THE
FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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F. J. THURSTON, Editor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With the strike fever in the air the Federal Government was obliged to drop anything like a laissez faire attitude and it is to be hoped the new order-in-council designed to avert stoppages in war industries will prove effective. While acceptance of the findings of the Board of Conciliation has not been made mandatory in future strikes, action cannot be taken legally unless approved by a majority vote of all workers concerned held in secret, under the direction of the Department of Labour, instead of Union officials. This should do away with anything in the nature of intimidation, and men willing and anxious to work will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion without fear of reprisals. There are two union elements in Canada which might be said to be daggers drawn one against the other, the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. The trouble for the most part in Ontario has come from affiliates of the C.I.O. W. T. Burford, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Federation of Labour, regards the new Order-In Council as a half way measure. "The first mistake", he declares, "was that the Government sought to appease the C. I. O. and that was like trying to appease Hitler. As long as the C. I. O. operates, it is bound to keep industry in a state of turmoil. It cannot otherwise exist. The way to industrial peace is to bar the C. I. O. and all foreign labour organizations, just as they are barred from Mexico. Then there will not be any need for Governmental restraints. Unions will truly express the sentiment of the workers who, left to themselves, would gladly subordinate all their grievances to the real job of war production." It will be recalled that the labour of the Campbell Soup Company declared that concern would not deal with the C.I.O., as they would not abide by their agreements.

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In many parts of Ontario there is a brisk demand for houses and the only check on an outstanding building boom is the difficulty experienced in obtaining building materials coupled with the pronounced shortage of labour. The war, which has been a contributing factor in need for new homes, is also a stumbling block in their erection. The Government has commandeered huge stocks of building supplies for the requirements of military camps and war industrial plants, while enlistments and the need for workers in manufacturing war equipment has depleted the ranks of ordinary labor. Any one following the newspapers these days will be impressed with the increase in marriages without the need of recourse to vital statistics. The people seem to have the money to acquire homes, and all this is creating a building boom of no mean proportion.

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There are a good many people in Ontario who believe that Premier Hepburn is no better than he ought to be, but the fact that he has accepted the challenge of the Saints and Sinners Club of New York to become a member of that organization has raised hopes in the ranks of his friends that he may be bracketed in the former category. In any event, when asked if he was willing to undergo the full initiation, he wired back to the officers of the Club that they could go ahead and give him the works. Before leaving on this, perhaps eventful, expedition Premier Hepburn has announced definitely that there will be no provincial election in Ontario this year. Ontario will go to the polls next year at the conclusion of the five-year term, unless the Cnnservative opposition agrees to prolong its present life because of the war.

Summer
Time Table
Effective Sat., June 28
Leave Flesherton
TO TORONTO
c 11.50 a.m. b 7.25 p.m.
TO OWEN SOUND
c 5.50 p.m. d 7.45 p.m.
b: Sun. and Holiday; c: Sat. only; d: Friday only
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CANADA AT WAR

Article No. 2
"THE ARMY"

The tour of Eastern Canada, arranged by the Department of National Defence for Canadian editors, while covering every branch of Canada's war enterprise, concentrated especially in the Army.

We visited the Basic Training Centre at Brantford, the Army Trades School at Hamilton, the General Motors proving ground for army vehicles near Oshawa, the great military encampments and Advanced Training Centres at Camp Borden, Petawawa, Valcartier and Debert, and the Officers' Training Centre at Brockville.

We saw the raw recruit with only a few days' training in army life behind him and the young soldier-student being taught the art of a skilled tradesman. We were impressed with the fact that the class room plays fully as important a part in this war as does the drill-hall and the rifle range, while the great army of instructors are performing a service as vital as that of officers on the battlefield. Later we came to the more advanced trainees engaged in rifle drill, machine-gun tactics, mortar-firing demonstrations and manoeuvers, going through their paces with machine-like precision. We were given every opportunity to talk with officers and men. Almost without exception we found them keenly interested in their work and eager to get on with the iob of mastering complicated arms and machines placed at their disposal.

Canadian Blitz

Above all, we were amazed at the tremendous hitting power of the modern mechanized and swiftly-moving army. We had a preview of Canada's new war machines at the General Motors' proving ground in the wilds of Eastern Ontario, where speedy blitz buggies vied with trucked or armored fighting vehicles and trop or load-carrying utility trucks for the honor of climbing the steepest ground. Down the side of precipitous slopes, through deep gullies and over sharp projections in the landscape went the bouncing, bounding vehicles, surmounting every difficulty with apparent ease. It was not so easy on the drivers and crews, as some editors found to their sorrow when they essayed a ride in one of the new fighting machines. But it was a revelation of the progress made by Canada's motor industry in meeting the demands of modern war.

