanwhile the German artillery which is very strong here, had opened up with a heavy barrage and counter-battery fire, but without effect. Soon after day-light the front was again calm.

On the other side of the Meuse, the Germans took the initiative in the course of the day (Sunday) at Samogneux, Bezonvaux and Carrières Wood, executing raids which cost them dearly in casualties and achieved only small results.

A number of American infantry officers attached for instruction to French units were in the raids upon Cheppy and Malancourt Woods.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

By REV. HAROLD T. ROE.

An organization which bids fair to become one of the strongest, if not indeed the strongest patriotic organization in the Dominion is that known as "The Navy League of Canada." The object of this league is the insistence of Dominion-wide recognition of the fact that the British Navy holds the destiny of the Empire in its keeping, and that therefore the continued, efficient command of the sea by the British fleet must be regarded as the first consideration of national and Imperial policy. This desired objective can only be realized along certain lines, foremost among which is obviously the education of public opinion to a clear realization of the supreme value of the Navy to the life of the Empire. This is vital because the great British Commonwealth is scattered all over the world, and its very life's blood is carried to the heart of the Empire by the Navy. Canada's present freedom and security at this hour, is solely due to the superb achievements of the Mercantile Marine. The glorious deeds of our soldiers, and their unmatched valor on the soil of Europe, is not for one moment minimized; but it is simple truth and no exaggeration to state that the keystone in the arch of British liberty today is undoubtedly the Navy. The Navy League of Canada is absolutely convinced of this, and the organization exists to impress this undeniable truth indelibly upon the minds of all our people.

Further, the Navy League accepts the dictum recently voiced by Lord Fisher that: "We want not only efficiency of material, but the maximum efficiency of men." The seamen of the Empire, naval or in the merchant service, merit the profound gratitude and recognition of their worth which shall be both practical and tangible. The sailor ashore, if his efficiency is not to be impaired, must be considered and treated in a manner at least commensurate to his inestimable worth to the nation. Many readers may be astounded to know that during the year 1917 there were entered at the Custom House in Halifax, merchant vessels, irrespective of men-of-war, auxiliary cruisers and patrol boats, aggregating 17,092,000 tons; and that in addition to these there were a very large number of vessels of various description engaged in war work. At dicent times during the year there were between 5,000 and 8,000 men ashore on leave.

The Imperial Daughters of the Empire, churches and other organizations have done nobly in their efforts to cater to the welfare of these men; but the task, as can readily be imagined, was all too great for anything adequate to be accomplished. And now, the Navy League of Canada steps in and makes a most generous grant of \$100,000 to Halifax for the express purpose of building a commodious, well-equipped "Sailors' Home, or Seamen's Institute, the erection of which will be proceeded with just as soon as a suitable site can be secured. There is nothing this great Atlantic port of Halifax needs more, and there is nothing more essential to the highest interests of the thousands of seamen annually passing through this port than

TIED TO A POST THEN WHIPPED AND TARRED

Was the Punishment Meted Out to German Sympathizer in Nevada.

(Special to the Guardian)
RENO, March 21.—Elmer White, who boasted that he helped to celebrate the sinking of the Lusitania at Gardnerville, Nevada, several weeks ago, was lashed to a stake and whipped with an iron cat-o-nine-tails at Yerington, Nev. last night by a citizens' committee. He then was coated with tar and feathers and ordered out of town.

Four Enemy Ships Were Destroyed

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, Mar. 21.—Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats have been sunk by a force of five British and French destroyers, the Admiralty announces. One British destroyer was damaged.

U.S. Government Takes Over Railways

(Special to the Guardian)
WASHINGTON, March 21.—President Wilson today signed the bill bringing railroads under government operation and control until twenty-one months after the end of the war.

It now remains for Halifax and the Province generally to show genuine and practical appreciation of this so timely generous gift. We must rise to this new occasion, we must embrace this unique opportunity of rendering a truly patriotic and Empire service.

