

# SOLDIER DESCRIBES CHRISTMAS AT FRONT

(Boston Record.)

Lee Nichols, who has written this graphic account of Christmas in the trenches, is a young Englishman whose missing arm testifies to his part in the great war. He spent Christmas, 1914, in the muddy trenches south of Ypres.

There was not much "Peace and good will toward men" in the trenches of Flanders the first Christmas. I am afraid that had it not been for the almanac and the deluge of presents, the time would have passed almost unnoticed save for the customary exchange of the season's greetings.

Christmas seemed something strangely distant—a mere memory of the days of peace. These were trying days for us all.

The Germans were still making frantic efforts to gain Calais, and, against the rules of the Hague convention, were pounding us with shells of heavy calibre. By the convention 15-inch shells and such like explosives may be used only at sea or against fortresses.

Our lines before Ypres were very thinly held, but we were helped by the piteousness of good Flanders mud to hold our lines.

We realized that the Germans would make no exception of Christmas day if they thought fit to attack, and we were ready to hold our own to the last man.

Sometimes we spoke about the labor troubles in England, and wondered when the great new armies would come to our relief. But despite these disheartening delays, we never really doubted. Sometimes we were impatient, but we had great confidence in those at home supporting us to the utmost.

It was not cheering to suffer from the terrific bombardments while we could only respond with our limited supplies of shrapnel. But the optimism and cheeriness of everyone pulled us through the long crisis.

## Always Some Humor.

There was always some humor for those who could see it. One day, for instance, during the unofficial Christmas truce, men of a regiment near us met the Saxons halfway in No Man's Land, and exchanged cigars, cigarettes and "eats."

Two men of this regiment incautiously wandered into the German lines and spoiled their Christmas. They had seen too much and were taken prisoners, but were promised special consideration. For a fortnight following the truce there was little or no fighting, and life was very easy.

Christmas night the Saxons stuck up a notice which read:

## WEDDING BELLS.

Morehouse-Brewer.

A happy event took place at Zealand Station on Christmas Day, when Miss Sophronia Brewer and Mr. Jarvis Morehouse were united in marriage. Both are well and favorably known. Only immediate friends and relatives were in attendance. The ceremony was performed by Rev. M. Paul Maxwell, B.A., rector of Douglas and Bright.

Godfrey-Pickard.

Captain Rev. William S. Godfrey, of the 236th New Brunswick Kilties, and Miss Clementina Moore Pickard, the daughter of Humphrey Pickard, Sackville, were married at the home of the bride Wednesday morning at 10.30, the Rev. H. E. Thomas officiating, assisted by Rev. Prof. F. W. Desbarres. The wedding was quiet, only the relatives and immediate friends being present. The bride looked charming in a gown of white bridal net, wearing a veil trimmed with real orange blossoms. She was given away by her father. The wedding march was played by Miss Margaret Pickard, a cousin of the bride. Among out of town guests were Major Mersereau of the 236th, Mrs. Godfrey and Miss Greta Godfrey, of Chatham, mother and sister of the groom. The happy pair left by the noon train for Montreal.

"Tonight the trenches we leave. Prussians coming. Give them hell."

The Stop-the-War Westminsters, as this regiment was afterwards called, complied with great enthusiasm.

We received for Christmas quantities of grub from home. Two brothers in our platoon got between them 22 large parcels.

## A Seven Course Dinner.

We had so much that we were glad to entertain men from other regiments who had fared less well. Thanks to our cook, a college boy who had run away to enlist, we had a wonderful seven course dinner. This was the menu:

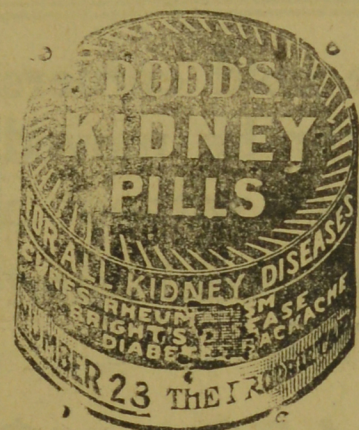
Sardines.  
Tomato Soup.  
Canned Herrings in Tomato Sauce.  
Pickles and Tongue.  
Potted Chicken.  
Potatoes (found in a ruined farm 20 yards behind the lines.)  
Canned Peaches (bought in a nearby village.)  
Army Cheese, Butter, Bread and Coffee.

One good fellow labored up to our trenches with a surprise in the shape of two bottles of "bubbly."

That champagne didn't go very far, but the man who brought it was acclaimed a hero.

We drank many a toast in the "bubbly" although there was no draining of bumpers for each one.

Even war has its compensations, and I shall be fortunate if I never spend a worse day than my first and only Christmas in the trenches.



## GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR CARGO SPACE

New York, Dec. 28.—Lieut. Connor Guthrie, representing the British Admiralty here, summoned freight managers of the British steamship companies to a conference yesterday and told them that, beginning Jan. 1, the British government would require 85 per cent of the cargo space on their ships. Forty-seven and nine-tenths per cent. is to be reserved for war munitions and the remaining thirty-seven and one-tenth per cent. for wheat.

## "BOMBARDMENT" OF MEXICO.

Several Hundred Rifle Bullets Flew Over the Rio Grande.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 28.—Several hundred shots were fired across the Rio Grande into Mexico, west of here early today, by members of the Kentucky National Guard, whose officers declared that the fusillade was a reply to shots from the Mexican side.