The Armored Corps

At Camp Borden we witnessed another demonstration of the mechanical prowess of Canada's army when we watched a motor company swing into action with its motorcycles, reconnaissance cars, universal carriers and utility trucks. Their skill in occupying a position and their apparent wealth of firepower were a revelation. At the same camp we viewed an impressive platoon attack on an "enemy' position, with machine guns and rifles covering the advance with a hail of metal and with smoke bombs providing a screen for the attack. At Borden is located the 5th Canadian (Armored) Division under Major-General E. W. Sansom, D.S.O., who accompanied us on our tour of the camp. For training purposes a number of old United States tanks had been obtained and these were greatly in evidence during the afternoon. They have proved most useful in training personnel in driving and maintenance. With Canada's newly-equipped tank factories speeding up production, it will not be long before Canadian made modern tanks will be available for this Division.

Camp Petawawa

Camp Petawawa was famous in the last war for turning out some of the best artillerymen and engineers found in any army. It is fitting that in these days of mechanical warfare, Petawawa should again be the locale for training of Canada's artillery and engineering corps. The editors were treated to an astonishing display of gun drill by the young artillerymen, both on the 18-pounder and the new 25-pounder, which will soon be the standard equipment. A firing demonstration by two batteries of howitzers and 18-pounders out on the ranges, indicated that the Canadian gunners have lost none of the skill and accuracy possessed by their forebears. The engineers gave an effective show in demolishing trees and a crossroads with high explosive, while a booby-trap comedy drama proved a masterpiece.

Camp Debert

An entire article could be devoted to that other great military camp at Debert in Nova Scotia. A year ago a wilderness, today a veritable city with 30 miles of roadways, 422 permanent and 82 temportary buildings, plus fire stations, banks, telegraph and all the other requirements of a great army. It is recorded that authority was granted to construct Camp Debert on August 7th, 1940. The first battalion moved in the latter part of October and by Christmas there were 12,000 men housed in the camp. The forest had been cleared, roads built, water and power systems installed and buildings erected, an achievement that constitutes a miracle of engineering and stands as a tribute to the enterprise and efficiency of the Engineer Services Branch of the Canadian Army. The editors' party was at Debert for only two or three hours, but in that time were treated to several remarkable demonstrations. We watched with amazement as Universal Carriers crashed through the sturdy saplings of Nova Scotia forests with evident ease; we saw the most skilful use of camouflage by troops in tactical exercise, so deceiving indeed that it was impossible to detect men in the open only fifty yards distant; and we witnessed Bren gun, 3-inch mortar, and artillery firing that again testified to the hitting strength of this new army in the making.

The Training Plan

Brigadier Kenneth Stuart, D.S.O., M.C., Vice Chief of the General Staff, who recently flew back from Britain after several weeks of conference and study with British and Canadian military men, there, told the editors that the Army Training Plan was devised to ovetail with British requirements. Moreover, Canadian troops now in Britain were organized and equipped in accord with British practice. Canadian officers were constantly being brought back from Britain for instructional purposes and to head up new formations. He compared the general scheme of reinforcement training in Canada with the widely-publicized Commonwealth Air Training Plan and declared that the training centres would provide training capacity for a maximum of nearly 50,000 men at any one time. This is apart altogether from the "formations" already in existence for overseas service. The system would absorb about 10,000 recruits per month, of whom perhaps 6,000 would be volunteers for active service anywhere and the remaining 4,000 would be secured under N.R.M.A. plan for compulsory service for home defence. From the advanced centres were procured.. the.. reinforcements.. for.. overseas, while others would go to their own units for further training. Brigadier Stuart expressed himself as well satisfied with the type of recruits being secured under the system and like wise with the fact that a large percentage of young men brought into the basic training centres under the N.R.M.A. were volunteering for active service anywhere.

Basic Training Centre

Canadian editors had a chance to see the plan in operation during the tour. At Brantford Basic Training Centre they saw recruits in the preliminary stages of their training. The lads remain there for two months and receive instruction in first aid, rifle and bayonet, squad drill, protection against gas, anti-aircraft rifle and light machine-gun, firing on the range, fieldcraft and map reading. There are 28 such centres across Canada. The Brantford Centre has about 1,000 recruits at one time. From such centres the recruits go to the Advanced Training Centre for their particular arm of the sevice, such as infantry, artillery, engineers, armored corps, etc., where they are trained intensively for two months in the use of arms and vehicles perculiar to their service. In the case of infantry, for instance, they are instructed in Bren gun, 3 inch mortar, Tommy gun, grenade, rifle, bayonet, and revolver, protection against gas, driving of wheeled and tracked vehicles as well as in tactical exercises. There are 26 of these advanced training centres across Canada. The editors saw them in action at Camp Borden, Petawawa and Valcartier.