A Branch of The Navy League of Canada has already been organized in Charlottetown; it is known as The P. E. I. Division of The Navy League of Canada and is affiliated with The Navy League of The British Empire. Mr. J. O. Hyndman is the energetic Secretary-Treasurer. The annual membership fee is \$2.00. Associate members \$1.00. Membership is open to both ladies and gentlemen.

A strong, virile organization in P. E. I. is greatly to be desired. Ours is a maritime province, and we owe it to the splendid men in blue, we owe it to ourselves as regards our future safety, and most certainly we owe it to the Empire. Our kinsmen throughout the world are knitted to us by the sea. "The Empire's Fleet is her All-in-All, and in her Fleet, her Fate." It is through the sea we touch all continents, receive the treasure of all lands, and send the Christian evangel to every clime. Let us pay our homage, our gratitude and our love to the real preservers of the Empire—our gallant boys in navy blue—the dauntless warriors of the waves—our which Britannia must still and ever rule with sovereign sway.

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, Etc. Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia

YESTERDAY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Business of Parliament will be Hurried Through. Estimates Tabled. Only Necessary Public Works Will be Provided For.

(Special to the Guardian)

OTTAWA, March 21.—Sir Thomas White Minister of Finance will be unable through ill health to be present at this session of parliament Sir Robert Borden told the House today.

Sir Thomas' health had been seriously undermined by the onerous duties he has had to perform since the outbreak of war, he said.

The Premier said that in January a doctor had ordered Sir Thomas to refrain from all active work for at least six months.

Sir Robert added that he was not confident Sir Thomas would find it consistent with his ideal of duty to remain absent during a session while retaining his portfolio. Further announcement would be made after Easter.

Parliament will lose no time in providing the necessary funds to carry on the business of the country. These are practically depleted because the fiscal year closes on March 31. The Senate proposes to adjourn to

morrow until April 8 it will be necessary to pass an interim supply bill covering a portion of the main estimates. These estimates were tabled in parliament today. It is not known what the total amount will be but it is anticipated that the vote for public works etc. will be considerably lower than in previous years as the government has announced its intention of dispensing with all but necessary public works. The interim supply will probably be for one fourth of the amount of the main estimates, or sufficient money to run the government till the end of June.

DAYLIGHT SAVING AND ELECTORAL FRANCHISE

(Special to the Guardian)
OTTAWA, March 21.—Two measures, involving daylight and conferring the electoral franchise on women—which were introduced in the Commons will probably come up for second reading next week.

ROUNDING UP THE DEFAULTERS

Chief Rideout Now in City Organizing for Completion of Draft.

George R. Rideout, Chief Inspector of Dominion Police, arrived in the City last evening from the Mainland and immediately held a conference at the Victoria Hotel with Registrar W. W. Stanley, as a result of which active organization for the rounding up of defaulters under the M. S. A. will commence this morning. Inspector Rideout is in charge of this work throughout the Maritime provinces and already has a force of over sixty men operating in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The organization of the Island force would have been completed long before this but for the unusual weather conditions which made it practically impossible to do any effective work.

It is learned that there are a large number of defaulters at various points on the Island. These consist largely of men failing to report for duty, or for medical examination when ordered to do so. The number who have failed to register at all is believed by Mr. Stanley to be comparatively small. In one district in particular a number of "questionnaires" have been returned undelivered. In this case there appears to have been some co-operation on the part of the defaulter and the post-master and this and other matters are to be investigated by the Dominion police.

A Dominion police office will be opened this morning by Chief Inspector Rideout, who will appoint a sub-inspector, clerks and a number of constables. The office will probably be in a part of the quarters occupied by Registrar Stanley's office.

An effort is being made to secure returned men for the Dominion Police Staff as such have proven successful in many cases in N. B. and N. S.

Constables will be stationed at all strategic points in the Island and their duty will be to investigate all cases referred to them by the Registrar and other authorities and also to stop and question, wherever found all young men apparently between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years.

