The Abbotsford Post

With which is incorporated "The Huntingdon Star"

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Our London Letter

It is sometime now since I wrote you anything like a letter. It has not not been for want of material, but rathc because there has been so much material that I hesitated to begin. Sensation has followed sensation, with the result that ere one week's doings or one batch of reports had been chronicled for digestion, another arrived which quite put the potlid on what had gone before. So much has happened and in so short a time, more is happening from day to day and will continue to happen; again it is very possible that before this reach es you the situation will be in quite a different street to what it is now. So far as actual war news s connerned, or rather news connected with the position created by the war, you probably know as much as we do. You can sense the direction of the current tho' you may not be able to see quite so many straws on its surface. We are told that the war is over. So far as actual fighting between the forces of the Entente and those of the Central Empires is in question, that is so Peace, however, is not yet in sight, and there are plenty of factors in the outlook still which may, if not discretely handled, rouse the smouldering embers again to flame. The immediate cause of the collapse of Germany is due to three things; (1) the effect of the naval blockade on the general economic life of our enemies (2) the very serious defeats inflicted on Germany's allies and Germany herself since July last; (3) the fact that America had thrown her unlimited number of men into the struggle and looked able and willing to find any number of men to go on indefinitely till the inevitable decision was reached. A lot has been written in criticism of our blockade. In the early days of the war it was not nearly so stringent as it might have been. The politicians had too much, and the seadogs too little, to do with it. The question was a delicate one, because America was not in with us then, and in order to hit Germany very hard, we should have had to hit American trade very hard, too. When the evil genius of the Kaiser committed the Lusitania crime, and not until then, did America's eyes show signs of opening. But whatever crevices—from one cause or another—the blockade armour confessed to, the fact remains it imposed upon the people of Germany a very great amount of hardship and harrassment, and gradually forced them into the position of great economic difficulty and disadvantage. While not actually starving them out, it became a growing nightmare from which they could never break free. It produced at length on the masses of their people a physical condition which tended to kill discipline and goad to revolt. So long as victories—real or imaginary—were vouchsafed by their censors, they fought, and well, against the effects of the blockade; when these failed, and the true military situation was borne in on them—well they "busted." Volumes have been written as to where—militarily—Germany lost the war. The Crown Prince claimed that she lost it at the first battle of the Marne. Later on it was said that she lost it at Verdun. There are many who hold she lost it at Gallipoli—because there the flower of the Turkish army was destroyed, and if that had not happened our chance of success in the East would have been hopeless, and we should have been compelled to evacuate Egypt, Mespot. etc. I believe the two ends and middle of all these views are mere speculation. The Germans would have won the war over and over again but for one thing—the thing that whipped Napoleon—the bulldog tenacity of British blood. They had Russia beaten—they had France beaten—they had Italy beaten, at different times. They never had the British Empire beaten at all. They gave us a big shock at Cambrai in March last, but that was because the politicians had insisted on our taking over ground from the French, which, in the opinion of our generals we had not got the men to hold. They shoved us back, but it cost them more than it cost us, and when the recoil came later on—well, some of the Germans hold that it was that very push which was re sponsible for their final finishing. For many years to come—perhaps for ever, so far as we in this world are concerned—there will be the two schools of thought; the one holding the war was won in the west; the other that it was won in the East. For myself, I have always believed war would be won in the West. It appeared to me that the other theatres were more side-shows, and that if we concentrated all our fighting power on the West, Germany would be overwhelmed. Russia was a big card then. The mere fact that Germany tried to open up all these "side-shows" and that with the object of dividing our striking force, was evidence to me hat Germany feared concentration on the West, while Russia was still a big handful (And any rising in Egypt, or Mespot, or Persia, etc., etc.—E. Africa included—could have been easily snuffed out when once the chief criminal was accounted for). That was my opinion, and I still hold it. But as things turned out, with Russia out of it, and Turkey and Bulgaria still keeping us engaged, there is not much doubt but that Allenby's and Maude's campaigns had a very great bearing on the collapse. Their success came at the right time The Greek episode done with, if Turkey could be eliminated, Bulgaria would have to follow; if not, she would have tofight against the Turks (who would much rather have had a go at her than at us.) Austria was known to be in a bad way. With Turkey and Bulgaria out of it, Austria was outflanked, and there could only be one result; Autria would have to give away, unless Germany came to her assistance. As Germany was fully engaged elsewhere, Austria must give way. Which meant that Germany could then be taken in the rear. That is how it all panned out: Turkey went; Bulgaria went; Austria went; Germany could hold out no longer. Beaten back badly everywhere in France, her people verging on revolution owing to economic suffering, and faced with the probability of a new campaign from the back door, so to speak, she had no alternative. The last straw was the Americans. Notwithstanding all the "boom" in the press, campaigners in France know that they never had a really stiff one

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assigned to them, and they had no oportunity of doing much. But they were rapidly getting on the spot, and the fact that they were, and in such numbers, put the finishing touches to the picture. And Germany chucked up the sponge.

