

THIS SOLDIER WILL NOT FIGHT IN THE BRITISH ARMY AGAIN

Mr. Albert Collins of Kinmount,
Fresh From South Africa
Talks of Events and Con-
ditions There

After an absence of three years, most of which time was spent amid the perils of war, Mr. Albert Collins returned to his home in Somerville, near Kinmount, on Tuesday evening of last week. Mr. Collins was with the Canadian Constabulary force, and served with it till a few months ago. He was under Col. Kekewick, one of the most successful cavalry leaders on the British side, and took part in a good many encounters with the Boers. He says they were very good riders with surprising ability to conceal themselves, and to take advantage of opportunities. A good deal of looting and farm burning was done by Mr. Collins' troop. In one instance he entered a house where there were six women. He was about to carry away a pretty manure sett when one of the women grabbed him by the neck, and then the whole bunch beat him until he was compelled to give up his prize. The constabulary were only two hours' ride away when the battle of Harts River was fought where Major Mulligan of Durham was killed. They were riding to meet General Methuen, but by the time they reached the scene of the fight it was deserted.

ON A HUNTING EXPEDITION

After the war the force did police work in the north, and a party, of which Mr. Collins was a member, went on a hunting expedition well up the Zambesi river. On the banks of the Limpopo, two alligators took one of their horses. Those reptiles were swimming in the river, and the hunters kept a fire burning at night to keep them away from the camp. The low, but dense woods abounded with game. Lions, deer, leopards, tigers, and large serpents were very plentiful. One serpent 40 feet long was killed, and its skin was brought south. They got also a couple of wild boars.

LOTS OF IDLE MEN

It was upon the present social conditions in South Africa, however, that Mr. Collins talked most interestingly. "The Boers get everything now," said he. "They were never so well off before in their lives. The repatriation scheme has been fully carried out. The Boers have been settled on the land and supplied

everything they need. It is the loyalists that are suffering now. Many of them sacrificed their all for the British cause, and are getting nothing in return. This causes a good deal of dissatisfaction. Johannesburg is a storm centre. The Jews—the people by the way for whom Britain made the war—own everything and lord it over everybody. They are agitating for the introduction of Asiatic labor to work in the mines, and will not give the white men work who are almost starving. There were 10,000 idle white in Johannesburg when I left it late in October. If Asiatic labor comes in there you will see a revolution, and I should not be surprised if occurs anyway.

A great many British people have gone into Africa since the war. Ships both to and from Africa are loaded. I think it is at present a good place to keep away from. A man can't get a job there unless he has a pull or a good many letters of introduction. If you apply for a position you are expected to have a recommendation from some nobleman or other. A man has no chance on his merits at all like he has in Canada. Some Englishmen and some Canadians took advantage of the government's offer to establish settlers on farms. They had got things nicely going when some officials came along looking on for a few days, and then took control. They explained that they had been appointed by the government to do so. As a result the would-be farmers all threw up the job.

Mr. Collins has a brother a conductor on the railway line between Johannesburg and Delagoa Bay. He went to Africa before the war, and is doing very well. After leaving the constabulary Mr. Collins managed to get a job in the yards of one of the railways, and finally became foreman. His work was not very heavy and he got \$125 a month, but had to pay \$40 of it for board and lodging.

Mr. Collins complains that though when he enlisted it was with the understanding that after the war he should get free passage home, he could not get it, and had to spend \$300 coming home. That is only one of the actions of the British government that, combined, have rather soured Mr. Collins on the job of soldiering. He has a bad dose of that disgust with British army methods, that so many of our Canadians come home with. "You'll never find me fighting for the British government any more if I can help it," said he. Likely it is a good thing that our lads' first important taste of soldiering abroad has made most of them heartily sick of it.

you to discover that the most of Life's desires realized are nothing more than the sweetmeats of the confectioner?

"So eat your candy, my boy, and be happy, for it is all too true that there is no royal road to learning. You are not a peculiar lad, you are but one of a host led captive by desire. True, this host does not look in store windows, and flattening their nostrils against the pane, wish for pennies to buy taffy with, but each one is tempted by desire in some peculiar fashion.