There were no known casualties.

## BIG GOLD IMPORTATION BY U. S.

New York, Dec. 28.—Gold valued at \$25,000,000 imported from Canada has been deposited at the sub-treasury here to the account of J. P. Morgan & Co. It was announced here today. This makes a total of \$664,300,000 worth of this metal brought into the United States from all sources since Jan. 1.

## NOTICE OF SALE

PURSUANT to a Decree of the Supreme Court, Chancery Division, made in an action between Charles Boyle, Plaintiff, and J. Vincent Boyle, Samuel J. Boyle, Annie Boyle and Mary Minhan, defendants, for the partition of the lands and premises in the plaintiff's Statement of Claim, and in the said Decree mentioned and fully described, and being the lands and premises hereinafter referred to, there will be offered for sale in separate parcels at public auction, with the approbation of Harris G. Fenety, Esquire, a Master of the Supreme Court, in front of the Post Office, in the City of Fredericton, in the Province of New Brunswick, at 12 o'clock noon, on SATURDAY, the seventeenth day of February, 1917—

(1) "All that tract of land situate in the City of Fredericton and described 'as follows: Being the lower half of 'Lot No. 32 in the fourth range of pasture lots granted to the University of New Brunswick, and containing 'twelve and one-half acres."

(2) "All that tract of land in the rear of the City of Fredericton, bounded on the southeast by the present line of the Maryland Road; on the northwest 'by line of road reserved by King's College at Fredericton, running between 'the tract of land hereby conveyed 'and Lot No. 32, belonging to King's College; on the northwest and north-east by land belonging to J. Henry Phair, the said tract of land hereby conveyed being the same lands and 'premises minutely described in a deed 'dated 16th day of April, A.D. 1874, 'from James M. Cameron and Marion 'his wife to James A. Lyons."

(3) "All that lot, piece or parcel of 'City of Fredericton, in the County of 'York, and Province of New Brunswick, and bounded as follows, namely: On the front by the present highway road, on the upper side and the 'rear by land owned by the Hon. William O'Dell, and on the lower side by 'land owned by George Todd, being 'the lands and premises so described 'in the deed thereof from one George 'F. H. Minchen to Charles S. Ingraham, 'being dated the first day of February, 'A. D. 1878, and registered in Book J-3 'of the York County Records, pages '558 and 559, the ninth day of February, 1878."

(4) "All those leasehold lands and 'premises conveyed by the University 'of New Brunswick to one Murray 'Scott by Indenture of Lease bearing 'date the twentieth day of September, '1883, and described as follows: All 'that certain lot, piece or parcel of 'land situate, lying and being in the 'City of Fredericton aforesaid, and 'more particularly known and described as the Town Lot No. 101 in Block 'No. 7, in the Town Plat of Fredericton 'aforesaid, abutted and bounded as follows: Beginning at the northerly corner of Lot No. 99 in the said Block 7 'on the southwesterly side of King 'street; thence running along the 'said southwesterly line of King 'street, northwesterly 66 feet; thence 'southwesterly at a right angle with 'the course of the said King street at 'that place 165 feet; thence southeasterly in a line parallel with King street 'at that place 66 feet or until it strikes 'the westerly corner of said Lot No. '99; thence northeasterly along the 'northwesterly side line of said lot No. '99 to the place of beginning on King 'street aforesaid, containing one-quarter of an acre more or less."

(5) "A certain lot, piece or parcel of 'land situate, lying and being in the 'City of Fredericton, described as follows: 'All that certain lot, piece or 'parcel of land situate, lying and being 'on the northeast side of King street 'and abutted and bounded as follows, 'that is to say: Commencing on the 'said side of King street where the 'southeasterly line of Barker's Alley '(so called) meets same; thence southeasterly along King street thirty-seven feet more or less, to the southeast 'side of the dwelling house at present 'occupied by the said Joseph Peters, 'being the lands sold and deeded by 'one E. Byron Winslow and one Joseph 'Peters and wife to Daniel Meehan; 'thence in a southeasterly direction 'along the said side of the said house 'and continuation thereof sixty-three feet more or less, until it strikes the 'southwest line of land in possession of 'the McManus Estate; thence along 'the said last mentioned line in a 'northeasterly direction thirty-seven feet, more or less, or to the southeast 'side of said alley in a southeasterly 'direction sixty-three feet more or less 'to the place of beginning."

The above sale is made pursuant to the Provisions of the Judicature Act, 1909, and amendments thereof.

Further particulars may be had from the plaintiff's solicitors, Messrs. McLellan & Hughes, whose place of business and address is 68 Carleton street, Fredericton, N. B.

HARRIS G. FENETY,  
Master of the Supreme Court.  
12-15 fri tf

## IN DANGER FROM AVALANCHES.

Swiss Village Threatened and Population Has Left.

Berne, Dec. 28.—The destruction of the village of Champéry, a tourist resort in the Canton of Valais, is threatened by the sudden onset of a number of avalanches, coupled with a landslide. Several houses have been crushed and the population has evacuated the village.

Swiss troops and 200 interned French prisoners of war are working day and night to preserve the rest of the village. An enormous avalanche has already swept away many Alpine huts near Simplon Pass, killing two men and many cattle.

It isn't the bitter things a husband and wife say to one another that make married life so dreary; it's those long and terrible evenings of total silence when neither of them can think of anything to say.

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