Of the fighting in France from the beginning of August on to the end you have probably read. In case you have not I will send you Haig's dispatch as printed in the Times Supplement. The French did some good work here and there; the Americans had a show miles away, fighting chiefly against divisions which had been badly mauled in the earlier pushes of the year and which had been sent to "a quiet sector" for rest. About 80 per cent. of the real business was done by the 4th and 3rd armies, unfler Rawlinson and Byng, who worked out their own battle schemes and plans, which were accepted and approved by Foch. These armies consisted of representatives of practically all the British Empire forces, that is to Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, Guard regiments, Scottish, Welsh, London and English County regiments. And when once they got going they never stopped. They were finally pulled up by armstice being ignored. Up ta the other end of the line the 2nd and 19th corps of British troops, under Plumer, made practically all the running. The Belgians started it, but after a few hours their bolt was shot, and all the pushing after the first day was done by the 2nd and 19th Corps (2nd army). Harry, who was present, described it thus: The Germans withdrew. The Belgians walked after them. The Germans pulled up and showed fight. The Belgians pulled up and orders were sent to the 19th or 2nd corps. Their men arrived and cleared away the obstruction. The Germans retreated. Britishers returned to their units. Belgians walked after the Germans! And this went on for days. And the press "boomed" the brave Belgians! Harry says, the Belgians fought like tigers the first day or so. They had been well oiled. They really astonished the Britishers who had never known them to fight worth a cent before. But after that, it was a walking match, Britishers being sent for immediately the Germans attempted a stand. I don't know what Haig says about it, but that's the truth. Meanwhile these two corps were pushing the Germans on their front back as well. Lille, Douai, Courtrai and hundreds of other towns were recevere. And then also the armstice, and they "pulled up short for a breather." At the finish the Germans were still

(Continued on Page Three)

VALENTINE PARTY

The Valentine whist drive and dance given last Friday under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Anglican church was a grand success, nineteen tables of whist were played and many more were present who did not play. Mrs. P. R. Peele and Mrs. B. B. Smith were hostesses; Mrs. Arthur Taylor and Mr. Weir, Snr., were the winners of the first prize. Mrs. Mathews and Mr. Longfellow received the consolation prizes. Among those present as visitors were Mrs. Smith, niece of Mrs. Dan Smith, Miss Laxton the teacher's sister, Mrs. Jones, the teacher from Peardonville and Mr. Dunbar from Voncouver. The Tapp orchestra furnished most of the music for the dance. Mrs. McGowan at the piano and Mr. Longfellow with the cornet relieved the Tapps some.

Keneth Griffith is back with his grandmother, Mrs. Gazley.

HORNE AVENUE CROSSING

(From the Fraser Valley Record)

The president and acting secretary of the Board of Trade met the Railway Commisisoners at Vancouver last week to insist that arms and a man be stationed at Horne Avenue Crossing.

President Lane had considerable data on hand to show why this crossing should receive better attention from the the C.P.R. than it does, and thus avoid delays and accidents.

The question of crossing resolved itself down to one of priority at the crossing—whether the C. P. R. or the roadway or trail were there first A statement was sent to the Board of Commissioners his week which ought to satisfy the commissioners; and at Victoria Premier Oliver gave personal evidence that there was a trail from the river across the present tract as far back as 1877.

If the railway had been there first it would have been up to the provincial government to take care of the traffic across the tracks, but now that it has been established that the trail or road was there first the C. P. R. will be responsible.

BOARD OF TRADE

The acting secretary has a vast amount of correspondence which he had been attending to, which was read and acted upon. It referred to such matters as the Mosquito Bill, the Horne Avenue crossing, the roads and the dismissal of Constable C. G. Barber by the provincial government

The president and secretary had attended the sitting of the railway commission in Vancouver the previous Friday and the president's report of what had been done, was accepted. The final decision will be given by the Board of Railway Commissioners later.

After listening to the correspondence in regard to the dimissal of the constable of Mission the Board was amazed to see how or why thhe command for removal had been given. A protest was sent to the government but undoubtedly will have no effect.

A resolution of condolence was sent to Mrs. Verchere. The late Mr. Verchere had been an active member of the Board since its first inception and had filled the position of secretary for a number of years. The Board will miss his kindly advice and service and it was fitting that at its first meeting such a resolution should be sent.

The election of officers was the next on the pogramme and resulted with the following officers being elected:

President—A. A. Lane.
Vice-President—W. T. Knight.
Treasurer—W. H. Mathewson.
Secretary—H. Beach.

The committees will be appointed at the next meeting which should be the second Monday in March.

Mr. Willie McClagan arrived home on Friday evening last a great surprise to his parents as they did not know he expected to have his discharge so soon.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Young are rejoicing over their little daughter, born on the 14th of February.

Mrs. P. R. Edwards is spending a couple of weeks with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards.

The Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. McKinnon on Wednesday afternoon. There was a large gathering It was missionary day and Mrs. Robertson gave an excellent report of the convention that was held in New Westminster two weeks ago, of which she was a delegate.

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. McCabde were visitors to Sumas on Tuesday.

Mrs. Alex. Johnson of Vancouver and formrly a respected resident of Abbotsford, died on Friday from effects of flu. A number from Abbotsford attended the funeral on Monday among those were: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Smith, Mr. McGowan, Mrs. Hannah Fraser, Mrs. Gazley, the Misses Emma and Clarice Trethewey and Bob Trethewey.

Mrs. Matt Nelson returned home on Tuesday after being in the hospital some time.

The address given in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday evening by E. A. Henry D. D., fom Vancouver under the auspices of the Presbyterian church was excellent and those who did not attond missed a treat that cannot be had often in a small town

Evelyn McMenemy, Irvine King and Freda Nelson were successful in passing the examination in grammar of music. All received very high marks.

Mr. Steffins is spending a few days in Vancouver this week.

Mrs. Nixon returned to Vancouver on Sunday afternoon after a stay here with her parents.

Mr. nad Mrs. McMillan of Winnipeg are visiting with the McCrimmon's.

