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STILL ONLY "SEMI-SOLDIERS" SAYS MONTREAL MAN OF THE CANADIANS NOW AT SALISBURY

A MONTREAL JOURNALIST WRITES OF CAMP CONDITIONS AND TELLS OF DETAILS OF TRAINING MEN ARE RECEIVING FOR MEETING ENEMY ON BATTLEFIELD

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.—Many interesting facts relative to the life of the Canadian troops drilling at Salisbury Plains are contained in a letter from Corporal Leighton, 1st Royal Montreal Regiment, 14th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and a former member of the Daily Mail editorial staff, to friends in Montreal.

"I doubt very much if the Montreal public knows very much of our trip across the ocean," remarks Corporal Leighton. "Also if they know much of our daily routine, of the nature of Salisbury Plains, of camp and cooking arrangements and of the multiple activities we participate in or are witnesses of."

"You know Salisbury Plains. I need not describe them. Sufficient to say that we are in a most isolated spot, with Salisbury, our nearest big town, 16 miles away. Mud has been our bete noir. Rain fell almost every day for a month, and through it we tramped and re-tramped over the same old lines and parade ground. Imagine the result if you can. Mud and water above the boot tops were the outward and visible signs of the deluge. We simply had to go through it all."

"I had a system of going to bed with my wet socks on so that they might be dry by morning. And I dried them only to become wet again as soon as I went out."

"There are some along this line in the letter. Finally the camp was re-located and the situation became much better."

"Food is plentiful, though without variety. We are supplied with three blankets and straw mattress, our tents have floors, and if the canvas does not keep out wet and frost as much as we should like, the fact is the health of the camp is good in sufficient proof that we are suffering no harm from a little exposure. It might be very well said indeed of some of us that never have we felt so well; in health and spirits, nor so invigorated and vitalized as now, after three months' under-

canvas. You do not see such a rowdy, clean-looking, clear-eyed crowd of men from Montreal to Longue-Pointe.

"NOW SEMI-SOLDIERS."

"The rabble, to which you bade farewell on the night we marched away, is transformed completely to a disciplined, neat, smart and above all a healthy looking crowd of semi-soldiers. The 'sem' means that our training is not yet complete. We still lack polish, but the will to do is strong as ever, our keenness for the firing line undiminished."

"That is the big question with us. When are we going to hear the guns roar? We hope that it will be soon, but distrusting yet our complete readiness in a military sense, ask the question without a firm belief that it will be answered tomorrow."

"After Christmas perhaps. You see in going up against what is left of the Germans we are going into a fight like the like of which was not imagined 25 years ago. Everything that we hear strengthens the knowledge that the grimness, most desperate work is to come. Thus, when we are being trained to go forward in rushes of a few yards at a time, in groups of only four or six even, we know very well it is because in the modernized strife as now exemplified on the battlefields of Europe, murderous, concentrated intense fire can be directed on an movement, and that these are the new methods of precluding the extermination, if not actually the extermination of moving troops. So we set to work to learn them, and only when we are proficient enough in the science of war, as it is now understood will the movements be opened to our off-repeated question, as well we know. Old drill, old methods are now only a groundwork for the present day soldier. Every day of training is bringing a new lesson if it is only in trench digging."

XMAS ARMISTICE POPE'S PROPOSAL

Benedict XV. Not Without Hope of Favorable Consideration of His Suggestion

MILAN, Dec. 11.—(Despatch to the London Daily Chronicle).—Pope Benedict XV. in approaching the belligerent states with a view to a mutual suspension of hostilities during Christmas, beseeches them in the name of the Divinity, whose patronage they have so frequently invoked or claimed to cease the clang of arms while Christendom celebrates the Feast of the World's Redemption. It is stated that His Holiness has directed that the particulars of his appeal be communicated to the German Kaiser and to the Austrian Emperor, and that he is not without hope of favorable consideration for it.

