

A DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN

Who Has Risen to General in the British Army.

IS VISITING THIS COUNTRY ON REMOUNT QUESTION

An Interesting Interview.

A Canadian, who, choosing the military profession for a career, entered the British army thirty-four years ago, and by sheer merit, without the aid of friends, relatives or money, mounted the ladder of fame rung by rung, until he won the distinction of being the only Canadian who had attained the rank of a British General—this brief outline is the description of Major-General Fred W. Benson, C. B., Director of the Transport and Remount Department for the British army, who arrived in Toronto last Saturday.

General Benson is paying his first visit to Canada in twenty-four years on a fifty days' leave. His purpose is mainly pleasure, to meet old friends of his Upper Canada College days, and to show his wife the country of his birth, which she has never seen. Incidentally he is combining a little business with pleasure, looking into the possibilities of purchasing Canadian riding horses for the Imperial cavalry service. He came to Toronto from St. Catharines, where he had been for a few days, and is staying during the present week at the residence of his brother-in-law, Mr. D. R. Wilkie, where he accorded an interview to the News.

OF COMMANDING PRESENCE.

General Benson is a man of solidly and commanding presence, with a courteous and dignified manner. Physically he is a splendid specimen of Canadian manhood, exhibiting all the vigor of youth in spite of his arduous and exacting life. The son of the late Senator J. R. Benson, of St. Catharines, he is proud of his Canadian birth, and calls attention with considerable satisfaction to the fact that he took an active part in repulsing the Fenian raid of 1866. If there is any way in which he can advance the interests of Canada in the Old Land he will be certain to do so.

He described the functions of his department as the purchasing of remounts and means for transporting troops other than by railway or sea. This involves the expenditure of large sums annually for which he is directly responsible to the Quartermaster General.

WANTS CANADIAN HORSES.

"Is it your purpose to purchase Canadian horses, General?" the reporter asked.

"Well, he replied, deliberately, we would be glad to take several hundred every year if we could get suitable ones cheap enough. Bear in mind, we can obtain plenty of horses in Britain to meet the demand in times of peace, but we would like to keep in touch with other sources of supply, of which we might avail ourselves in case of emergency. During the South African war, for example, we purchased 12,000 Canadian horses."

"What price would you pay?" "On an average, about \$150. This would place the cost when landed in England at about \$200, which is

what we are allowed. I am not particularly sanguine of getting Canadian horses at this price, but I think that if we were to establish a regular demand it might encourage breeders to produce them in future. Last year Col. R. R. Lawrie, whom I sent out was only able to secure four hundred horses of the right kind. Col. Bridge has been in Canada this year for some time on the same errand, and is hopeful of more favorable results.

"How many horses do you buy altogether, per year?"

"The number varies from three thousand to five thousand in peace. General Benson remarked that the department was restricted very closely as to the quality of the horses. In Britain such horses as were not good enough for hunters but were too good for ordinary purposes were bought for troops."

"What do you think of the British army as a field for young Canadian officers?" he was asked.

"They could not have a better one; that is, if they intend to make a life work of military profession. I am aware that there is an impression abroad that Canadians have not a fair show in the British army. My experience and knowledge is that this is unfounded. In fact, rather the reverse is the truth."

"Of course, it is a long road to travel to win success in the army," continued the general. The days of Wellingtons and Napoleons—the heaven-born soldiers—have gone by. Success in the army nowadays is by dint of hard work, as in any other calling, and the ambitious young man must be content with gradual promotion, learning the service as he goes along.

"What is your opinion of the average British soldier?"

"I do not think there is much wrong with him. In the late Boer War he showed that he possessed the qualities of endurance and pluck in a high degree."

"What about the criticisms of the War Office?"

"Criticism is a good thing; it is stimulating; but in my opinion the greater part of recent criticism has not been based upon facts. The fact of sending 300,000 men and 600,000 mules and horses, together with vast quantities of supplies, across 6,000 miles of sea, such as was accomplished in the late war is no mean one. Great Britain spends more than \$100,000,000 annually on her army, and, I think, it would be found since the introduction of certain improvements to be thoroughly efficient in time of need. Always ready for war, is the principle on which the army is managed."

General Benson took part in the South African war, as chief staff officer of the Sixth Division, under General Kelly-Kenny, after the battle of Paardeberg to the end of the war. He had formerly served for eighteen years as a cavalry officer in India and during two wars performed the important service of reorganizing the Egyptian cavalry.

empt certain property from taxation. The House adjourned at six o'clock.

A KNOTTY PROBLEM.

