Flesherton Advance.

"TRUTH BEFORE FAVOR."—"PRINCIPLES NOT MEN.'

VOl 36 No. 5 Flesherton, Ont., Thursday, June 8 1916 W. H THURSTON EDITOR and PRO

Herb Wright Writes from the Front

The follewing vivid letter was written by an Emerson, Man., boy, Mr. Herb Wright, son of David Wright, who years ago ran a blacksmith shop at Eugenia. The writer is a newspaper man and knows how to make interesting descriptive matter.

Havre, France, April 28, '16

DEAR BAL,—I presume the Canadian papers have been full of the doings of the Second Canadian Division in the fighting at St. Eloi, an l thought possibly your readers would like to hear from my pencil the part played by the Sixth Infantry Brigade, to which our regiment is attached.

Monday, April 3rd, we moved into the trenches close to St Eloi to support an attack on the German lines by the Gordon Highlanders. The attack being successful, the Gordons withdrew and we were left to hold the salient composed of two lines of German trenches. I might say that at this particular part of the line our trenches form two sides of a triangle and push into the German lines, with the city of Ypres at the apex. You can readily see that our new position was practically a salient within a salient, and part of the face of Hill 60. It was my first experience on a modern battlefield, an l I hope the last of the kind. Any description I could furnish would be colorless beside real thing, but the nearest I can draw of the battlefield at St. Eloi would be to paint yourself a picture of hell and imagine something twice as bad The force of the mine explosion preceeding the attack seemed to have brought all the water in Belgium to the surface, so that when we entered the German trenches three feet of water was there to wade through. If one got wounded at night the chances of getting drowned were favorable, and I know that is what happened to more than one of our boys. The first night and early morning the German artillery gave us a warm time, but it was mild in comparison to the three days that followed, as it took the first day to collect their artillery in front of us and prepare the counter attack. During a lull of about an hour at the break of dawn on the first day I had an opportunity of studying the German methods of trench construction. I also collected a number of souvenirs, which I rolled in my great coat and left on the parapet. Later a shell completely disposed of both coat and souveniys. My observations led me to the conclusion that the enemy is short of almost everything except ammunition and guns. Many of their sandbags were made out of table cloths, pant legs and women's dresses. The sight I shall never forget. On the parapet close by lay a dead Scotchman with his rifle still grasped in his hands and his body fairly riddled with bullets; right across from him lay a German officer and four of his men. Out of idle curiosity I examined the Gordon's rifle and found the magazine still contained three bullets out of the original ten. From the surroundins I could not help but come to the conclusion that Jack had met a party single handed and gave a good account of himself before making the last sacrifice. I should say there was at least 800 dead (mostly Saxons) lying about in the entire salient.

On the afternoon of April 3 hell broke loose, and from then till I got wounded on the morning of the 6th there was hardly a moment in which you could hear your next neighbor talk. For the four days I ate very little, and that what is known in Canada as dog biscuits; slept nor drank any whatever, but simply existed in the trench of water on excitement. At dawn April 4ch the Germans charged us, but none ever reached the trenches, and I doubt if many of them ever returned to their own. After that everything came our way in the shape of projectiles, besides shells of nearly every description manufactured, they threw in bombs, aeriel torpedoes and trench mortars It is claimed that bombardment at Verdun was a five o'clock tea beside the St. Eloi affair. You can't imagine what a noise 1600 shells per minute make when falling in a half-mile radius. Daytime the air was filled with smoke and poison gases, while at night it seemed as if the whole sky was aflame. You wonder how human beings ever lived in it; but only those who survived know how the men suffered and died through it. We had one consolation only, and that was that our artillery was giving as much, if not more thon we were reciving.

Thursday morning, April 6th, at 4 o'clock the enemy attacked us on three sides simultaniously. You can't imagine how the information that they were coming electrfied the whole line. Many of the boys suffering from wounds and shell shock lept to the parapet to have a pot at the Germans, and in less than two minutes only one of the advancing party was visible. Our machine guns, rifles and shrapnel reaped an awful harvest. I heard later that a small party of them had captured a crater on our left, but our bombers soon drove them out. The process of annihilation resembled taking a wet sponge and wiping so many figures off a slate. The German who reached our lines was an officer, and he came over the parapet with his hands up and surrendered. How he got through is still a mystery to us all. Failing in the second attempt to dislodge us, the Germans did not stop bombarding, and I have since learned they kept it up for 16 more days before our division finally withdrew to their former positions. That same morning about 9.30 I got mine from a bursting shell, and had it not been that I was wearing my shrapnel helmet at the time I would not be writing this letter to-night. Luckily, all the damage I received was a perforated righi hand, which has healed so quickly that I am able to go to the front to-morrow, but the bells are still ringing in my dome and I doubt if I shall be of much use for some time on the firing line.