Mr. Georg Hart was home last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Parton have been visiting in Vancouver.

Mrs. Dan Smith is staying in Vancouver and Miss Margaret and Miss Mable have gone to join her, and while down will attend the war exhibit.

The government dyking bill appears to please the farmers of Sumas Prairie.

Miss Simlett is exepected back on Monday to take her school and Miss Henry has accepted a school at Dewdney where she will be near her home at Hatzic.

Mrs. Salt and Mrs. Webster will entertain at the whist drive next Friday night, the last until after Lent.

Mr. Bell has taken his wife and family back to Eburne to their summer home.

An agricultural club is being organized at Huntingdon for the benefit of the surrounding schools. Any pupil may join for competition in pigs and poultry.

Mr. P. R. Peele has been appointed Collector of Customs at New Westminster and Mr. Gordon Smith is relieveing here for the present.

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THE ABBOTSFORD POST

Published Every Friday

J. A. Bates, Editor and Proprietor

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1919

The roads of Dewdney—the Dewdney Trunk road—are at the present time in a most deplorable condition. It is time that something was planned for the improvement of these roads during the coming season. If not they will become impassable by next winter. When Premier Oliver was campaigning in Dewdney at the last election he stated that "too much money had been spent on the roads of Dewdney". He never does things the same as the old government and in consequence there has been a very great dearth of money spent on the roads of Dewdney since. Is this a punishment on the people of this district for having elected an outsider to represent them?

Premier Oliver's government has diverted the traffic off the Dewdney Trunk Road through the municipality of Maple Ridge. All the through traffic goes by way of the River Road but this same river road is not treated as a trunk road. Only a portion of it is kept up by the government while the municipality is asked to look after the balance of it from Haney east to meet the government sign "End of Public Works Department" This is a hard punishment on the people of Maple Ridge for having elected an outsider to represent them in Victoria, and they are further told that they are expected to keep up this portion of the River road and that the government will not lend the municipality one red cent. Is this a *square deal to the people of Maple Ridge?*

This also penalizes the travelling public for having a "farmer" at the head of the government. Even the lawyers did better than that.

Through Mission an agreement was made with the old government that if the municipality bought the land to widen the road that the government would build the road. The municipality bought some land and the road was widened; and when the municipality had more money they bought the right of way to widen a bit more of the road, but in the meantime the government had changed, and no pledges of this kind were kept by the new government, and the consequence is that the road is in the most horrible condition through Silverdale district. Is this a just reward for the people electing a "farmer" from Delta to represent them at Victoria?

John Oliver might have been a good farmer in the Delta but there is not another farmer in the whole of the Fraser Valley who could do worse if he tried—usually they know a thing or two about roads. The exception has the office now.

When the present government was elected to power Dewdney had one of the finest road equipments of any of the ridings of the province. Our former members were proud of this equipment. It cost good money and consisted of implements that the men workingon the roads built the good roads that hypnotized John Oliver to go over them in his 'trusty Ford' We would make a safe bet that if the roads of Dewdney in 1916 had not been so good as they were at that time John Oliver and his trusty little Ford would not have seen the parliament buildings at Victoria except from the outside. Do you think he should treat us so meanly when it comes to road matters?

The good roads people want a whole lot of money for roads in 1919—it is something about $5,000,000 but our premier does not think he can give it.Mr. McGreer says if the premier won't give it they will go to the country and put in a government that will give it, and he does not give a hang if it is a government with a greatly different shade of politics. He is a people's man who is imbued with the idea of what the people want.

It is reported that the Dominion government would be willing to lend the province of British Columbia five million for roads at 5½ per cent., but the government has no official information to this effect, says our premier. The postmans' strike has been settled a long time now and there are government stenographers at the parliament building that are not over worked. Three minutes of the premier's time and three cents would soon bring the information desired.

If it is really true that our premier "likes the job and the wages" he ought to look ahead a minute or two at least.

What we want in British Columbia is less politics and more real good government.

Canada is greatly the poorer by the passing of Sir Wilfrid Laurier,whose ripe intellect, directing genius, and burning faith in his country, were assets which the Dominion can ill afford to lose. All who have followed his career, which in many ways is perhaps the most remarkable of that of any Canadian, will be profoundly touched by the knowledge he has been summoned by death. He has died in harness, as he would have wished, for his life was devoted to his country. What he has done to raise its prestige and extend its fame will be borne ample testimony to by all who have followed the growth of the Dominion during the last quarter of a century. He held office as Prime Minister during fifteen years of remarkable development and that Canada should have prospered and grown great in that period is, in a measure vouchsafed to few men, a tribute to the intense national enthusiasm of Sir Wilfrid and the jealousy with which he guarded the good name of the country. His vision, foresight and statesmanlike conceptions of those policies which would contribute to development were always at the disposal of Canada, and during the time he led the government at Ottawa he had rightly earned the title of the greatest statesman of the Outer Empire.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier combined the role of dreamer with a life of unwearying activity and energy. It was because of this unusual combination he had the satisfaction of seeing many of his dreams come true. From the outset of his career deep down in his mind lay the vision of an harmonious Canada inspired with the spirit of unity, capable of accomplishing great things. He realized there must be a singleness of purpose shared by the two great races that inhabit the country. His life's effort was bent to bring this about. That he succeeded perhaps not altogether, but to a remarkable degree, will always be remembered as one of the outstanding achievements of his career. To the last, we believe that honestly and steadfastly he pursued the goal he had set in view. If many of his fellow country had occasion to differ with him in the methods he employed there were none who could ever impugn his motives as being unworthy of the man and the cause he had so closely at heart. French and English-speaking Canadians owe him a debt of gratitude and history will pay to his memory the tribute that he richly earned by the efforts he made with such praiseworthy persistency, to unify the people of the Dominion.