A good test of a piano is its ability to remain in tune, and this problem is nearer solution in the Gourley piano than any other now on the market. When it is considered that the tension on the strings and pins of a seven-and-a-third octave instrument is from eighteen to twenty-four tons the layman can realize that it is no common task to prevent these strings and pins from giving and thus lowering the pitch. The Gourley has in its construction a pin block which is unaffected by temperature, and solid as Carlyle's "Frederick the Great." The string that can depend for support on a pin set like an immovable rock need not fear the varying humors of the weather man.

MOUTH OF KESWICK.

(Special Correspondence to Herald.)

April 3.—The home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday, 29th, when their eldest daughter, Estella, was united in marriage to Mr. Elwood Burrill of Burrill's Corner. Rev. H. E. Cooke performed the ceremony and Miss Blanche Cooke played the wedding march. Only a few friends were present. The bride was very prettily attired in a blue silexian skirt and white silk waist. The groom's present to the bride was a handsome fur scarf.

On Thursday evening last the young people of this place gave a most successful concert in the agricultural hall. Owing to the bad roads there was not a very large crowd present, but all who were present were pleased with the performance. Miss L. Dunphy was the organist, and others taking part were Miss B. Wright, Miss L. Merrithew, Miss Crisp, Mrs. Heine, Mrs. C. Jewett, Mr. and Mrs. N. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Nilour Yerxa, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Barker, and Messrs. Geo. L. Colter, John Hall, T. Benson, Stephen Dowey and Hayward Brewer. On next Thursday evening, April 6th, the concert will be repeated in the school room at Douglas.

Miss Jennie Merrithew, who has spent the past few weeks with her sister in Woodstock, has returned to her home.

Mr. Harry Fair of Pt. au la Garde, Que., is visiting at Mr. E. S. Barker's.

YOU MAY HAVE KIDNEY TROUBLE.

If your back aches and you suffer from dragging pains it is an evidence of diseased kidneys. Get Ferrozone at once and take it regularly. Ferrozone makes kidney sufferers feel better at once. "I was bothered a great deal with my kidneys last year," writes S. G. Denton of Everett, "but got quick relief from Ferrozone. My trouble manifested itself by pain in the back, dull heavy feeling and constant headache. I quite recovered after using a few boxes of Ferrozone, which has given me more strength and better health than I ever had before. I can recommend Ferrozone as

HORSE FINDS OIL WELL.

A Gushe on the Angus Farm Near Windsor, Ont.

Windsor, April, 5.—A novel oil discovery was made Monday on the farm of William Angus, near this city. For a long time it has been believed that extensive oil fields were yet undiscovered in the vicinity of the Angus farm, but, although wells had been sunk, none of the precious fluid had been struck, and finally all attempts were abandoned. While ploughing over an old excavation on Saturday one of the horses suddenly sank almost out of sight. When dug out it was found that a regular gusher had been uncovered. A thin crust of earth was all that separated the petroleum from bursting into the air, and the hole made by the horse's body did what several oil syndicates had failed to do.

Mr. Angus has been assured that his well is a paying one, and he will at once begin active drilling for more oil.

MAILED \$25,000 BROOCH.

Mrs. G. C. Phipps's Package Carelessly Wrapped, Burst Open.

Denver, Col., April 4.—Mrs. Genevieve Phipps created a sensation recently in the Denver post office. When the postman reached her residence she tossed him a parcel carelessly wrapped and asked him to mail it.

On the way to the office the package burst open, and when the mailing clerk tried to fasten it he discovered there were diamonds in it. He carried the package to his chief, who found it contained a magnificent diamond brooch, which a jeweler later said was worth \$25,000. The carrier was summoned and recognized the package as one given him by Mrs. Phipps.

She was called by telephone and said the brooch had been sent her by a New York jeweller, who asked \$29,000 for it. She was returning it.

WHY DO WOMEN SUFFER

Such pain and endure the torture of nervous headache when a quarter buys a bottle of Nerviline, which never fails to relieve. Just a few drops of Nerviline in sweetened water cures nervous or sick headache, relieves heart palpitation and makes you feel better immediately. Nerviline can't be beaten for quickly curing stomach and bowel troubles and should be kept in every house. It's good to rub on for external pain and excellent for inward use. Sold in large 25c. bottles.

The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well; and doing whatever you do without thought of fame.

TO RESTORE SIMPLICITY.

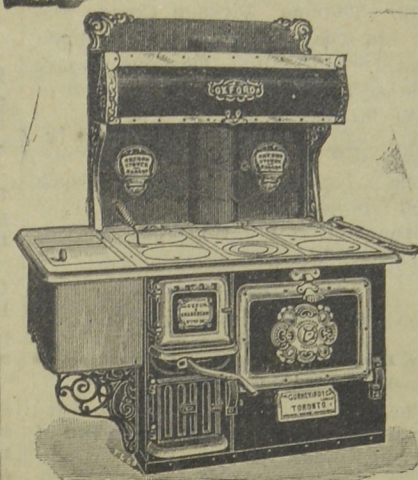
Nature Study Promises to Offset Some Artificial Conditions.