Seeing, however, that Christmas has no meaning for Islam, and that belligerent countries of the Orthodox Greek Church keep the "Old Christmas," thirteen days later than the western churches, the papal initiative can meet with but partial success.

Another interesting Vatican communication announces that the Austro-Hungarian, British and Canadian governments, in response to a request made by the Pope through Cardinal Gasparri, the pontifical secretary of state, have granted to all their subject Roman Catholic Bishops full diplomatic privileges in respect of their private correspondence with the Holy See, including free postage and the right to use cipher telegrams.

A CLOCK OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

A Kansas City dispatch to the New York World says:

For three generations an old grandfather's clock, owned by W. Nash, 4219 East Elizabeth Street, has counted off the seconds.

Seventy-five years ago the mother of Mr. Nash, then a young girl, sent her to her old home in County Tyrone, Ireland, for some things for her new home. She was to marry an Irish lad she had met in this new country.

Most important of her orders was "for a clock to be made specially for her."

"There is an old clockmaker, whose clocks are the finest to be had. His name is Jonathan Frost, and his clocks, they say, will last forever."

The clock came at last. It was in a case of cherry wood, grand to behold. But its most interesting part at least to our modern eyes, is the works.

"The wheels, with one exception, are of wood. So carefully were they carved and of such fine hardwood were they made that today the old clock still keeps almost perfect time. There is on small brass wheel in the case.

Only twice has it ever had to be repaired, and then a thorough cleaning was all that was necessary. In 1859 it was sent to a clock repairer, L. Reich, in Platte City, Mo. And 50 years later, in 1909, it was sent again to him. Although he was then an old man, his hands were still skilled in the repairing of delicate machinery.

However, the old clock was once more merely in need of cleaning, and it was soon sent back to the home of Mr. Nash, where it is now ticking as cheerfully as ever. There is no indication that it will cease soon. It requires winding every 24 hours. There is also an alarm, which is as good as never. The clock has outlived its first owner by many years, as well as a number of others in the family.

WHAT KILLED THE TURKEY.

Henry Waterson, the Louisville Journalist, told this story at a recent dinner party:

"One day when I was the city editor of a small newspaper, a fine turkey was left at the office. We all hankered after the bird, but the editor finally claimed it, took it home and had it cooked for dinner. The next day a letter was handed in to him, which he opened and read:

"Mr. Editor—I sent you a turkey yesterday which has been the cause of much dispute among us. To settle a bet, will you please stick it in our issue what the turkey died of?"

HERE HOW THE INTERNED LIVE IN BERLIN CAMP

Having Formed Their Own Little Organizations They are Faring Well

LIFE DULLY MONOTONOUS

English Prisoners Have Prepared for a Very Long Confinement With Some Comforts

BERLIN, November 22 (By mail)—The English civilians who have just been interned in a concentration camp at Ruhleben, several miles to the west of Berlin, in retaliation of similar action by England, are taking steps to make life comfortable for themselves during what may be a very long confinement.

They have formed their own organizations, with a captain for each of the eight barracks and a general commander of the whole camp. The latter was one of the leading English merchants of Berlin. The men are housed in the emigrant station of Ruhleben where emigrants from Russia and other eastern countries to the United States were formerly detained until the legal requirements for their further transportation had been complied with.

The restaurant and grand stand of the racing grounds located there are also used as barracks. These quarters, however, have not proved commodious enough for the 3,000 prisoners and there were complaints of overcrowding. The authorities admitted the justice of complaints and are preparing for an increase of accommodation.

TREATED WITH CONSIDERATION.

There is a restaurant where prisoners can order their meals. When the concessionaire hears that numbers of rich Englishmen were in his establishment in place of Russian emigrants he marked up prices sharply, but the prisoners made representations to the German commander of the camp and prices have been reduced. The captains of the various barracks say they are treated with consideration, and their representations regarding improvements desired are given respectful attention.

THEIR OWN COMFORTS.

Most of the prisoners brought their own blankets, bed linen, underwear and other necessities with them, and so they are well supplied with these comforts.