In Canadian history of the past twenty-five years no name occupies a more commanding place than that of the dead statesman. For him there was no royal road to political preferment. He won his spurs by assiduous work and attention to legislative duties, but was notably aided in the task by a rare intellect, by high oratorical ability and by personal magnetism. His national reputation dated its birth from the election campaign of 1887. The courageous tenor which inspired his utterances, particularly those with which he dealt with the N.W. Rebellion caught the popular imagination. The impression he then created was intensified during the campaign of 1891 future leadership of the Liberal party During the succeeding five years it is no exaggeration to say his oratory and his genuineness, coupled with unusual ability and an outstanding personality, took the country by storm and paved the way for his return to power in the election of 1896. The activity and energy which had marked his career in opposition were translated into a new sphere and never faltered. At once he hastened to grapple with the problems that loomed up in the country's politics. He was largely instrumental in settling the Manitoba School Question. Preferential trade arrangements with Great Britain, which marked a notable development in the country's fiscal policy showed his ability to transform a popular conception into practical use.

Always jealous on behalf of Canada's autonomy he took every occasion to emphasize the fact that the Dominion had become a nation within the imperial domain. His visits to Britain came to be looked forward to in the Motherland as events of outstanding interest, for his oratory had captivated the people there. He soon became recognized, not only in the Old Country, but throughout the English-speaking domain, as a personal power of unusual significance with ideals which were bound to generate good for the human race. Few statesmen of modern times, more so than the dead leader of the Liberal party, fulfilled the attribute of greatness as defined by Emerson when he said: "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the world maintains with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

Sir Wilfrid's charm of manner, coupled with such courageousness of purpose as he possessed made him both a diplomat and an administrator To crown all, throughout the hurly burly of politics in a new country and in the ime of its greatest making he led a blameless life, both privately and in politics, and in this respect has left a priceless example. Half Canada, and sometimes more than half, differed with him in many of his policies and viewpoints, but all the Dominion, irrespective of party or race, will pay tribute today to his memory. A great statesman, a true gentleman, an ardent patriot and one whom the people of two continents delighted to honour hos gone to his rest. His ideal throughout his career was duty to his country, and that, coupled with the memory of his name and what he achieved for Canada, will continue to be an inspiration to the present and succeeding generations of Canadians.

"If you want good roads you must educate public opinion up to the point of paying for them,"—Premier Oliver to the Good Roads League at the meeting in Victoria on Monday.

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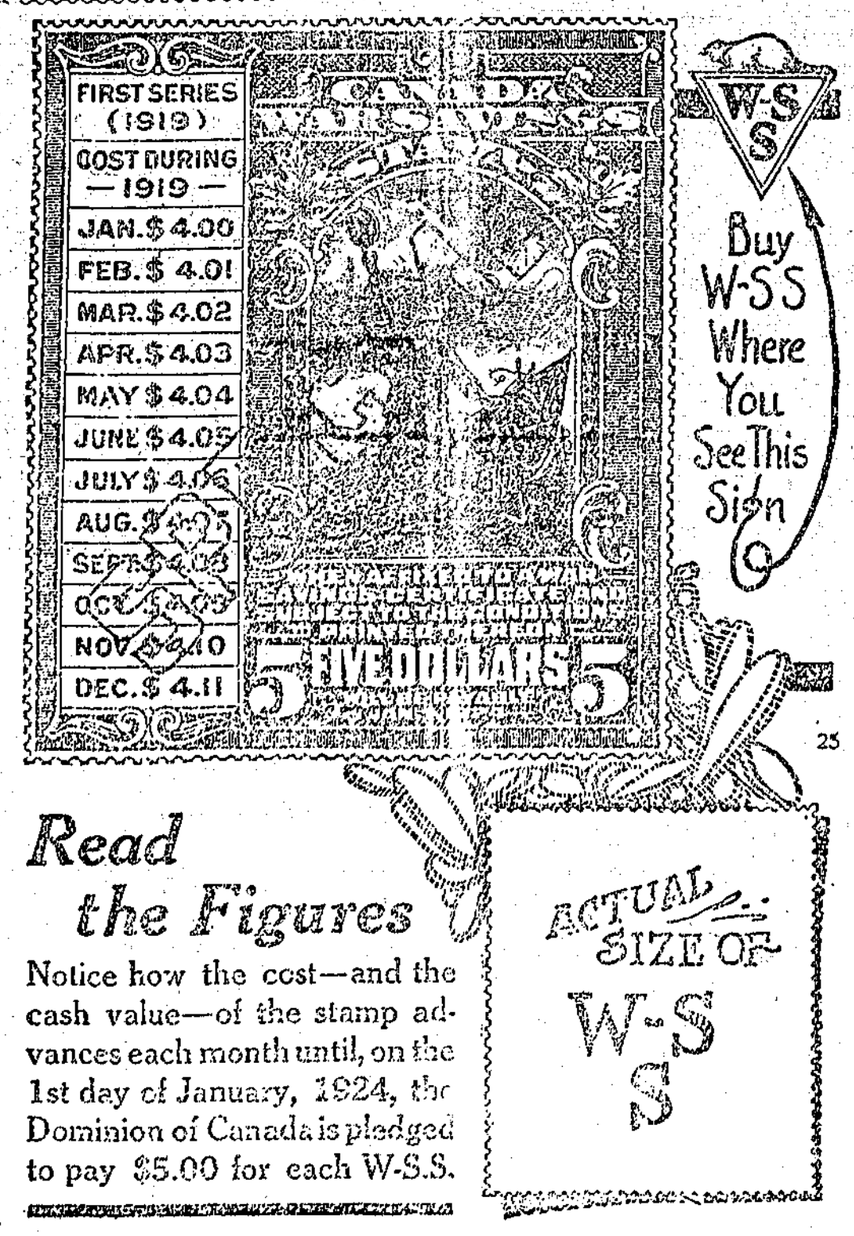

