

VIMY RIDGE MEMORIES OF A FREDERICTON MAN

Former Gunner Tells Daily Mail of Experiences
Behind the Firing Line

(By a Former Gunner)

The Souther River which runs through the valley between Vimy Ridge and Notre Dame de Lorette, is no bigger than a Canadian trout brook, but will always be associated in the writer's mind with a memorable sight. It was there that he saw a British Life Guardsman after a cleansing dip in a shallow pool, lace himself into a pair of corsets again before resuming his uniform. They set great store on a good figure in the Guards! The writer watched with much interest and being then of tender years could say with Kipling's hero that, "he learned about women from him." Nevertheless as long as any soldiers have as good a fighting record as the Guards, they can dress as they like—which will undoubtedly be as smartly as possible.

For no reason at all the memory comes to me of one of our men reading a letter from home.

"Say, boys, my kid sister has just got her diploma in Toronto in music. She must be glad. It took her eight years!"

"Eight years?" said another, no more than normally bright. "What instrument was she studying?"

"The harp. It's very difficult."

"Go on! I learned to play one in a week!"

"Yes, you did! What kind of harp?"

"A Jew's harp, of course. I don't see why she took eight years!"

It was here that a gift of a dear old lady to the writer on his tenth birthday was useful for the first and last time. To guide his youthful feet in the right way she gave him a copy of that choice adventure story, "The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus." The only part of the great Roman Emperor's stoic philosophy which has remained in the writer's mind was that Marcus Aurelius fought eight winter campaigns on the Danube. Having a better idea what that means now, the writer is willing to forgive him his philosophy, spring to attention and present arms!

We had a man who had been a Latin professor in civilian life among us whom we all liked for his gameness in ignoring, being over age, and unaccustomed to a rough life. He had lied about his age to enlist in the ranks. But his blood was thin, his health was poor and he was always cold.

One night as a group of our men huddled over a brazier, i.e., a tin can punched full of holes, with a few sticks of wood burning fitfully inside, the professor, hunched miserably over the scanty heat, suddenly spoke in his sonorous classroom voice:

"Marcus Aurelius Antoninus withstood the rigors of eight winter campaigns on the Danube."

Several of the men stopped eating their bully beef and biscuits, looked at one another, and edged farther away.

Thanks to the dear old lady who had given the writer the book (instead of "Chums," by the way), he knew there was method in his madness.

The professor stared moodily into the fire, lost in thought. The other

men began slowly to eat again watching him carefully. Suddenly the professor spoke once more, his voice dying away in mournful cadence.

"I wonder," said he, "I wonder whether I too shall be like Marcus Aurelius!"

The writer began to laugh, but stopped. After all the war WAS in its fourth year!

It was here during the month of August, '18, that what was surely one of the most daring feats ever performed by a German airman took place. Our high command was pretty nervous regarding the German intentions, and not being satisfied with the very fine observation from Vimy Ridge kept observation balloons in the air all the time. About a quarter of an hour before dusk when nearly all of our planes had come down for the night, and the balloons were in the very act of being hauled down also, a German plane came over the top of the Ridge flying very low, so low in fact that its markings were very distinctly visible from the ground. Every machine gun in the area (and there were scores) opened fire on the daring pilot. But he flew on and fired a burst into the first "sausage," which caught fire instantly. The pilot and observer jumped out, using their parachutes. He fired into the second balloon and passing on sent down the third and fourth in flames. Seeing that for some reason the second balloon had not caught fire, the German swung back and sent it down also. The eight parachutes of the balloon crews were in the air at the same time, but though it would have been easy enough to machine gun them, he did not molest them in any way. This job accomplished and our aerial observation in that area entirely destroyed, the German pilot departed leisurely as he had come. Even our own men gave the gallant enemy a cheer. Who the German pilot was or whether he regained his own lines safely is unknown to the writer.

City's Elm Trees

(Continued from Page Eight)

large numbers that the females are able to cross on them. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that the bands are watched and kept clean by occasional combing with a stick. It is also necessary to have all the trees in the badly infested neighbourhood treated or otherwise the young caterpillars are blown from untreated trees to the clean trees.

Spraying with arsenate of lead in the spring gives complete control if thoroughly carried out, but a special solid-stream sprayer is necessary to reach the tops of these large trees and no such equipment is available as yet in the province. This fact makes the control of shade-tree insects difficult.