"Yet the world is but a window after all, little boy, and we are the grown up children.

"Now, here are some led to the arena of politics. They strut a bit, they orate, debate, and plan, and perchance, my boy, as you secured the candy, so they secure the front rank in the ballot. But, my lad, they, too, find the pleasure is largely in the anticipation, even as you found delight when copper in hand, you hurried back to buy that candy. Yes, my boy, the hurrahs are well, the torchlight procession, the cheers, and the flush of victory are sweet, but torchlights dim, cheers die, and the flush pales. The glory fades, melts, my boy, as that candy melted upon your palate.

"It is empty, lad; yes, very empty. "And some, my boy, are allured by riches, and see in the possession of wealth great joy.

"They strive and they secure. "They strive for coupons, for notes and bonds and first mortgages, and when they have them, little boy, they do not find the joy that they expected. You are not old enough yet to understand these things, but some day you will learn that the gold is cold, and very heavy. And who can tell the desires of man, and number them, or describe the passions and their power?

"You looked for candy, my boy, and you got it. "The whole world is hungry, the whole world is striving to fill a void. Some search for rest in books, some in sports, some in theaters, and some in churches. And in all this, little boy, are to be seen but grown up children nose against the pane. They seek something to tickle the fancy, to soothe or please.

"Yes, lad, in the ripper years, you will find that desire will fall, and that it is not in the store window that lasting satisfaction may be found."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

The Orillia Packet Does not Appreciate
the New Rule Saying That He
May be a Canadian

(The Orillia Packet)

The newly-obtained right to appoint a Canadian to the command of the militia is at best a doubtful privilege. It is not the fault of Canadian officers that they have not the opportunity to gain a thorough practical knowledge of military organization and science; and it has been to Canada's advantage that she has been able to secure the services of the experienced Imperial officers for the command of her militia. We should have been glad to see a Canadian who had qualified by service in the Imperial army in command of our volunteers. But it is to be feared that the new powers which have been rung from the British government by the Minister of Militia will give further scope for wire-pulling, "influence" and partisanism in the administration of the country's defence force, elements which are fatal to efficiency. Some recent exercises of "patronage" on the part of Sir Frederick Borden will not add to such considerations; his freedom from such considerations, besides, an Imperial officer in command is the last link that keeps the Canadian militia in touch with the Empire's defensive organization. Altogether it would be just as well if the new powers are allowed to lie dormant.

Another View

(Kingston News, Dec. 17)

A military gentleman speaking yesterday said: "I am of the opinion that the last Officer Commanding for the Canadian Militia has been brought from England. You will see that at the expiration of the time of Lord Dundonald a Canadian will be appointed, and I would not be a bit surprised if that Canadian will be Colonel Sam Hughes. He is well thought of in the army, knows thoroughly the practical side of a soldier's life, and in fact has been rightly called the "soldier's friend." A more popular appointment, and one which would be of more benefit to the army could not be made."

THE COLONEL SAYS "NO"

On reading the above, Col. Hughes remarked: "No, my ambition does not run along those lines. In my opinion the G. O. C. in Canada should be an officer of experience, preferably with Imperial training. The drawback to the vast majority of regular officers whether colonial or Imperial is that their training gets them into narrow grooves. But there are exceptions. Lord Dundonald the present G. O. C., is in all respects an ideal officer. May he long remain in Canada is my wish."

Winnipeg's buffalo herd escaped from the corral at Silver Heights on Monday, and are now wandering over the prairie near Starbuck. Men have gone to recapture the herd.

MENELIK KING OF ABYSSINIA MAKES FREE ALL SLAVES' CHILDREN

The African King's Scheme For Abolishing Serfdom—He is an Intelligent Man

William N. Ellis has arrived in London from Abyssinia and will sail for the United States in a few days. Upon his arrival there he will proceed direct to Washington and deliver to the Department of State a letter from Emperor Menelik welcoming Americans to Abyssinia "in peace and without fear." Mr. Ellis assured the representative of the Mail and Empire that Mr. Robt. P. Skinner, the American Consul-General at Marseilles, who is now in Abyssinia, would find the negotiation of a treaty with Menelik very easily. The Emperor is very favorably inclined to establish business relations with the United States. Menelik extended a very cordial welcome to Mr. Ellis upon his arrival at Addis Ybeba the Abyssinian capital, and allotted a palace to him for his residence. During his stay Mr. Ellis was granted twenty audiences. He found that Menelik was alert and intelligent and conversant with European affairs, knowledge of which he gathered from the diplomats of the various countries, but his knowledge of America was deficient.