But the case was different for a time with the numerous English sailors brought up from Hamburg, where they were taken from English ships in the harbor. They suffered before their kits arrived with blankets and other belongings.

MANY ENGLISH HORSEMEN.

Among the prisoners are many English horsemen from the racing tracks around Berlin. These while away their time with their noses glued to the bars separating them from the adjacent race track where they eagerly watch the practicing going on.

But life with most of the prisoners is very monotonous. To relieve the dullness they have organized singing clubs and other forms of entertainment.

NOT HER GRUDGE.

From the Chicago Journal.

The fact that corporal punishment is discouraged in some public schools is what led Harry's teacher to address this note to the lad's mother:

"I regret very much to inform you that your son Harry idles away his time, is disobedient, quarrelsome and disturbs the pupils who are trying to study their lessons. He needs a good whipping, and I strongly recommend that you give him one."

Whereupon Harry's mother responded as follows:

"Dear Miss Jones: Lick him yourself. I ain't mad at him. Yours truly Mrs. Smith."

RUSSIAN REVENUE GROWS MINUS VODKA

Havoc Due War Not Likely as Grave as First Feared

LONDON, Dec. 11.—A Reuter's Petrograd despatch says:—"The Minister of Finance, in a memorandum accompanying the Budget, states that through the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors, in accordance with the will of the Emperor, who is anxious to see his people healthy and sober, the country has been deprived of one of its most important sources of revenue, but he is convinced that, however much this may be felt by the Treasury, the creative power of the sober Russian people, applied to the enormous natural riches of the country will enable future Budgets of the Empire to be based on new principles."

REVENUE GROWING.

"The revenue, which in the first two months of the war showed a considerable decrease, has since displayed a permanent upward tendency, which gave him reason to hope that the havoc in the country's life due to the war would not be as grave as had been feared."

"To secure funds necessary to conduct the war, the Minister declared, the Government would have recourse to further credit operations, an increase in the existing taxes and the creation of fresh imposts. He gave assurance, in conclusion, that loans, both internal and external, would present no difficulties."

SEVEN SUGGESTIONS.

If lemons are warmed before you squeeze them nearly double the quantity of juice can be extracted.

Cheese may be kept soft and good for a long time if it is wrapped when it is fresh in a cloth wrung out in vinegar and then wrapped in a dry cloth.

Powdered rock ammonia, applied with a soft brush, will clean tarnished gold lace and embroidery.

To turn a cake out of its pan easily stand the tin directly you take it from the oven, on a cloth, which has been wrung out of hot water. Leave it there for about five minutes and then turn out. The cake will come out of the pan without any trouble.

To remove stains from the tops of zinc kitchen tables use a cloth dipped in vinegar.

Tinware may be cleaned with very little trouble by using dry flour applied with a piece of newspaper.

To prevent pictures from slipping and hanging uneven, hang them first with their face to the wall, and then set around so that the wires cross. This will prevent them from slipping.

BASKET VERY HANDY FOR DRESSING TABLE.

Did any woman ever have too many receptacles for the thousand and one things that must be on her dressing table? The new basket tray will be a very welcome addition.

Use two embroidery hoops and twelve inches of whalebone. Wind them all with half-inch satin ribbon of your favorite shade. Stretch a piece of Dresden ribbon over the smaller hoop, fastening on the outside of the hoop, and also fasten the whalebone handles to the "small" hoop. Slip the larger hoop in place and overhang the two loops together at the bottom.

Gather a piece of pretty insertion slightly narrower than the hoops through the centre and sew across the handle around the larger hoop. When the handles are joined to the basket tie a large double bow or a tiny bunch of artificial flowers as a finish, and your little tray made by using larger hoops and a few inches more of whalebone.

Even if we have plenty of photograph albums for our kodak pictures, a case for favorites will be appreciated. One can be easily made from a long strip of linen. It is folded in the centre, with both ends turned back like the cover for a book. The turned back sections are divided.