Army Trades School

Meanwhile another vitally important role in moulding Canada's new army is being carried out at the Army Trades School in Hamilton, where soldier-students learn the trades associated with mechanized equipment. An entirely new development of this war, this school is but one phase of the huge trades-training program aimed at providing skilled and semi skilled tradesmen for the Canadian Army, which is now completely motorized and which has armored regiments and tank battalions as its striking weapons. For example, all students at the Army Trades School first attended one of the 99 Canadian Technical Schools. They were also first trained in the fundamentals of soldiering at a Basic Training Centre. At present there are about 1,300 students at the Hamilton school with an ultimate capacity of 2,000. Their periods of instruction range from three to five months, depending on the character of their trade. These lads will become artillery artificers, carpenters and joiners, electricians, engine artificers, motor vehicle fitters, instrument and wireless mechanics. These are only a few of the 150 types of tradesmen in the modern army. A large staff of instructors is required for the four departments, which are: Automotive, Electrical, Machine and Fitting, and Carpentry. In addition there are facilities for draughting, blacksmithing, welding and sheet metal work.

Officers' Training Centre

What about Junior Officers (subalterns) for the Canadian Army, of which it is estimated that nearly 6,000 will be required in the next year? They will be provided through Officers' Training Centres established at Brockville, Ont., and Victoria, B.C. If the course of training seen by the editors' party at Brockville is any criterion, the Army's new officers will be fit in every way to meet any possible emergency. The course is a strenuous one and pre-eminently demands a high standard of physical fitness. For the first month of the three months' course, the potential officers under training common to all arms, including squad and rifle drill, protection against gas, route marches, motorcycle riding and trench-digging. They then receive advanced instruction in their particular arm. It is a strict rule now, a lesson from the last war, that officers must come up from the ranks. Candidates for commissions must have served either four months in an Active formation or for one year with a Reserve unit. They may then be recommended to go to Brockville by their Commanding Officer. About 1,200 men are now in training at Brockville, with one-third of that number being graduated each month.

Study the Keynote

Such is the gigantice training scheme for Canada's new army, now in full operation across the far-flung Dominion. We have described only what we found in Eastern Canada. Its counterpart will be found in the West as well. There is no gainsaying the fact that the complicated arms and machines of modern war require close application and concentrated study. The old days of constant squad and rifle drill and route marches are gone. During our whole tour we saw only one band. There is little time for music in this war. It is study, study, study, day and night. Canada's army is being whipped into shape by long, hard hours of grinding on the part of instructors and pupils.

Naturally, it tends to become monotonous and grousing is inevitable, but in the course of many talks with both officers and men, we heard few serious complaints other than the expression of a general desire to be on the way overseas. Month after month at Borden, Petawawa and Debert tend to become tiresome, to put it mildly. It was the same at Valcartier where the French Canadians were chafing at inaction and anxious to be on their way. They realize, however, that their hour will come and when it does, they will be thoroughly trained and supremely prepared to strike, and strike hard. As Canada's army training plan swings into high gear, we may look forward confidently to possessing a powerful machine that will gloriously uphold the traditions of 1914-18.

(Next week's article will deal with "The Munitions Industry."

MARRIED

WELTON — CAMPBELL —In the Salvation Army chapel at Camp Debert, N.S., Bernice Estelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell of Eugenia, to Sergt. William Charles Welton, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Welton, Flesherton, Capt. Rev. Brown chaplain of the G. & S. Foresters, officiating. The bride wore a soldier blue dress with black accessories, beige coat, black hat, and a corsage of pink roses. At noon the couple were guests of the Sergeant's Mess, R.S.M. M. J. Fellow extending a welcome, it being the first time for a bride and groom to be in attendance. Sergt. and Mrs. Fred Gorrell were the attendants. The young couple enjoyed their honeymoon at Sydney, Nova Sctia.

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ARRESTED AS DESERTERS

Three quite young men from a district not far from Fergus enlisted with the Active Army and recently moved to Nova Scotia. They didn't like the Maritimes or got homesick or something, and left camp, hitch hiking their way to their homes. In one case, at least, parents insisted on their son returning at once, but before that was done, the three were arrested as deserters and taken back under escort.

No foreign newspapers are allowed in Italy. So the folk there will know only what they are told by their leaders.

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