

# FROM MANSION AND HUT CANADIANS FLOCK TO THE FLAG



PART OF CANADIAN REGIMENT OF HIGHLANDERS

## Sons of Millionaires and of Laborers Touch Elbows in the Ranks of Troops Now Being Trained and Hardened for Service with British Army.

By H. M. S. MCOY.

FOR the first time in the remembrance of this or the previous generation Canada finds itself in a state of war. We have passed through the various phases which are concomitant with such conditions. First, wild and unthinking enthusiasm, then, undue depression, and, finally, a steady down to business and serious effort to aid, to the best of our power, the Motherland.

Early in August, when war was declared, the crowds before the bulletins were immense. Newspapers used lanterns to flash on huge sheets the reports received from England and the Continent. From dark to midnight crowds waited, jamming the streets, for the latest news. Then came the declaration of war by Great Britain and the subsequent outburst of enthusiasm. In the evenings the crowds stood before the newspapers' offices and between bulletins sang "Rule Britannia" and the "Marseillaise," and even made horrific attempts at the Russian national anthem. Then toward 10 or 11 o'clock, when the bulletins became fewer, some one would shout "Let's have a parade!" and a score or more would form the nucleus of a tinpan banding, flag waving, shouting, singing and cheering throng, which would march, four abreast, through the downtown streets. Frequently a fife and drum corps (usually from one of the Orange lodges) would join the procession, with the immediate effect of doubling the number of the four-abreast marchers.

### THE MEANING OF WAR BEGINS TO BE REALIZED.

This phase was, however, of short duration. Soon factories started to close down and men began to realize what the war meant, and our dispatches from England showed that this was no mere parade of armies, but something which was vital to Canada, and not only to Canada but to the whole North American continent. Then came the depression of spirit. Men out of work, families without support and still more factories closing down.

Following this depression there was the settling down to business and the serious effort to aid the empire to the best of our ability, not only in supplying men and money, but to join with the United States in carrying on the commerce of the world.

Quietly and without demonstration a call for volunteers was issued. And the result was surprising to peace lovers and militarists alike. The armories of all the cities of Canada were overrun by men and boys anxious to be part of the overseas force. One perspiring recruiting sergeant remarked to me, "I say, y'know, if I try to take all these blokes' names I'll jolly well be 'ere all night." He was! But did one ever know a British army ex-non-com. who would not growl and grumble and protest—and do all that was necessary and a little bit more?

Our recruiting system in Canada is, however, a simple affair. The applicant's name is taken at one of the regimental company rooms at the armories; a printed form is filled out by the recruiting sergeant, giving name, address, etc., which form is handed over to an orderly, who accompanies the applicant to the regimental orderly room, where the applicant is measured as to height and chest circumference, and is asked by the orderly commanding for details of previous service, if any. At the present time, of course, men with previous service records are given the preference over raw volunteers for the overseas forces.

Following the formality of the orderly room the applicant who qualifies becomes a recruit and is passed on to the regimental instructor for a grounding in the ordinary routine drill. The recruit goes through drill instruction for two hours on three nights of the week, and this period of instruction lasts for from three weeks to one month. Though the recruits are not supplied with uniforms, they are supplied with the regulation army rifle and are put through not only the regulation parade and company drill but are trained in skirmishing and picket duty and in the use of the rifle.

Having completed this primary course of instruction, the recruit is sworn in, taking at the same time the oath of allegiance to the King and empire, and so becomes a private of the Canadian militia. This is the regular routine which every militiaman encounters in joining an infantry regiment in peace time, and which is followed by a weekly regimental drill and a two-week period at camp. The camp is made from the ground up. The troops go over and establish themselves, living as though on a battle front, or as nearly as possible to that condition; cavalry, infantry, engineers and medical corps all practise to the best of their ability at the annual camp.

At the present time, however, the usual drill, rifle practice and training are only the beginning of the making of the member of the overseas force. Each week end regiments march (not ride) from their local armories to an encampment ground some ten or twelve miles from the city, where they pitch their own tents, make proper sanitary arrangements and establish themselves as a base camp. During the next day or so the detachment entrench themselves against supposed attack, with the aid of the sappers (or engineers), extend in skirmishing order, defend themselves against cavalry, practise on the rifle ranges, and so on. The artillery usually have their own

ranges to fire over, and our encampments are, as a general rule, so arranged as to offer opportunity for the engineers to construct pontoon bridges, erect earthworks and otherwise to apply practically the theoretic training of their corps.