Cut out a stiff piece of cardboard and cover with a piece of lining and use to slip in the pockets to protect the pictures from getting loose and becoming crushed.

What of this William of Germany who, exhorting his troops some years ago, said: "No quarter will be given, no prisoners taken. All who fall into your hands shall be at your mercy. Just as the Huns of a thousand years ago under the leadership of Attila, gained a reputation for harshness, in virtue of which they still live, so may the name of Germans become known."

"No Place in the Sun"

His Huns have done their work. They failed to terrorize Belgium. The little nation has won the admiration of the world. And slowly the Fates are turning against Germany. Civilization has no "place in the sun" for leaders who preach murder and mutilation of women and children. The philosopher of brutal power is not the teachings of Christ. The spirit of Prussian militarism must be crushed before there is talk of peace. Only when that menace to civilization is removed will there be justification for disarmament.

SLAY, SLAY, SLAY IS MESSAGE FROM "CHRISTIAN" PULPITS OF "KULTURED" GERMANY

KAISER USES HIS STATE CLERGY TO PREACH A HOLY WAR—ALL ARE BARBARIANS, PREACHER SAYS, EXCEPT THE GEMANS

PARIS, Dec. 11.—Further particulars of the "Holy War" being preached in every church in Germany have been received here. Mystic, exalting services are held, marked by devout thanksgiving for German feats of arms and supplications to the Almighty for the Kaiser's triumph. A neutral journalist, describing one of their services which he attended in the Berlin Cathedral says:

"The interior was black with people, mainly wounded soldiers and women, and the aisles were lined with officers in glittering uniforms. After thousands of voices had intoned the Hosanna, the priest, delivered the following sermon:

"Brethren, beyond our empire the barbarian hordes have gathered their forces to storm the black eagles and destroy the great strong, fruitful German people, of whom they are jealous.

"This war has been forced on us. The exterminating sword has been thrust into our hands. If thou wouldst live, fight. Who fights not, lives not. Across the bloody battlefield thou shalt finally witness the dawn of a new and radiant Germany, grateful to her sons.

"Our brothers, fathers and husbands are over there, rifle in hand ready to thrust the avenging sword of our beloved Kaiser into the enemy's flank. You German women must be courageous. It is yours to pray and to exalt the bravery of your men folk.

"This is a holy war, wherein no little act of devotion is lost. Nothing is too much for our Iron Kaiser. There must be no pardon, no pity for Germany's enemies. The supreme recompense which a German soldier places above everything else is when stricken by the enemy's blows, he sees the Kaiser pass before him and hears him say, 'I am pleased with thee, thou art my worthy son.'

Similar sermons delivered in an impressive and dramatic manner, are delivered in every corner of Germany. Close to the Berlin limits trophies are packed in the squares including twelve Russian guns whither the congregation makes a pilgrimage after the service. Immense crowds gather in front of the Crown Prince's palace where two French guns stand.

THINK MOVE STRATEGIC WON'T ADMIT REVERSE

ENGLAND SUBMITS PROOF OF SMUGGLING TO AID GERMANY

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The situation around Lodz proves rather mystifying to the Petrograd correspondents of the London newspapers. They are disinclined to admit the retirement is a definite Russian reverse and believe rather that the movement away from Lodz will be eventually shown to have been dictated by sound strategic motives.

All the despatches, moreover, emphasize the tremendous cost in men of the latest German operation, "without any commensurate gain."

The Petrograd newspapers call their readers' attention to the fact that with the new year Russia will throw a huge amount of territory to hasten the decisive blow.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News says: "It has been increasingly evident for several days that the process of an irregular siege in the region of Lodz and vicinity was not being the main purpose of annihilating the Germans or driving them back into Germany."

"It was evident that sound strategy had been served by deploying the Russian troops into a new position for a speedier and more aggressive campaign. Immediate interest now centres south of Cracow, where the Germans are attempting to cross the Dunajets River, on the Russian left bank."

The Post Petrograd correspondent says, "The Russian army is the straightening out of the knots and tangles. Both sides probably need rest and recuperation."