The cankerworm has been numerous in many parts of Canada and North America this year. It attacks basswood, oak, apple and some other trees but elm is its favourite. This is the fifth year that it has been numerous in Fredericton. Although it has done less damage than in some previous years in the Waterloo Row area, it has been rather more numerous on George and Brunswick streets. While it is not expected to increase seriously, if the weather is favourable a repetition of the injury is likely in 1937. Any attempt to control it would have to be carefully planned and carried out in September if banding is used. In considering the value of the healthy appearance of the trees must be balanced against the cost of banding and the rather unsightly appearance of the bands which remain for a good many years as a ring around the stem. This can, however, be prevented by placing the tanglefoot or tar paper strips tied over with cotton wool."

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Plans and specifications may be seen at the Office of the Commission.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque for 10% of the computed amount of the tender.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Signed,
W. S. ANDERSON, Chairman,
New Brunswick Elec. Power Comm.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

The Hon. J. E. and Mrs. Michaud, of Edmundston, with their family, are at Jasper Park, Alta., for the summer.

Approaching Marriages

The marriage of Mr. Clifford Sifton Lea, son of the late Premier of Prince Edward Island, the Hon. W. M. Lea, and Miss Ann Elizabeth MacGeath, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. MacBeath, of Moncton, N. B., is announced to take place at Moncton at an early date.

Engagement

The engagement is announced in Toronto of Kathryn Marjorie, younger daughter of Mrs. McBride and the late Dr. James McBride, to Mr. Alan Gillmor Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Simmons of Ottawa. The wedding will take place on the 27th of July. The prospective bridegroom is a nephew of S. Dow Simmons of this city. Thos. L. Simmons his father is a native of Devon.

Luncheon Hostess at Algonquin

Mrs. E. Atherton Smith of Saint John and St. Andrews, was hostess at luncheon yesterday at the Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, in honor of the Right Honourable the Countess Ashburnham and her guests Mrs. Joceline Percy and Mrs. Agnes Bannatyne of Scotland. Other guests included Mrs. W. F. Todd and Mrs. Everett of St. Andrews, and Mrs. T. P. L. Fowler of this city. During the afternoon Mrs. Smith entertained her guests at an enjoyable drive and also at the tea-hour at her summer home.

Bridal Reception

At the bridal reception following the Manchip-Staples wedding yesterday afternoon the tea and coffee cups were presided over by Mrs. J. J. Twaddle, sister of the bride's mother, and Mrs. Eben Staples. Assisting were Miss Mae Locke, Miss Irma Paynter, Miss Betty Vanwart, Miss Millicent Ramsay, Miss Betty Burgess, Mrs. John Akerley, Miss Amelia Levine, Miss Sylvia Levine, Mrs. Geo. Boldon, Mrs. Charles and Mrs. Seaman. Mrs. R. B. Vandine, Mrs. Harold Pickard, Mrs. Gordon Cumming and Miss Frances Staples, sister of the bride, replenished. The house was bright with summer flowers.

A & B Regatta

(Continued from Page Eight)

This afternoon was a half holiday for the local merchants and this combined with ideal weather conditions, made the attendance number greater than ever before.

Pictures Taken

This morning the members of the visiting boat clubs prepared for this afternoon's regatta. Pictures of the combined fleet were taken by a local photographer.

Receiving Line

At the reception last night held in the A. and B. Clubhouse, the guests were introduced by Alderman F. S. Mundie, and the receiving line was composed of Mayor G. Willard Kitchen and Mrs. Kitchen, Dr. G. C. Vanwart and Miss Vanwart, President Donald Smith and Mrs. Smith.

Government to Meet

(Continued from Page Eight)

Woodstock Power Extension
Hon. W. S. Anderson, chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, S. R. Weston, chief engineer of the commission, and D. W. Mersereau, left for Woodstock this morning, to meet with members of the Woodstock Board of Trade to discuss the possibilities of extension of power lines in that section.

Classified Ads.

RATE: 25 words 25 cents per insertion. Each additional word 1/4 cent.

FOR SALE—1928 Pontiac car in good condition. Bargain for quick sale. Apply at Daily Mail.

FOR SALE—1934 Ford coupe, \$450.00; 1935 Ford tudor \$600.00; 1930 DeSoto coach, \$200.00; 1929 Buick Sedan, \$225.00; 1932 Plymouth Sedan \$335.00; 1925 Buick sedan \$110.00; several small cars, real bargains. Universal Sales, Ltd.

FOR SALE—1935 Ford 2-T truck, \$850.00; 1934 Ford 2-T, \$600.00; 1929 Ford 1 1/2-T, \$140.00; 1931 Ford 1/2 ton, \$225.00; 1932 Chev. 1/2 ton \$300.00; 1931 Ford 1 1/2 ton Duals \$250.00. Universal Sales Ltd.

