

BARON BYNG IS COMING TO CANADA

Famous Hero of Vimy Ridge to Be Governor-General; He Likes Canadians

BY MILTON BRONNER
LONDON, July 23.—Baron Byng, the Tanks sails for America August 2.
The immortal hero of Vimy Ridge—the British general who for the first time in history unleashed a fleet of battle tanks at Cambrai and routed a superior force of awe-struck Germans—comes to Canada to assume his new duties as governor general for five years.
I asked him to talk to me about himself, his plans, his hopes and aspirations—always a hard thing for a man who has done big things to consent to do.
HE'S 59, STRAIGHT AS A LINE



BYNG

Picture him—59 years old, straight as a line, almost six feet, with dark brown hair, scarcely showing any gray; a dark brown mustache, and friendly smiling blue eyes. All the time he talks he puffs at a little briar pipe which has gone thru many a battle with him.
"I expect to be sworn in at Quebec, Aug. 19 and to be in Ottawa on August 11," he says. "I have never held a diplomatic position before. I am not a diplomat, but I think my good friends, the Canadians, will pull me out of holes as they have done before."
"Canada's a democratic country, like the United States," I ventured. "They will take to you because you are democratic."
EVERYBODY HAS TO BE DEMOCRATIC
"Oh, everybody has to be democratic these days. Did you ever hear of the word post-war-dom? That is the condition of all the civilized world. It means that since the war the world is more democratic, people are democratic, institutions are democratic, it's an age of more simplicity. It's also an age of more criticism. "People take a man only for what he is, not for what he was born, nor for what he imagines him-

self to be.
"The thing I am proud of about this appointment to Canada is that the Canadians themselves wanted me. They asked for me. And if anybody knows me, it's the Canadians. They were a real fighting lot."
"When the king conferred the peerage upon me, I said I wanted to be called Baron Byng of Vimy in commemoration of the great battle of Vimy Ridge the Canadian troops fought. But I didn't want to take the title unless the Canadians were satisfied I should. So I sent word to them and got a very satisfactory answer."

I asked him whether he was going to visit us while he was governor general.
"I can't," he replied. "It's an unwritten rule that the governor general does not leave Canada. His wife can, his staff can, but not he."
"Still, I can go down and look at the most wonderful frontier in the world—the Canadian-United States border which has never had its parallel. Three thousand miles with not a soldier, nor a fort, nor a gun on either side, but everywhere the signs of amity and peace. That's a wonderful object lesson for the world."
JOINED ARMY BACK IN 1882

Julian Byng joined the army in 1882, saw service in the Sudan and in the Boer war, becoming a colonel. At the outbreak of the big war he was in command of the British troops in Egypt. He fought in France and Gallipoli. Returning to France as a lieutenant general, he had command of the 17th corps and in May, 1916, was given command of the Canadian corps with which his name is chiefly associated. With them he won the great surprise battle of Cambrai with the tanks. He was made a full general and in the final campaign of 1918 his army held the line north of the Somme and won some crushing victories against the Germans.

The government made him a peer, gave him the thanks of parliament and a grant of 30,000 pounds. In August, 1919, he resigned from the army to become chairman of the United Service Fund, formed to administer the proceeds from profits made by army and navy canteens. The fund is used to assist disabled soldiers and sailors and their widows and dependents.

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