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THE BUILDINGS ARE CROWDED

Crowded into one of the largest buildings in the city Cnada's Great war exhibit th,e most remarkable collection of war trophies and relics that has been assembled since the war, is now in full swing at Vancouver. It is being shown under the auspices of the Dominion Government and after it leaves British Columbia will be taken to Ottawa there to be broken up for distrubution to all parts of the Dominion.

Thousands of persons are attending the show daily, including many from all parts of the province. All agree that the display measures up to expectations. It has as much interest for children as adults and Vancouver has arranged that every school child in the city may see it. Nanaimo is interested and is running two special excursions so that all who wish may have the opportunity of attending.

The five carloads of murderous device which were captured by the Canadians in many a hard-fought battle and at such terrible sacrifices tell more than the spoken or written word can of the heroism of the Canadians and the odds against which they fought so gallantly.

The hundreds of photographs shown, many of them lifesize, are of peculiar interest to British Columbians in that many well-known officers and men of British Columbia regiments have been "snapped" in the heat of action on the battlefields.

The entire display gives a very vivid impression of what warfare on the Western Front was and what the men from Canada accomplished. The exhibit will be open until March 1, inclusive.

PORT COQUITLAM

Mr. E. W. Bigelow is at Victoria in connection with the amendment to the city charter act agreed upon between the municipality of Coquitlam and the city council.

25,000 No. 8 ENVELOPES At $4.75

Per THOUSAND, Printed with your Name and Address on them

These Envelopes are a Bargain at the above figure, considering ordinary market prices. The shipment has just been received from the East, and we may not be able to duplicate it. Had we purchased them from Vancouver wholesalers we could not have sold them for less than $5.50 per thousand.

We are ordering some paper for Letter Heads and will be able to give you some bigger bargains in Letter Heads than you have had since the war began. Hold your orders for this shipment of paper, or better still let us have the order now and be first on the list. It will pay you.

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Our London Letter

(Continued From Page One)

a large force, an immense force; but they were more or less in a state of demoralization and has brought about by two prime factor—the superior fighting qualities of the British armies, and the situation in the Fatherland. The armstice alone saved them from an overwhelming military disastr. They saw it coming and "ducked in time". They will always rank as a good military nation, the greatest this world has yet seen but I have always thought and think still—that the actual fighting qualities of their material were much overrated. They accomplished many military feats, but never unless they were in great superiority of men and material. German officers of high rank have said that the finest fighters in the war was the British Tommy. For sheer dogged scrapping qualities,none could hold a candle to the British men. The Guards regiments, the Colonials, the Scottish and the County regiments simply astonished them. That is very nice of them, but I seem to remember that whenever they met them on equal or anything like equal terms, the Serbians thrashed them just as well. And so did others. It was always the numerical superiority of the Huns in men and artillery that enabled them to get where they wanted to get—not the individual fighting qualities of the ranks. They fought and planned all their fights in thee mass. And when that mass had been so reduced by attrition to aggregate less than the numbers and material ranged against them, they soon went down. They were bound to. The British forces are trained on the individual plan—the Germans never. Their organization was very fine yet it should be remembered in this connection that they were fighting on inner lines, with vastly superior railways and strategical transport facilities, which enabled them to convey numbers of men and quantities of material to the exact spots they were wanted in much shorter time than anything their opponents possessed. Considering their complete preparations, and the preparedness of their enemy, they ought to have romped home easy winners. That they did not is eloquent testimony of the value of the "personal equation" and the inherent power possessed by a righteous cause. The war dogs now being chained up, it remains to set the house in order. The war took over four years. The peace may easily give rise to questions which will not be settled in forty. We can only hope—and work—for the best. The job is an immense one. Nobody will get exactly what they want. There will have to be give and take, and probably those who have done the least will try to have the biggest say. I don't fe el very much interested in the territorial question. For many years England has been overrun by the scum of Europe. "Political refugees" they were called. Here and there was a genuine case. The majority were ordinary individuals who ran away to escape conscription, or came over to this country because they thought it offered a better field than their own to make money. If I thought for one moment that the securing of Poland to the Poles, or Russia to the Russians, would spell the evacuation of London by the generally lousy gentlemen who call themselves by these names, I might be very much interested. But I don't. On the contrary, if the shaking-up properties of the war result in rousing this country out of her lethargy, thereby improving conditions of life here, I can see a bigger immigration than ever. If the peace terms give to all of them their desires territorially—tho' how it is to be done beats me—there will still be unrest and grievances. I really believe that a lot of the Balkan peoples are better out and away from his own country. That part of the peace conference activities which will interest me is their punishment of the criminals and their securing of reparation for the crime. If these two things are done properly then the world will have seen the last of wars of this description. If it is not done properly, then we shall have it all over again later on. Out there in France—and elsewhere—lie the bones of many a loved one whose lives will live in our memories and affections while our lives remain. If we finish this job up properly they will not have died in vain. If we don't, then God help us! For we are unworthy their sacrifice. When we have made it quite clear that wars don't pay—wars will end.