KRUPPS WORKS OF DEATH.

Were Krupp works to be crippled more than half the battle would be won. That the allies are quite alive to the importance of the fact is revealed in the report that the daughter of the Kaiser, the Princess Dusseldorf was very near the work.

A colossal enterprise, the works dominate the whole of Essen, and something like 70,000 workmen are employed. Situated in the centre of Essen, close to the railway, they, together with the attendant institutions, cover an area of 500 acres, or about three times the size of Hyde Park. The tentacle arms of the vast establishment stretch out octopus-like on all sides. Two thousand trucks and over 50 locomotives rush along these tracks daily conveying Germany's arms, armor plates, garrisons, forts, ports and harbors.

Six thousand tons of coal, coke and briquettes are poured daily into the huge creature's capacious jaws. One and a million quarter million tons of fuel are required annually to appease its insatiable appetite. Twenty million cubic metres of water, or more than 450,000 inhabitants of Cologne consumes yearly, are used in the works.—Dundee Advertiser.

CINEMA FILM NOT YET MADE.

The Journal Des Debats in Paris tells an anecdote of the siege of Paris that did not come off:

"A story is going the rounds of the Italian press that before the formal declaration of war an order had been given to a leading motion picture concern of Berlin to have in readiness all the material and men necessary to make a film of the Kaiser's triumphal entry into Paris.

The film was to have been displayed in all the cities of the world. The firm in question had been provided with all the passports necessary and a special train of automobiles was supplied so that its representatives could keep in close touch with the Imperial headquarters.

"Is your mamma sorry that I am going to marry your sister?"

"Oh, no, sir! Ma says that sister might have married someone with brains an you wouldn't be half so easy to manage as you."

KING HAD FINE VIEW OF REAL BATTLE

BY CANADIAN PEERS.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The Official Bureau has issued a detailed description by the eye-witnesses at British headquarters of the King's visit to the troops at the front. It contains the announcement that the King conferred the decoration of Knight Grand Cross of the Bath on General Joffre and the decoration of Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George on seven French generals.

"One day the King went to a commanding point from which a fine view of the battle front could be obtained. The air was extraordinary clear, and his Majesty had an excellent view."

"Far away to the right rose the tall chimneys and factory buildings of Lille and Roubaix. In front stretched a ridge which had been the scene of the most desperate fighting, and along is the still smoking ruins of villages showed up black and desolate. To the left rose the town of Ypres, amid which the Cloth Hill and cathedral were easily distinguishable. The extent of the damage done by the Germans could be readily seen by the roofless nave of the hall and the gaping holes in the tower."

WATCHES SHELLS BURST.

"Even while the King was watching several howitzer shells burst in the town. To the east of the city he saw the woods which witnessed one of the finest struggles ever waged by British soldiers, in which many of them and their allies lie.

"Farther south gleamed the waters of the canal, along the banks of which the British and French soldiers quietly disposed every inch of ground with the enemy."

"To the north, melting in the distance, lay the valley of the Yser, where our allies made such a valiant defence and won so much glory."

"Another incident is related by the eye-witness. He says:

PICKED UP DERELICT.

"After a parade of the troops, at which the King made a distribution of decorations, the procession returned in a pouring rain to headquarters. On the homeward journey the car containing the Prince of Wales met with a slight accident, but was able to proceed at a comparatively slow speed. On the way it passed a derelict soldier, who was trudging along in the cold and wet without a coat to his back. The Prince stopped the car to inquire what had happened. On discovering that the man was left behind by a supply train, he insisted on taking the soldier to headquarters in his car. On arrival there he gave the man his waterproof coat."

ADDRESS TO TROOPS.

Before leaving the front, the King issued the following orders of the day:

"Officers, Non-commissioned officers and Men: I am very glad to have been able to see my Army in the field."