On the night of the 5th the 29th Batt. relieved us, and some of them got in amongst us, and I noticed Archie Batchelor was there. I have never heard whether he got out or not, but have made numerous inquiries. Lieut. Gault and two sons and Bob Angus were also amongst the old Emerson boys who were behind serving on the artillery.

It is just one year ago Nap Rivard was wounded on the same ground. At that time St. Eloi was a fairly prosperous looking town, but to-day it resembles an old brickyard that has been out of use for at least five years. Talk about your expensive real estate, but the land around this place has cost British, French, Belgium and German governments more lives than any spot in this theatre of war.

How long do I think this thing is going to last? I figure if it does not end in six months then another year will be the limit; but something seems to tell me what's left of us will eat our next Xmas dinner at home. I sincerely hope so.

Yours Truly,
H. H. WRIGHT

Ceylon Chat

Mrs. G. Collinson has returned from a week's visit with Durham friends.

Prs. Charles Adams, and Snowden McLeod of the 147th, spent the week end with their parents.

Fred Chislett and a lady friend of Shelburne spent over Sunday with the former's parents here.

Thomas McArthur of Sault Ste. Marie has returned after an absence of four years.

Miss Jennie Muir, who has been visiting her mother for the past two weeks, returned to her duties in Toronto Monday.

Mr. Geo. Patterson has purchased an auto for himself and family.

Geo. Stuart left last week for Powassen to engage in the cattle business with his brother.

Levi Coutts and mother, Mrs. Boulton, spent Sunday with friends near Dundalk.

Miss Lena Legate and friend of Osprey were guests of the former's mother, Mrs. R. P. Legate, on Sunday.

Mrs. Armstrong of Owen Sound was the guest of Mrs. James Radley this week.

It is rumored that wedding bells are about to ring for one of our benedicts near Ceylon.

We are pleased to see Mr. M. Ferguson able to be around again after his long illnes.

Mrs John Thibadeau, Markdale, and son, Stewart, who has enlisted and will leave shortly for the front, paid a flying visit to friends here last week.

R. Cook and Jas. McMullen attended a convention at Markdale Monday.

News For The Farmers

Now is your chance to get rid of and scrap iron. P. Steinhart intends to load a couple of car loads of iron and will pay top price in cash. Also 2c for rags any 5c for rubbers, 30c for horsehair, all f.o.b. Markdale. Sell to no one but myself, I have no agents. Enquire by telephone or mail.

P. Steinhart, Markdale

KITCHENER PERISHES

A cable received here Tuesday announced that Lord Kitchener and all his staff had perished off the Orkney Islands when the boat on which he was travelling struck a floating mine.

Feversham Items

Rather cool weather for this time of the year but no frost to amount to anything and grain and grass are growing rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Short spent Sunday with the latter's brother, Mr. Fred Weldrick.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Marr spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Ottowell at Providence.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopper and two children visited with Mr. and Mrs. F. Spofford over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Little spent Sunday with the former's father at Glen Huron.

Mr. Thos. Conron is at Collingwood this week with his brother-in-law, Mr. Wm Davidson, who is seriously ill at present.

Mr. Fred Roome of Weyborn, Sask., visited with friends here last week. Mr. Roome came East two weeks ago to attend the funeral of his mother at Proton Station.

Mrs. Fred Spofford is recovering nicely from a severe attack of bronchitis.

Mr. Will Brown and a number of friends, motored to Collinwood, Stayner and Nottawasaga River on Sunday last.

Mrs. John Paul has returned home after spending a week with her daughter Mrs. Battersby, of Owen Sound.

Mr. Wm. Duncan of——B. C is renewing old acquaintances around here. Mr. Duncan left here a few years ago and went to the Ocanagan Valley B. C. and is engaged in farming. His numerous friends were glad to see him again.

Pithy Proton Pointers

Hurrah! for the Anglican church Garden Party at Proton Station on June 14. A splendid time is expected. Everybody come and bring your friends with you. It doesn't matter if it does rain we are all used to that.

Miss Minnie Galbraith of Flesherton, visited on Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Hugh Hodgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Acheson were at Alliston last week attending the funeral of the former's uncle, Mr. John Agnew

Miss Hannah Roome is visiting with her sisters in Toronto.

Miss Susie McNally visited on Sunday last with her friend, Miss Maggie White, at Saugeen Junction.