Unless such a man can produce his postmaster's receipt showing that he has complied with the Act by registering, he will be arrested and handed to the military authorities. The only other papers recognized in this connection are leave of absence from the O. C. of a depot battalion and the regular "exemption certificate."

Maimed men and men younger or older than draft age should carry respectively marriage or birth certificates. Otherwise they are liable to arrest and detention until these are produced.

Men who failed to report for duty or for medical examination will be reported from time to time by the Registrar, assisted by the Dominion police and handed to the military.

Chief Inspector Rideout will leave this afternoon for Summerside. Assistant Inspector H. B. Jefferson, who is also here, will probably remain in the City on instruction duty for several days.

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere

German Offensive Declared Off Now

LONDON, March 20.—A despatch from Berne says several Swiss newspapers give prominence to the report that the much-heralded German offensive in the West has been definitely postponed.

The Geneva newspaper L'Europe remarks that peace has cropped up again in the Frankfurter Zeitung and other moderate organs.

1,867 Soldiers Arrive in Halifax

(Special to the Guardian)
HALIFAX, March 21.—After a longer voyage than usual on account of meeting ice, one of the biggest steamships on the Atlantic arrived yesterday afternoon with 1,867 officers and men. In this number are included 109 men of the first contingent who have been overseas since shortly after the commencement of the war, and who are home on three months furlough.

Five Island Heroes Return Home

An unusually large crowd greeted the five overseas soldiers who returned to their native province last night. The men were: Corporal C. Hughes, Montague. Pte. A. B. McLennan, Wood Islands.

Gunner H. C. Bernard, Clifton. Pte. M. D. McLeod, Head of Montague.

Pte. George McInnis, City. The men were greeted on arrival by Mayor Wright on behalf of the City, Mr. James Paton, M.L.A., on behalf of the province and Mr. Kenneth Martin on behalf of the Army and Navy Veterans of Canada, and by the loud cheers of the assembled crowd.

Corp. Hughes thanked the reception committee on behalf of comrades and self, and in a very clear and concise speech emphasized the pressing need for more men at the front.

Corporal Hughes was formerly a school teacher in Georgetown. He is one of the first Canadians to cross to France, having enlisted in a British Columbia battalion and took part in the famous first Battle of Ypres. He also took part in the second battle of Ypres, in which engagement his brother fell.

Pte. A. B. McLennan enlisted with the original 105th Battalion and went to France with the first draft, being attached to the 13th Battalion. He was wounded in the side on April 9th last year, and after the usual course at the various hospitals, was invalided home.

Pte. M. D. McLeod, went over with the 105th draft last June, but was rejected as physically unfit for trench warfare.

Pte. G. McInnis went overseas with the first draft of the 5th Siege Battery.

Gunner H. C. Bernard went overseas with the famous 2nd Siege Battery, was wounded, sent home, and a full account of his experiences have been given in The Guardian. He made the second trip across with a draft for the 5th Siege but owing to effects of his wounds being still severe, was rejected for further service. He certainly has done his bit for his country. Ptes. McLeod and McLennan and Gunner Bernard are the guests of ex-Mayor Brown while they are in the city.

THREE MONTHS IN JAIL FOR CAPTAIN BAILEY

TORONTO, March 18.—Captain George T. Bailey, C. A. M. C., was yesterday sentenced by Magistrate Denison to three months' imprisonment on the jail farm, for having made statements derogatory to soldiers at the front. Captain Bailey is the officer who stated at the recent prohibition convention here that ninety per cent. of the troops in the trenches were drunk on Christmas Day.

Counsel for the accused stated that he would appeal the case to the minister of justice.

"The magistrate in pronouncing sentence said: "This statement was against the interests of our nation. This act is to stay this loose talk. Statements of this sort had a bad effect on the community. The only feature which makes me sorry is that I have to send the son and grandson of men who served under me to prison."