This theoretic and practical course of training for infantry, cavalry and engineering corps is being carried on week in and week out and continues until such time as volunteers for active service overseas are called for. Volunteers for the overseas force must pass a most rigid medical examination to prove their fitness for active service, though the examination is not now quite so severe as at the beginning of the war, when a man was refused on account of defective teeth and protested that "I don't want to eat the bloomin' Germans, I want to shoot 'em!"

Such volunteers as are passed by the medical officers are taken in hand by the General Staff and their appointees at one of the concentration camps. In the case of the first contingent only one concentration camp was established, that at Valcartier, in the Laurentian Hills of Quebec, where 33,000 men lived under canvas for about six weeks, establishing their camp on ground entirely unprepared, save that it had been cleared of standing timber. The camp at Valcartier, being high in the hills, was decidedly cold, and the men encountered practically all the rigors of actual campaigning for the six weeks or so before they set sail for England. In spite of the hard work and the possibility of discomfort, however, the militia regiments in Canada are positively embarrassed by the number of volunteers offering themselves for the second contingent, which is to number 20,000 men.

### DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR IN TORONTO.

During the early days of the war the armories in Toronto, which have a floor space of more than two acres, were simply packed solid with men clamoring to enlist, and even now, three months after the outbreak of hostilities and with the realization of the probable severity of the coming winter campaign, the recruiting sergeants are busy until nearly midnight. All our regiments are overstrength, in spite of the men who have gone to the front, and it has all been done without posters calling for recruits, without advertisements in the newspapers—nothing but the general sentiment of the people to call the men to the colors.

It is worthy of note that men of all classes have answered the call. From Montreal three millionaires' sons left with their regiments. In Toronto one millionaire's son gave up his command in the first contingent in order that he might instruct a class of officers for the second overseas force, which class included the Corporation Counsel of the city of Toronto, as well as half a dozen of the most prominent men of the city.

An exemplification of the feeling of Canada came under my notice when the first detachment of the Queen's Own Rifles left for Valcartier. An old lady, nearly seventy years of age, stood before the armories watching for her grandson, her only living relative, to come out with his company. When his file swung through the great doors she stepped alongside and announced that she was going to walk down to the station with him. The large and blushing private protested, quite unavailingly, that she should not walk so

far, but the old lady lifted her head a trifle and announced that if her boy could go to the front she certainly could walk to the station to bid him and his comrades goodbye.

So much for our first contingent. We are now forming a second contingent of 16,000 men, which is to go to the front as soon as the preliminary military training is completed. Following this, it is the purpose of the Canadian government to keep 30,000 men in training and under arms, dispatching 10,000 men at a time as opportunity offers.

In the meantime the rawest of the raw recruits are being drilled by the long suffering regimental instructors in the various cities of Canada. In Toronto the armories are situated on the edge of what is practically the slum district, and as a considerable proportion of the evolutions are conducted on an open square the foreign population derives considerable amusement therefrom. It is, however, worthy of note that the foreigners' criticisms are almost invariably good-natured. I say "almost" advisedly, inasmuch as a few nights ago an English woman wandered up and watched the "Johnnie Raw" recruits going through the "Present, Aim, Fire" drill, and then the "Fire as you will," all operations being directed against the blank wall of the armories. After looking scornfully for a few minutes she remarked to the world at large: "My awnt! Look wot they're a-sendin' to defend the bloomin' hempire!" The boys made heroic efforts to preserve proper military impassiveness, but it must be admitted that the whole squad shook visibly. Even the sergeant coughed.

### A PEACEFUL NATION TURNS ITS THOUGHTS TO WAR.

Before the outbreak of this war Canada was one of the most pacific of nations, but now things are entirely changed. Men and women, boys and girls, and even little children are permeated with the desire to aid in some way. We have grown quite accustomed to having our waterworks and wireless stations patrolled night and day by detachments of soldiers with fixed bayonets and prepared with ball cartridges. In Montreal, Port Arthur, Midland and other grain centres the grain elevators are likewise guarded day and night. In Montreal particularly there have been numerous German spy scares, rumors of attempts to blow up grain elevators, the waterworks, harbor works and a rumor of an effort to poison the water supply. There were for a time reports of attempts to blow up the Welland Canal and to destroy the Sault Ste. Marie locks, but little or no attention is paid to these sensational yarns. It is, however, the part of prudence to guard the locks, waterworks, wireless and so on, and, in addition, it gives the volunteers some experience in doing "sentry go" for three or four hours at a time.