On Tuesday of last week while playing basket-ball on the Flesherton high school grounds, Marjorie Acheson had the misfortune to sprain her knee.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Lockhart and Mr. and Mrs. W. Maxwell visited at Mr. Chas. Lyon's on Sunday.

Mr. Percy Hodgins left on Tuesday of last week to spend the summer with his brother, Fred, at Admiral, Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. Christie Johnston and two little girls from Corbetton and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wiltshire accompanied by Mr. Robt. Crawford visited with relatives in our burg on Sunday last.

Mrs. Runciman is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. M. McCannell.

Vandeleur Happenings

Mrs. Wm. Lewis and daughter Mary of Meaford, visited the former's sister, Mrs. Jane Richardson, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Buchanan took in the excursion on Saturday and visited the Niagara camp before returning home.

Lance-Corp. S. Buchanan spent the week end with friends here.

Walter Verity, Summerland B. C., one of the old boys of this neighborhood has joined the Medical Corps at Victoria and will leave for overseas shortly.

Miss Mary Love of Toronto, visited her sister, Edna, at J. H. Holley's for a few days recently.

The annual summer meeting of the Vandeleur W. I. was held in Foresters Hall, on Saturday evening last. There was a good attendance. Miss Grey, the Department delegate gave a very instructive address.

Mr. Ross Alcox took in the excursion to Toronto on Saturday.

Miss Enna Burrit of Kimberley was a visitor at Mr. Ed. Baker's, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Summers of Markdale, visited the former's brother, Will of this place, the beginning of the week.

Mr. Alex. Carson and daughter, Dorothy, of Priceville, were callers in our burg on Saturday.

Miss Edna Love is on an extened visit to friends at Toronto and Bolton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Graham received the sad news on Saturday evening, that their daughter, Mrs. Thom of Pickering had passed suddenly. Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mrs. P. Beard and Mr. J. I. Graham left Sunday morning to attend the funeral which took place Monday afternoon. Deceased was well and favourably known here, having spent her girlhood days in this vicinity. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.

Kimberley Budget

Intended for last week.

During the severe electric storm which passed over this part on Saturday morning last the fine barn of Wm. Humberstone on the East Mountain was struck and burned to the ground. There was $1000 insurance on the building and $700 on contents. This will not near cover the loss as the barn was worth $1500.

Mr. John Tennant of Owen Sound, organizer for the C.O.F., was on a business trip to our burg during the past week.

Mr. Frank Whittermare of Toronto, spent a few hours fishing in the old Beaver one day recently, but didn't secure many speckled "beauties." It seems to be a poor year for trout fishing.

Miss Flsie Plewes of Collingwood, is visiting at present at her parental home.

Florence Brown of Fairmount, is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Wm. Flood.

S. S. Burritt made a business trip to Markdale on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Mowat and daughter Elva, of Lindsy, are visiting friends in this vicinity. Mrs. Mowat was formerly Lily Stuart, eldest daughter of W. H. Stuart Powassan.

Kimberley's grand old man, Mr. Thos. Wickens, is still hale and hearty and though nearly 92 years old can step off like a ten-year-old.

Mr. G. A. Bell of Toronto, a representative of the Dominion Alliance of Toronto, addressed a meeting in the Methodist church on Sunday evening last. His text was "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

Mr. and Mrs R. J. Stuart of Thornbury, visited relatives in our burg one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Hammond are visiting with the latter's brother, Mr. C. Knott at Thornbury.

Mr. Wm. Flood, our popular blacksmith, took a bunch over to Redwing in his Ford car for a fish in the mill creek, but they didn't have very good luck.

This Week's Items.

All kinds of rain.

Mr. ahd Mrs. Russel McMullen visited at Mr. Hugh Hammond's near Priceville during the past week.

Two of our soldier boys, Harold Proctor and Leith Lawrence, arrived home from Niagara on Saturday.

Stanley Reid visited with his uncle, Geo. McCartney of Meaford, one day last week.

Mrs. Geo. Proctor visited the past week at Mr. Rundle's, Meaford.

D. L. Weber, one of our enterprising merchants, is erecting a handsome verandah and balcony on his premises on Front street.

Arthur Verity of Flesherton visited recently at G. Hutchinson's.

Wm. Ortop is erecting an up to date garage for his Ford car.

Wilmer Free and sister, Augusta, of Duncan, spent a pleasant visit last week at J. M. Fawcett's.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Taylor of Campbellford motored over last week and are visiting the latter's sister, Mrs. Fred Stuart.

Mr. Wm. Flood attended the funeral of the late Mrs. Wm. Isaac on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Hammond visited recently with the latter's brother, C. Knott, Thornbury.

The Sunday school of Epping Methodist church paid our Sunday school a visit on Sunday last.

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