TO ABOLISH SLAVERY

He was very much interested in Mr. Ellis' narrative concerning American affairs, especially the development of the colored race from slaves to the status of the whites. Upon hearing of President Lincoln's liberation of slaves tears came into his eyes, and he insisted that the story be told to him a second time, exclaiming "What a great man." He explained that he was abolishing slavery gradually. He said: "I cannot do as Lincoln did; it would upset things too much, but I have decreed that while those at present slaves shall remain such, their children shall not be slaves. Thus will it disappear."

What above all impressed Menelik favorably, said Mr. Ellis, was the attitude of the Americans. They did not seek territory in Abyssinia. On this subject the Emperor said: "Other nations come to Africa like sons of their fathers, saying, 'Father, you are going to make a will and leave us something.' He added that America was alone without land in Africa, and wanted none. She only wanted liberty of trade.

IS NOT A SAVAGE

Mr. Ellis was emphatic in declaring that there is nothing suggesting barbarism at Menelik's court. The Emperor wears European clothes, and a felt hat of American shape. The Empress and court ladies were dressed in Paris models. The palace is a comfortable frame building of Swiss architecture. It has baths and other modern conveniences, and furniture of the Louis XVI. period is predominant.

Mr. Ellis was impressed with the commercial possibilities. The country, he says, is remarkably suited to cotton-growing. Minerals, including gold and coal, are abundant, and the deposits are practically untouched. There are some 120 articles that could be exported from the United States to Abyssinia, but cotton is the staple. Between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 worth of American cotton was imported in 1902 from France and England. There is no reason why this amount should not be quadrupled in three years under the management of enterprising Americans. The Abyssinians are willing to adopt western materials and dress if they can be obtained. In bidding farewell to Mr. Ellis the Emperor said: "God surely sent you here. Come again."

MAN FROZEN TO DEATH

In a Blinding Snowstorm a Farm Hand
Perished Near Owen Sound

Paul Bokash, a farm laborer, was frozen to death on a side line near Owen Sound, early on Sunday morning of last week. The body was found on Monday at noon, but particulars did not reach the coroner until Wednesday. He decided that an inquest was unnecessary. Bokash, with two companions, Wm. Watertown and a man named Roadhouse, left in a cutter for home on Saturday evening. The road runs northward a short distance from Georgian Bay, and a freezing snowstorm swept across the water, chilling the men to the bone. They finally turned down the side line within a couple miles of their home, when the cutter became stalled. Watertown left his two companions, and after a thrilling experience reached home on foot at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning. Bokash and Roadhouse made another desperate attempt to get through, but failing, they unhitched the horse and abandoned the cutter. Roadhouse struggled through the storm and reached home at 4 a.m. Bokash did not appear. His body was found the next day forty rods from the cutter, lying on fallen after a last struggle to regain his feet. He had no overcoat, and his hands were bare, and it seems as though he had been trying to reach shelter in the Scott farmhouse nearby.

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THERE ARE TWO CLASSES OF COWS: THEY ARE INDICATED BY MAKE-UP

The Beef Type and the Dairy Type Should be Distinguished by Those Who Seek the Products of Either One

Secretary Winslow of the American Ayrshire Association recently read a paper from which the following paragraphs are extracts:

While we have various so-called breeds of cattle, there are two distinct divisions which might be laid down dividing them into two classes—the producer of beef, and the producer of dairy products; and we find structural differences in the highest type of each, which indicate inherent capacity, and we find, as a rule, that irrespective of breeds, the same structural difference is followed by the same comparative difference in the result.