Aside from the action of the organized bodies

there has been formed what is known as "The Home Guard" association, in which any citizen is entitled to enrolment. In Toronto this home guard now numbers something over 2,000 members, and is beyond doubt the most democratic organization in the Dominion of Canada. At the church parade, which was held last Sunday, it was to be observed that prominent bankers, brokers and merchants walked side by side with hodcarriers and coalheavers. And this is by no means a mere surface democracy, inasmuch as promotion from the ranks depends entirely upon efficiency and executive ability, and your banker who refuses to allow a laborer to overdraw his account to-day may to-night be taking orders from that same laborer and jumping to obey them because the laborer has been appointed a sergeant. It may perhaps, at the first glance, appear impossible that a manual laborer should exhibit greater efficiency than a more highly educated man, but it must be remembered that here in Canada we have quantities of English, Irish and Scotch who have seen actual service in the imperial army, and, since the Home Guard is based upon the theory of individual value and efficiency, the total reversal of the whole social and commercial status of the members is quite understandable. (Our Home Guard will be glad to welcome Count von Bernstorff almost any day!)

One feature of the war situation in Canada which is of intimate interest to the United States is the Army Remount Station which has been established in Toronto, and which is probably the largest horse mart in the world to-day, passing through as it does some twelve thousand horses a month, a large proportion of which come to us from the United States. I met, for instance, an Iowan a few days ago who exhibited all the signs of a lively satisfaction, having just disposed of a shipment of two thousand horses at the big corrals in West Toronto. The price paid for remounts is fixed by the British government at \$175 a horse, but in some cases as high as \$225 is paid for heavy artillery horses. This latter price is, however, paid only in exceptional cases.

The selection of horses for the army is no light task and it is under the personal direction of Brigadier General Lessard and a staff of veterinary surgeons. General Lessard is of the opinion that a horse fit for the army is about one horse in a hundred. And his opinion is absolute at the remount station. Interviewed at the corrals, General Lessard said:

"In Toronto we are purchasing horses for both cavalry and artillery. A cavalry horse must be light, but solid. He must have a good, deep body, one that will hold plenty of food. A horse that needed feeding every four hours wouldn't last a week in active service. He must have, as well as depth of body, good, stanch legs, but not so heavy

that he is not agile, for a regiment is just as fast as its slowest horse. He must not have the slightest semblance of weakness in his legs, and he must not be so tall that he makes a screen of his rider and shuts off the view of the man behind.

"Artillery horses are of six kinds—light horse artillery, field artillery and heavy artillery, each divided into leaders and wheelers. A light artillery horse must be fast, sure-footed and at the same time strong and tough. He must be able to run at a full gallop with a man on his back, while pulling a fair load. The field artillery horse must be able to make fast, short charges over very rough ground, to take field guns into and out of action. He is often called upon to make very quick stops and sharp turns, and he is really the hardest horse to get. The heavy artillery horses are powerful and slower moving, but at the same time must not be heavy-footed. Each of these classes of horse is divided into two—there must be leaders and wheelers for each grade of artillery. The leaders are not hampered by the heavy poles of the gun, and are expected to do much of the pulling and must also pick the way. The middle horses—for each gun is pulled by a team of six—are somewhat the same, but the wheelers are heavier, with more solid haunches upon which the gun can be brought to a sudden stop.

"If I think a horse fits into any of these classes then, as far as I am concerned, he may be purchased. The rest is left to the doctors, who look into the physical fitness and condition of the horse. Take him away; he is too poor. The brute will get thin fast enough at the front without starting out that way. No, he won't do; I can get my fingers around his front ankle. Too small boned. That's a nice little horse. Why don't you bring some more like him. Saddle him up. Watch this horse carefully, doctor; I'm a

little suspicious of him." And the string of comment continued. General Lessard had very little more time to explain the attributes of an army horse, so I just stood back and listened. Much was learned from what was heard. In a flash he had spotted little weaknesses that placed a horse in the rejected class, or equally quickly he had decided that the animal was just about right.