BIGGEST CARGO YET FOR THE BELGIANS

BY CANADIAN PEERS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.—When the steamship Calcutta sails from Halifax to Rotterdam at the end of the week she will carry the largest cargo, as well as the most valuable, which has yet been shipped from Canada for the relief of the sufferers in Belgium. Altogether the cargo consists of wheat representing \$133,000, of which \$133,000 is the price of the wheat which has been purchased by the central committee, and \$180,000 is the value of merchandise, some of which has been acquired with money from the fund, and the larger part in the form of donations from sympathizers.

A telegram received yesterday from Hector Prud'homme, honorary treasurer of the Belgian Relief Fund, from Arthur S. Barnstead, secretary of the Nova Scotia Relief Fund for the Belgians at Halifax, announced that the loading of the wheat had been begun and that 79 carloads of groceries and other supplies were already on board with six more carloads expected by trains due to arrive today.

One of the organizations which has kept steadily at work for the fund since the lists were opened to subscribers is the Women's Patriotic League of Toronto. Yesterday's Mail brought another substantial contribution from this source, a cheque for \$1,135.39 bringing the total offering of this society to date up to \$4,500.

Another welcome donation was received from Miss Annie M. Reid, of Sherbrooke, who sent a cheque for \$500, and the Canadian Retail Coal Association of Brantford contributed \$100.

In Paris, Ont., a movement inaugurated by the Board of Trade and taken up by the Roman Catholic Church, resulted in the collection of \$200, which was remitted to headquarters yesterday. In London, Ont., the band of the First Hussars recently gave a Sunday concert for Belgian relief, and was able to forward a cheque for \$150 as the result.

School section No. 8, Bagot, Renfrew County, sent \$82.65 as its contribution to the work.

I much wish to do so in order to gain a slight experience of the life you are living. I wish I could have spoken to you in order to express my admiration of the splendid manner in which you have fought and are still fighting against a powerful and relentless enemy. By your discipline, pluck and endurance inspired by indomitable regimental traditions you have not only upheld the traditions of the British Army, but added fresh lustre to its history.

"I was much inspired by your soldierly, healthy, cheerful appearance. I cannot share your trials, dangers and anxieties, but I can assure you of the proud confidence and gratitude of myself and my fellow-countrymen. We follow you in our daily thoughts on your certain road to victory."

"Throughout the visit," the eye-witness says, "his Majesty's safety was assured by the Flying Corps, and strong members continuously patrolled above the Royal procession wherever it was."

KAISER PREACHES MURDER AND MUTILATION

LONDON, Dec. 10.—Despite the many reports of the Belgian Commission of Inquiry on the violation of the rights of nations and of the laws and customs of war, numerous people find it hard to believe the more extreme charges which are preferred against the Germans. Your correspondent, since he came to London, has talked to both Belgian and British women. From eye-witnesses he has been told of German conduct that would shock the world, if the facts could be given publicly.

It is not in the ruined cathedrals, the wasted homes, the murder of civilians, that the worst of the atrocities are reported. It is in the things that are not told in print, the treatment of women and children, of mothers in travail, of the aged and the infirm, that the awful story of a brute nation's disgrace is told. We say a brute nation, because every thing points to the conclusion that the conduct of Germany in Belgium was due to a deliberate policy of terrorism. Officers led their men in shameless deeds that did not stop at the cutting off of children's hands or the violation

of women. History records no more calculated policy of beastly brutality than in the story written by German Officers led their men in shameless blood of Belgium.

No Modern Parallel

I know that it is easy to raise the cry of "brute" against enemies. I know that in all armies and in all wars there have been characters who have not hesitated to do shameless deeds, and incidents which shame humanity. But never since the dark days have there been such records of evil as these.

Victor Hugo, in Les Miserables, writing of Napoleon and Waterloo, said: "The moment had arrived for the incorruptible and supreme equity to alter its plan. Probably the principles and elements, on which the regular gravitations of the moral, as of the material, world depend, had complained. Smoking blood, over filled cemeteries, mothers in tears—these are formidable pleadings. Napoleon had been denounced in the definite and his fall had been decided on."