Just now the principal topic is the demobilization. A scheme—or rather two or three schemes—are in operation, with the inevitable result—dissatisfaction. There are so many interests involved that it would be quite impossible to device a universally satisfactory plan. What is one man's meat is another man's poison. "The war is over—Jerry's beaten—let's us all go home" is the view of the majority of the soldiers. They are coming home now all at the rate of 40000 or more a day, yet the air is full of grumbling. The truth is that grievance must arise in some cases, whatever plan is adopted. There is no use going on turning out munitions of war at high prices, which will never be wanted and it takes a long time to transform munitions plant and machinery into industrial. So some of the "munitioneers" have had to be discharged. Although raw materials are scarce, there are still many "jobs" going. Result: Munitioneers hitherto working in the majority of cases safe jobs, at very high wages, are free to snap up what is offering before the real man who has fought for it can get a look in. As a large proportion of these gentry only went into munitions to save their skins, the situation created by these circumstances affronts one's sense of justice Yet we cannot keep millions of men doing nothing, and we cannot disband all the army—or even the major part of it, even if transport would allow—while the outlook in Russia and Germany remains what it is. Again, there are employers who want their own men back as soon as they can get them—men to whom in many cases they have made allowances while away. And it may be for all sorts of reasons the men cannot be released. Then employers have made promise to keep jobs open in numbers of cases, and now, raw material being scarce, or other things not being equal, they are not yet ready to receive their men back. The men themselves are "fed up", and want to get back, and are nt in the humour to wait. Nearly every woman wants to get her man back, and has a grievance because the impossible doesn't happen. Another trouble is the housing question. Out in Mission the people would laugh at the trouble and build shacks. One can't build shacks in Fleet Street. For practically six years there has been no building. During all that time people have been getting married—the number of war weddings is enormous. Nearly all single young women were working at good wages, and as allowances could be claimed by getting married, advantage was taken to "furnish at government expense." Tommy came home on leave, got married and went back to his unit, girl kept at work and the "allowance" was put by to furnish on. Now that the men are returning, there are no dwellings available to house them. Various academical discussions on housing schemes have been indulged in but the a thorities are not yet on the move. The evil is growing rapidly, and if something is not done to provide dwellings where they are required, the government will commit a great blunder. The food question long since ceased to worry. We have been rationed and some inconvenience has accrued, but no real hardship. The worst phase in that matter has been the very high prices and the abominable profiteering. The government has always winked at the latter; they were to a certain extent reaping the benefit through the Excess Profits Tax. Their view was that the war must be paid for—and the said tax helped to pay it. Why it should be paid for more by one class than another I could never quite fathom. But that is the effect of profiteering. The rich man— generally a government contractor or a Jew—and the "munitioneers" or ridiculously high wages, did not suffer; the skilled artisan and the man of professional avocation (the men of small but regular salary) did—and suffered badly. Take my case: My salary rose about 33 per cent. Cost of living rose over 100 per cent. In consequence I have to report my bank account reduced to zero. And I consider myself jolly lucky to get through as I have. Make no mistake. I have no wish to complain. I have only one bitterness in my heart—and that no question of money can remove. At the same time I have eyes, and can see around me evidences which compel me to say that the action of the government concerning profiteering has been wicked.

Charlie as I have told you is home He has had wonderful luck. There are 18 left of the original battery of 184. He had 18 months as a motor dispatch rider. Ask any returned Canadian what he thinks of motor dispatch riding, and he will give you an idea of the work. The past 11 months he was No. 1 on an 8 inch howitzer-gun. In the Passchendale fighting at the end of 1917 the battery took a big part. Later on, in the German push of April 1918, it was again assigned an important position, and did very well. Then it was transformed to the 4th army for service with the troops concerned in what was to be the great wind up. It went to the rear for a month or so, to practice a new kind of business altogether. At the end of July it took up the running again, assisting the French and then, on August 8, came the new general order from Haig. I don't know if you have heard of this order, but it amounted to this. "All risks must now be taken. Once the enemy is on the run he must be kept on the run. Battalions or companies or platoons, or batteries are to keep moving forward wherever then can, not waiting for supports to come up, even at the risk of being surrounded. So long as the enemy can be kept moving back, all risks are permissible."

There were "sacrifice guns", "sacrifice companies", etc., etc., whose duty it was to go right in and keep the Huns retreating. Charlie's gun London letter 4