Sometimes the general pronounced the horse unfit before it stopped in front of him, but ordinarily his assistant called the age, the animal was walked and trotted and carefully scrutinized before the verdict was announced.

Age is an important factor in determining the suitability of an army horse. He must be neither old nor young, but he must be well seasoned. A four-year-old, however stanch and suitable he may appear, must not be bought, as his muscles are not hard enough to stand the strain of active service. If he is over nine years he also is unable to "make the grade," unless exceptionally free from blemishes.

The spirit throughout Canada is quietly confident and no rancor is being exhibited toward individuals of the enemies' countries who happen to reside in Canada. Reservists of either the German or Austrian armies are, of course, detained by the military authorities, but they are well treated, and, indeed, many of the working class aliens have expressed a feeling of gratitude in that they are well fed and well housed at a time when work is so scarce.

We are feeling the pinch of war in Canada, but we are looking forward to the ultimate outcome in a spirit of confident optimism. In the meantime we are meeting patiently the necessities of the time, restricting our expenditures and working heart and soul for the good of the empire.

### UNCLE SAM'S DIPLOMATS IN THE WAR

Continued from first page.

dent say it was like a buzz saw cutting soft pine.

When the present administration turned out the diplomats it spared the consuls general and consuls. It was fortunate for the State Department that it showed this self-control, and fortunate for thousands of Americans who, when the war cloud burst, were scattered all over Europe. Our consuls rose to the crisis and rounded them up, supplied them with funds, special trains and letters of identification, and when they were arrested rescued them from jail. Under fire from shells and during days of bombardment the American consuls in France and Belgium remained at their posts and protected the people of many nationalities confided to their care. Only one showed the white feather. He first removed himself from his post, and then was removed still further from it by the State Department. All the other American consuls I met or heard of in Belgium, France and England were covering themselves with glory and bringing credit to their country. Nothing disturbed their calm, and at no hour could you catch them idle or reluctant to help a fellow countryman. Their office hours were from 12 to 12, and each consulate had taken out an all night license and

thrown away the key. With four other Americans I was forced to rout one consul out of bed at 2 in the morning. He was Colonel Albert W. Swalm, of Iowa, but of late years our representative at Southampton. That port was in the military zone, and before an American could leave it for Havre it was necessary that his passport should be vised in London by the French and Belgian consuls general and in Southampton by Colonel Swalm. We arrived in Southampton at 2 in the morning to learn that the boat left at 4, and that unless, in the interval, we obtained the autograph and seal of Colonel Swalm she would sail without us.

In the darkness we set forth to seek our consul, and we found that difficult as it was to leave the docks by sea it was just as difficult by land. In war time 2 o'clock in the morning is no hour for honest men to prow around wharves. So we were given to understand by very wide awake sentries with bayonets, policemen and enthusiastic special constables. They received us in a way that made trying to force an entrance to the Rockefeller home at Tarrytown as agreeable as reading "Welcome" on a mat. But at last we reached the consulate and laid siege. One man pressed the electric button, kicked the door and pounded with the knocker, others hurled pebbles at the upper windows, and the fifth stood in the road and sang "Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light."

A policeman came along and arrested us for throwing stones at the consular sign. We explained that we had hit the sign by accident while aiming at the windows, and that in any case it was the inalienable right of Americans to stone their own consul's sign if they felt like it. He said he always had understood we were a free people, but, "without meaning any disrespect to you, sir, throwing stones at your consul's coat of arms is almost, as you might say, sir, making too free." He then told us Colonel Swalm lived in the suburbs, and in a taxicab started us toward him.

Scantly but decorously clad, Colonel Swalm received us and greeted us as courteously as though we had come to present him with a loving cup. He acted as though our pulling him out of bed at 2 in the morning was intended as a compliment. As for affixing the seal to our passports he refused to accept any fee. We protested that the consuls general of all other nations were demanding fees. "I know," he said, "but I have never thought it right to fine a man for being an American."

Of our ambassadors and representatives in countries in Europe other than France and Belgium I have not written, because during this war I have not visited those countries. But of them, also, all men speak well. At the last election one of them was a candidate for the United States Senate. He was not elected. The reason is obvious. It is that the people at home are so well pleased with him and our other ambassadors in Europe that while the war continues, they would keep them where they are.

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"DOUBLE QUICK"