A classroom in the Toronto University College Chemical building was filled with an attentive audience on a recent Saturday afternoon, when Dr. J. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, Ottawa, lectured on "Nature Study," or, more accurately, gave an exposition of the educational value of nature study, its relation to natural history, and the methods of enlisting the interest and sympathy of young people in "the common sense of common things." Dr. Fletcher, who was introduced by Prof. Ramsay Wright, throughout an hour and a half, held his audience closely, meeting several times with warm applause. He is, however, so fluent and charming a speaker, and so able to communicate the ardor of his convictions, that the event could hardly have been otherwise.

Nature study, he said, was of particular interest to everybody. It was not the fad of the few. Its value had been recognized in the Public Schools during the last decade, where it would take the place of natural history, from which it differed as the foundation from the superstructure, natural history developing out of the studious habits and careful personal observation resultant from nature study. Science was a bugbear to many people. But why? Was not science merely accurate knowledge? Nature study was its handmaid, and might be defined as a careful personal observation of some common natural objects, together with a conscious mental effort to find out all about it. It was possible thus to open up a new and intense pleasure in this glorious and exquisite world, through which the major portion of humanity was passing without seeing it. We were to-day in an exceedingly artificial condition, and nature study promised to restore to us the simplicity we had lost.

Where was the place to study? Here. When was the time to begin? Now. The one handicap was the nomenclature, which, unfortunately, was in an unfamiliar language. In teaching this might be surmounted with children by attracting their interest with beautiful objects, or enlisting their help, as had been done in the schools of Manitoba, where they had been taught to recognize noxious weeds on sight and to destroy them everywhere, on the farm, and by the wayside, and so assist in a work of vital economic importance to the country.

The second part of Dr. Fletcher's address was illustrated with a number of beautiful stereopticon views of plants and insects and their habitat. The ecology of such objects was a profoundly interesting part of nature study. Ecology, Dr. Fletcher paused to explain, dealt with environment, with the relation and adaptation of plants and animals to their surroundings—everything having its own special locality. Passing rapidly over the several forms of the more common insect pests, he dwelt particularly on the ravages of the codling worm, which destroys half the apples in the world, and of the tussock moth, which is ruining our shade trees. In very emphatic terms he advised that steps be taken during the winter months to destroy the eggs of the moth on our trees, and that the trees be thoroughly sprayed in the early spring. "The effects of nature study," he concluded, "are far-reaching; they extend into every line of work, and bear fruit in quickened thought and accuracy of statement."



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THE HERALD OFFICE

HOUSE PASSED INSURANCE BILL.

Bill of Fare Yesterday was Rather Light in the Legislature.

The house met Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock.

Mr. Clarke introduced a bill to authorize Rev. Charles Beagle to solemnize marriages.

Hon. Mr. Jones introduced a bill to legalize the assessment of Woodstock for the past four years. It was read a second time on the ground of urgency.

Mr. Legere presented the petition of Jacob Legere and others for an amendment to Chapter 181 of the Consolidated Statutes.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill to amend the towns incorporation act. He said the object of the bill was to remove some doubts as to the qualifications of mayor and electors at the first election after incorporation. The bill would declare any person to be qualified who was liable to be rated to the necessary amount. When the bill was in committee he might ask to have a section added, authorizing the town of Edmundston to put in a water supply.

Mr. Copp said he did not see why the qualification of mayor and aldermen should be limited to owners of real estate. An income of \$6000 ought to be a sufficient qualification.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said that that was an important suggestion and would receive his attention.

Hon. Mr. Hill gave notice of a motion against a recommendation of the fishery commission to place an export duty on sardines.

The house went into committee on the bill respecting life and accident

insurance, Mr. Allen in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said that this bill had all been passed except one sub-section. Since progress was reported he had received a large number of communications from life insurance companies and without any exception they were agreed that the bill was a good one. But there were a few verbal changes which had been suggested and which he proposed to make.

The only amendment which produced any discussion was one suggested by Mr. Flemming to section 22 that where a person insured found himself unable to meet the premiums he might surrender his policy and accept a paid up policy or an extended insurance for the full amount of his policy so far as the reserve fund of his policy would purchase.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley feared that this would be placing an additional liability on the companies.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie explained that all new policies contained a provision for extended insurance. The old policies did not but it was no hardship on the company to give an extended insurance for the fund was provided to meet this contingency. The Dominion law requires the insurance companies to accumulate a reserve fund.

Mr. Flemming's amendment was carried and the bill was reported to the House as agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie presented the petition of the mayor and council of Chatham in favor of their bill to ex-

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