was a "sacrifice gun" and was frequently rushed up and commenced firing (over open sights) 200 lb. shells at one end of a little village of perhaps a dozen houses before the Bosche had left the other end. They literally blasted a way through them. The gun weighs about 14 tons the "caterpillar" and whole outfit and gun complete is some 25 or 26 tons. And this lot was frequently within a few yards of the German forces. Charlie says the forces in front of them never counter-attacked once. If they had he would have been done for Because the men were pledged to stand by the gun whatever happened, and so the whole lot would have been killed. They had made up their minds not to be captured and you cannot run away with 25 tons. He supported the Australians and Canadians at Villers Bretonreauc; was one of the first big guns into St. Quentin; went right through the Hindenburg line between there and Cambrai and worked through the whole push to Mons, finishing up close to there just beforet he armstice. The battery consisted of 6 guns, 4 of them were blown up ruring the struggle, and the other two (of which Charlie's was one) had the rifling and the barrels worn out so as to be quite usless at the finish. They could not go up to Cologne on this account with the rest of the 4th army; but had to remain at the rear till a new lot of guns were forthcoming. Then they proceeded towards Cologne, and had reached Namur when C.'s ticket to bring him back to civil life again reached him. When the Hinderburg "tunnel" was taken by a battalion or so of men swimming across the canal Charlie's guns were in front on our side of canal covering the operation. He returns in practically perfect condition (so far as we can see). He has just had a letter from Harry informing him of the arrival of a trench cap, sent by yourself. Not being aware of his demobolization. Harry had sent the cap on to the battery, together with his letter. The letter had been readressed and reached Charlie at home. We are expecting the trench cap will follow. We are of coprse very glad to get him back safe and sound. We are concerned, however lest the result of much exposure shows itself later on. He says very little, beyond expressing surprise that he has got out of it all alive. He has been in many a tight place, and frequently never expected to see another day. He can hardly yet realize that it is all over—at all events for him. Harry's work at Plumer's H. Q. has been very hard all the past year, but beyond being at times under long distance fire, and under the innumerable air raids, and often rather too near the exploding bombs to be pleasant, he has not of late had the dangerous experiences of his elder brother. He does not seem to be in any very great hurry to leave the army. He has a decently good job, with fairly good pay, and as it will probably be necessary to have someone in his position for a considerable time yet, he may elect to stay. He is bossing a lot of salvage operations around Steenvoorde north France, at the moment, and I should also mention that Charlie was selected from a commission about the middle of October, but as they wanted him to "take on" for a long time and he was anxious to clear out as soon as the war was over, he "let it slide". If he had accepted the offer the family would have had a record to be proud of in the great war. It would have read thus:"Four sons all volunteered, all joined the ranks, all gained commissions." As it was only three took the commissions. Well, well, I have still much to be proud of—and thankful for. Ernest is O. C. a camp in the desert, evidently guarding communication and forwarding transport. He has a number of Indian troops under him, as well as Lancashire men. He seems to get on well with the former, to whom he chucks "some crumbs of Hindustani" he has learnt. And he is certainly a favorite with the latter, because he is a good sport, and runs plenty of musical evenings and other entertainments for their benefit. I rather expect he will come home before long.

Jack Tunbridge called here one Saturday night. I had much pleasure in entertaining him but he only stayed till the next morning when he had to return to camp before noon. I gave him a cordial invitation to return again, and may still see something of him. But he was remaining in this country so far as I know for a few weeks more, and as the armstice has since been signed, he may even have gone back to your side of the Atlantic. I met also, in the High Street of this town one of the 29th Batt. (Vancouver). I invited him to a cigar with me at home, and he told me some things regarding Charley Stokes and Phil Catherwood. I think Charley was Quartermaster-Sergt and Phil was also a man of some honourable rank. They were both friends of his, and he promised when he returned (he was on leave) to remember me to them and to assure them of my willingness to help them in any way in my power should they be visiting London. I cannot recall his name, but he came from Westminster B. C. He only knew Mission as a station he passed through.

SIR JOHN WILLISON
A Pioneer Newspaper Man

ELIMINATING THE H. C. OF L.

The other morning a picture show magnate not more than four Miles from the weekly dispensary of public information was busily engrossed reading the editorials in a Vancouver paper when he suddenly looked and with an unctuous smile that wreathed his genial countenance ejaculated: "Oh shucks, that's nothing" When asked why the sudden exclamation of contempt, he replied, "Why this paper is eulogizing one of our M. P.'s stating that he always "brings home the bacon". "Believe me, old top, its duck soup for any guy to bring home the bacon, but take man's most faithful animal, the dog, whose wellknown sticktoitiveness through adversity, the H. C. of L. and other things, has been lauded to the skies by well known judges, writers and hoboes from continent to continent. (Thanks old chap, I will smoke this after luncheon). As I was saying how many dogs are there that can differentiate between bacon and common beef stew, especially with the H. C. of L. still in the ascendent. I claim, very few. Now I don't want to be egotistical, but I'll state right here that I have a dog that is accredited with doing this same little thing—bringing home the bacon—but really, old top, I have not seen the bacon as yet. Still I have been besieged by my friends for the loan of the dog for a few days."

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE GREAT WAR EXHIBIT?

To those who have seen the great War Exhibit now being shown at Vancouver under the auspices of the Dominion Government, such expressions of returned men as "minenwerfer" "sausages" "rum jars" and "whiz bangs" and other odd phrases now mean something. In the life of every one of the present generation. These and other words descriptive of the murderous implements of war of the Huns will alway be used and if the exhibition has done nothing else it has filled a long-felt want in illustrating in a practical way the meaning of strange words from the parlance of the soldier.

As for the hundreds of photographs of battlefield scenes they form an excellent supplement to all one has ever read or been told about the fighting in France, especially of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where the Canadian troops gained such a glorious victory at such a terrific sacrifice.

The exhibition closes March 1.

Nelson is the sweetest town in B. C. The jam factory in that place put up 400,000 pounds of jam this last year and now the company is planning for improvements to the plant that will cost $18,000.—Ex.

Mission City is another "sweet town"; it is the home of the best jam in Canada.

SUMNER

CASH BUTCHER

Farmers Phone 1909

Abbotsford, B.C.

License No. 9-12923

Ridgedale Notes

Ridgedale has recently welcomed home Flight Lt. Harold Alsh, Pte. Andrew Wells, L.-C. Arthur Townell and Cadets Claude Farr, M. M., and Ernest Hallding. Farr and Hallding were wounded by the same shell and the former, regardless of his own pain carried his pall from the field.