BEEF-STEER A MISER

Take the animals of the highest type on beef production, we find that all their parts that are non-essential are eliminated, or reduced to a minimum—head small and bony horns either entirely gone or of small size, bones small and of fine texture, neck short, back and ribs compact, and closely set together, and in fact the whole structure put together on the most economical plan of saving everything and losing nothing, and the body, as you look at it standing, presenting the form of an oblong square box, simply leaving out the head, neck and legs. The beef animal might be called a miser, hoarding up all its gains, and giving up nothing except with the surrender of life, often not even giving milk enough to raise its own offspring, while on the other hand the highest type of the dairy producer, as we find in all breeds, has a comparatively uniform structure that in most parts is directly the opposite from the beef producer, but with the non-essential parts quite similar—head small and bony horns small, bones small and of fine texture, neck long and slim, with strong junction with the head, clean throat, shoulders light and thin, withers sharp, with back bone rising above the blades, ribs arching out and swelling immediately after leaving the shoulders giving abundant room for the heart and lungs, and the whole formation of ribs gradually enlarging to the hind quarters, giving plenty of room for food, the ribs being wide and flat, and with considerable space between them. The backbone is strong and corrugated, showing a looseness to the touch, hips wide, pelvic arch high, rump bones wide spread, tail long and slim, flanks high and arched, open between thighs and incurving, giving plenty of room for the udder, legs short, bones flat, udder capacious, running well forward and back, with the four quarters, of uniform size, teats of medium length and of good size, and uniform from udder to end, placed wide apart at the four corners of the udder, milk veins large, long and tortuous, entering the abdomen through one or more large holes on either side, being equal in size and length. Color conforming to requirements of the breed.

In studying the outward form of the cows of all breeds that have given the highest yields at the dairy, you will find them lacking in that shapeliness ascribed to the beef animal, and which to a beef breeder would be considered homely and ill-shaped.

It has always seemed that the breeder of beef cattle was trying to obtain the highest results at the pail from a beef type and let go the straight contour of the beef producer with the greatest reluctance.

DAIRY AND SHOW RING
It is almost proverbial that a great producer in the dairy breeds stands no show in the ring beside her more shapely sister of the beef type in winning the ribbons which should denote superiority. I have heard our Canadian cousins in the ring, condemn a rumped boomed Ayrshire cow, regardless of her milking appearance, because her horns

were not characteristic of the breed, and should be upright.

The highest excellence of a dairy cow is her capacity to give the largest dairy product from the least food consumed, and when you study the outward formation of the great producers you do not find them having large horns or straight backs. While you may now and then get a fairly good product from a cow lacking in one or more of the dairy characteristics, still it is the exception, and in-breeding should not be encouraged. Perfection in all these points that in themselves fit the cow to do her highest work should be encouraged, and those points which are not found in the cow doing the highest work should be discouragements of excellence, because without it the best of other points are useless. By constitution in a dairy cow I do not mean that she will like a beef animal, any more than I would require a running Thoroughbred to have the form of a Clyde or a Percheron. I have heard it said that you must have width between the forelegs of a dairy cow to insure constitution, but which has the stronger constitution to endure a hard strain, the race horse or the draft? Which has the stronger constitution, the dairy cow thin in the withers and light in the shoulders, that can produce ten times her weight in milk during the year and half her weight in butter, or the beef cow that can in two or three years of her life produce half a ton of meat?

Perhaps the next point of importance is the inclination and ability to consume and digest a large amount of fodder. Then follows the perfection of udder and milk development, and while we would allow a material departure from straight lines in shape of the dairy cow, her udder should, when young, have a degree of conformity to straight lines, because, other things being equal, the squarer and straighter the udder the greater capacity, and the lines of beauty are here the signs of utility.

The Face at the Window
Chas. F. Raymond in Toronto Star.

"Little boy, you stand with your nose against the pane of the store window, and you wish you had a penny so that you might be able to buy a candy. Well, my lad, in due time you will get the money, you will buy the candy, you will eat it, and there will be nothing left. But, my lad, who could expect you to see a lesson in that; who would expect

CHRISTMAS ALMOST HERE

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