FOR SALE—Battery radios and parts. Apply Radio, care of Daily Mail.

WANTED—Housemaid. References required. Apply Daily Mail.

MAN on the STREET

(By W. T. Whitehead)

Regatta

A regatta is just a regatta but a good ship's always afloat. Think of that the next time you have a sinking feeling.

There are many good ships afloat off the A. & B. Club-house just now. There are graceful yawls and sloops, swift gasoline and steam yachts. Speed boats dart in and out among their larger brethren. Rowboats, shallops, skiffs, cockleshells, dorys, canoes, and nearly every kind of smaller craft, except perhaps a catamaran, are to be seen.

The larger boats show evidences that their owners enjoy the comforts of land with the pleasures of a marine life. They have well-equipped galleys and comfortable berths, with awnings over the after-decks and large easy-chairs to lie back in and watch the widening furrow of the waves and the swiftly passing shore. Quite strenuous, of course, but O, for the life of a sailor!

Welcoming the Fleet

At dusk, riding lights flick on like fire-flies from every mast-head and as though this is a signal the band b'ares forth in a stirring march. The crowd turns away from the grace and beauty on the river and spreads out over the Green.

Fredericton turned out well the first night to welcome the visiting sailors. The crowd could be estimated at one, two or three thousand, and probably was. The club-house, decked with colored lights and pennants, presents a gay appearance. There are booths such as one sees at any carnival. It is all very care-free and holiday-like.

The visiting flotilla will no doubt be well entertained. One wonders if these sailors like their fellows of the deep sea, have wives in every port—Says Oormocto, Gaagetown, John Slipp's, Public Landing and Saint John.

Business

(Continued from Page One)

ed the Premier as a school teacher and an evangelist, a theorist in economics who had no experience in administration. Now, a year after his victory, they claim their first qualms have increased and turned to open alarm.

Several things upset them. First was the government's default on interest payments; the second was its determination to compulsorily refund the province's \$160,000,000 of debts. Both cut deeply into the orthodox method of regular and orderly financing. The default is regarded as having been unnecessary, while the refunding proposals are considered to have been handled poorly and clumsily. Both questions, it is felt, could have been settled through the proper approach and with Federal government aid.

While these things hurt in the abstract, there are two other actions of the Aberhart government which are right down the Alberta business man's alley, irritating him to the point of fury.

Tax and Scrip

First is the 2 per cent sales tax, which, with the Federal 8 per cent, makes it ten per cent that Albertans pay in sales taxes. Mr. Aberhart described the tax as an "ultimate consumers' tax," but any way you look at it, it is a sales tax. Purchasers pay one cent on every article bought at a cost of more than 15 cents and up to 50 cents. Every purchase made above 50 cents costs 2 cents on the dollar in taxation.

Second is the scrip scheme. It is still in the proposal stage; but business men have thought about it and talked about it so long that they have their swords drawn to fight it. "It is crazy," they say, bluntly. The majority of retailers and wholesalers have already served notice that they will not accept the scrip.

When the wholesalers refused to take the scrip on the ground that their money is sent out of the province for new goods, the Premier offered to redeem the scrip in thirty days. However, business had an answer for this one, too.

Why Not Money?

First they ask, Will the Government have sufficient money? The government answers in the affirmative. Then, ask the business men, why issue scrip at all? Why not pay the workmen in currency?

"If Mr. Aberhart can redeem this scrip in thirty days," said John Hanna, "it seems to me there is no sense in issuing it. If he issues it only in small amounts, it won't do business any good anyway, so why bother?"

Nobody regards the scheme as using the credit of the province. The storekeepers and merchants claim that not only will it not be using the province's credit, but that it will be taking good money out of their pockets.

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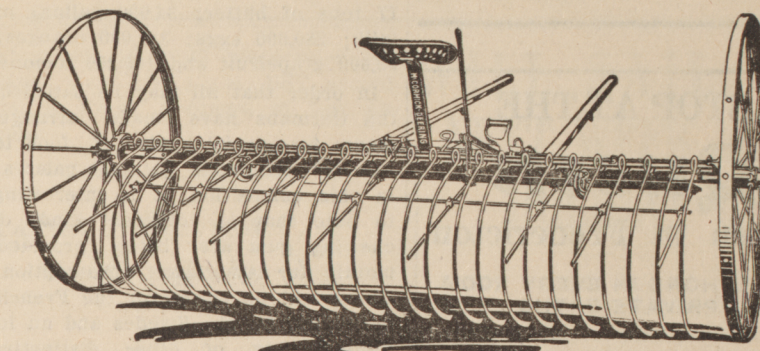
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