Before going overseas Farr won the B. C. military championship for running and shortly after he reached England was presented with a medal by King George—second prize in a seven mile race.

Lt. Frank Machell, M. C., M. M., was the officer chosen from the 29th to carry the Colors across the Rhine and into Germany.

"The Saturday Evening Post" for less than five cents a copy, $2.50 a year. "The Country Gentleman" for less than four cents a copy, $1.75 a year, including postage. A. R. Dorais 632 Broadway West, Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. W. J. Creighton of New Westminster was a visitor to Mission City today. He is looking well.

Mrs. McCabe of Skyhomish is visiting her sister Mrs. Thomas.

Can Abbotsford, of course it can, get up a quintette of young fellows about nineteen or twenty who would be able to carry off the honors in Basket Ball. Milner, Matsqui and Mission appear to be getting awfully excited over Basket Ball.

NOTICE

In the Matter of the Estate of John McEwen, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that all persons having any claim or demand against the estate of the above named deceased, late of Abbotsford, in the Province of British Columbia, who died on the 9th day of November 1918, are required to send in particulars of their claims, properly verified, to James Adam McGowan and John Franklin Boyd, executors of the will of said deceased, addressed to the said James Adam McGowan, at Abbotsford, B. C., on or before the 20th day of March, 1919, after which date the aid executors will proceed to distribute and deal with the estate having regard only to such claims as shall have been received on the said date.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1919.

HARRIS, BULL & MASON,
Solicitors for the Executors

f7-m22.

Use Lee's Groceries

The choice of a grocer is one of the most important factors in the household economy. Once Lee's patron, always Lee's patron.

This is the Pure Food Grocery of Abbotsford. Our Bread, Butter, Teas Fresh Vegetables and Eggs are without a peer in Abbotsford.

We deliver the goods and our customers eliminate extra expenses.

CANADA FOOD BOARD

License No. 8-28532 License No. 5-1088

ALBERT LEE, Grocer and Baker

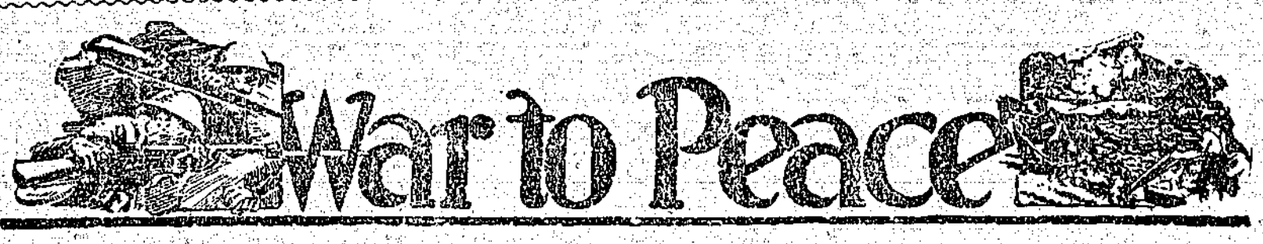
See me now about that Insurance

FIRE :-: LIFE

Etc., Etc.

I have a large and splendid supply of Raspberry Canes for sale at low prices. Finest quality.

A. McCallum
Abbotsford



Make The Returning Soldier Welcome

THIS is an important hour for Canada. The nation is entering on a new era. It is passing from war to peace. Let us start this new era right. There are thousands of soldiers returning from overseas. The Government is doing all in its power to get these men back to civil life.

It is giving a *War Service Gratuity*—more than any other nation—to keep the soldier going till he gets a job.

It gives him a pension—where his usefulness is impaired by his service.

It *teaches a man a new trade* when his service unfits him for his former trade.

It *gives him free medical treatment* when illness recurs, and supplies free artificial limbs and surgical appliances.

It is bringing back to Canada at the public expense the *soldiers' dependents* now overseas.

But the Government, however willing, cannot provide the personal touch needed in this work of repatriation. That must be given by the people themselves.

The men who went from these parts to fight in Flanders deserve a real welcome home—the best we can give.

In most towns committees of citizens have already been organized to meet the soldiers and their dependents at the station, to provide hot meals, supply automobiles, afford temporary accommodation when necessary.

In addition, many other towns are organizing social gatherings to give public welcome to returned men after they have been home a few days.

After he has rested, the soldier must be provided with an opportunity for employment. In towns of 10,000 population, Public Employment Offices have been established to help soldiers, as well as war-workers, secure good jobs quickly. Where these exist, citizens should co-operate. Where they do not exist, the citizens themselves should help put the soldier in touch with employment.

* * *

The fighting job is done. It has cost many a heart-burning. But it has been well done. The least we can do is to show our appreciation in no uncertain manner.

Don't let the welcome die away with the cheers.

FROM WAR TO PEACE

The Repatriation Committee

OTTAWA

THE MAN WHO THINKS HE CAN reach the farmers worth reaching in this part of the Fraser Valley without advertising in this paper is—*mistaken.*

Every Farmer who is worth while and has money to spend is a subscriber to this family journal.

CIRCULATION—almost every home in Mission, Hatzic, Silverdale, Matsqui and other points in the surrounding district: 25¢ to 35¢ an inch, column width.

Alexandria Hotel

Farmers' and Travelers trade solicited.
Newly Furnished
Thoroughly Modern

M. MURPHY, PROPRIETOR
HUNTINGDON, B. C.

BUTTER WRAPPERS

Now is the time to get your supply of Butter Wrappers for summer months.

Get them at BATES' PRINTING OFFICE.