ARMISTICE ANNIVERSARY AT MONS

An Historical Sketch.

BY H. WISELY BRAGG.

As time passes by, the significance of November 11th will gradually become more appreciated and this anniversary will always be primarily connected with Mons. For Mons is naturally the anniversary city on account of the heroic stand made there by the British Army in 1914, and by the psychological entry of the Canadians on the eve of the Armistice, November 11th, 1918.

To the soldier in the Canadian Corps it represented the first captured city which was carrying on normal life, for, on account of the coal mines which surrounded the city and the fertile agricultural lands, the Germans had throughout the war encouraged production. The destruction in and about Mons was caused mainly by the Germans who, in 1914, wilfully destroyed, as a means of terrorizing the citizens, about two hundred houses, while in 1918 some thirty bridges were blown up in order to hamper our advance.

Years ago Mons was a walled city, surrounded by a moat; and when, later, these fortifications had fulfilled their purpose, the adaptation in 1561 demolished the city walls and used in their stead boulevards which display, with stately vistas of trees, a wide consideration to the natural beauty of this interesting city. The stream which years ago filled the moat, has been diverted and irrigates the adjacent land which is intensively cultivated.

As one approaches Mons, on the main railway from Brussels to Paris, the first object is that of a beautiful ornamental tower, high rises to a height of over three hundred feet. This is the "Beffroi" which contains forty seven bells, and from it, since our "Cease Fire," peoples to Belgium. The quality from these bells is more than a chime, and is "Every mellow tone either in sweet or tuneful air is heard to be forever." Years ago this tower was the centre of the city, the place of Hall, which the burghers met for the purpose of electing their municipal officers. Beneath the Belfry are the offices of occupation, the cafés are where people played, bands played, and the people within but a few metres of the heart of the city, the sweet music of singing sound far and wide across the country side.

First impressions of the city do not give a fair idea of its beauty but gradually one becomes imbued with the atmosphere of history, and the desire for modern education and good government.

In early days Mons was a feudal stronghold and the succeeding generations of "Montois" wrote history. To-day she stands, progressive and commercial, the centre of the coal fields, and the capital of one of the wealthiest provinces of Belgium.

Mons to-day is an example of efficiency, not only in the handling of coal, but in modern conveniences for the health and comfort of the miner himself; provisions made for shower baths at the mines, and suitable dwellings are provided by some of the companies. Education plays a very important part, and in addition to modern schools and colleges, there is also a Polytechnic Institute for providing instruction on coal mining in all its branches.

In addition to a municipally-owned theatre, this city of twenty-seven thousand inhabitants has a museum of note, in front of which stands a field gun, bearing an inscription to the effect that it is a souvenir of the Canadians and the last gun to be freed in this part of the front.

The hospitality of these people was most marked in their reception of the troops, and for many months Canadian soldiers were accepted as members of the families with whom they were billeted. Their thanks to the Canadians is still extended by a cordial, yes, a royal welcome, in fact a welcome which goes a deeper way than this. The "Montois" are reverently proud of Mons as a last resting place the graves of our dead.

After the soldiers had gone home, the people met and publicly arranged that each grave should be cared for by a citizen. Monsieur Gustave Lagy, who organized this patriotic work, was the first who volunteered, and from that day each grave has been lovingly cared for.

This is their precious souvenir of what was given for their liberty, and these well tended graves at Mons, Cambrai, and surrounding places, ever recall the link of friendship wrought by the blood of sacrifice.

Thanksgiving

"There's always something," is the current saying, and on this day it should be amended to "There's always something to be thankful for."

The first and most precious gift is that of friends. We can do without anything and everything else. But a friendship that rests on a material basis of the calculation of profits and losses is a travesty of the name. We need friends in our lives, and we give thanks that they are ours, because it is a joy to try to serve them and not because they bestow on us tangible benefits. We are grateful for their sympathetic understanding. They do not misinterpret. They take us for what we are, as we take them.

Good health is a reason for rejoicing. One who has all the vitality he needs for the day's work goes to it exultantly, as a strong man rejoicing to run a race. It is fine to feel adequate to whatever comes. But mankind is grateful for the inspiring example of great souls that in feeble bodies nobly persevered, and left on earth results worth far more than anything done by human beings who acted as if pleasure and the sensual appetites were all of life.

The last thing to be thankful for is wealth in the sense of the accumulation of dollars without the development of character. To-day, as any of us sits down to a table amply spread, the satisfaction will be not in the feast before him, but in all the "invisible guests" he has made happy. A Thanksgiving is not warranted by what we take from the human society of which we are a part. We give thanks to-day in proportion to the things that we have given first to others.

We should be grateful to the Power that is supreme over our lives for what has been denied us as well as for what was bestowed. We thought we must have what we asked for; and often we have seen afterward that if our wishes had been granted it would have brought us serious harm.

It is no proper celebration of Thanksgiving merely to gorge ourselves to repletion and to gloat on what we have about us and shut quite out of the happy picture the distressful circumstances of a part of the world in the extremest anguish of suffering. For a land at peace, enjoying a prosperity that is enormous as compared with much of the remainder of earth, we should be devoutly grateful, for indeed the lines are cast unto us in pleasant places, and an Old World in travail looks to us with a piteous desire.

Yet all the blessings that are multiplied within our confines are not ours to have and to hold. We are but trustees. We are bound to give and to do. Only after that can we sit down with a real satisfaction to the domestic felicities and the restorative and comforting intimacies of Thanksgiving Day.

Armistice Day Marked by Unveiling of Memorials

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Hon. E. M. Macdonald, Minister of National Defence, has had requests from Hamilton, Toronto, Fredericton, N.B., and New Glasgow, N.S., to unveil soldiers' monuments on Armistice Day.

As he will be absent in the Maritime Provinces it is probable that he will be unable to accept the invitations from Ontario, but may be able to officiate at the unveiling in his own county, at New Glasgow.

PRONOUNCEMENT ON EMPIRE RELATIONS

League of Nations Idea Should Clear up Indians' Claims, Says Smuts.

A despatch from London says:—Premier Jan Smuts of South Africa, in his speech made at the Imperial Conference Monday, but only issued here Thursday evening, on the political and economic status of British Indians in other parts of the Empire, made what is likely to prove a momentous declaration regarding the relations of the component parts of the British Empire towards each other, particularly regarding the independent self-governing Dominions.

He strenuously resisted the Indian claim to political and economic equality with citizens in other parts of the Empire, stating that the claim arose from a fairly general "misconception of the nature of British citizenship," a misconception, he added, that "all subjects of the King are equal." He continued:

"There is no equality of British citizenship throughout the Empire. The never conception of the British Empire as a smaller League of Nations and as a partnership of free and equal nations under a common hereditary sovereignty involves an even further departure from the simple conception of unitary citizenship.

"Each separate part of the Empire will settle for itself the nature and incidents of its citizenship. The composition and character and rights of its peoples will be the concern of each free and equal state in the Empire. It will not only regulate immigration from other parts of the Empire as well as from the outside world, but it will also settle the rights of its citizens as a matter of domestic concern.

"The common kingship is behind the link between the parts of the Empire; it is not the source from which private citizens will derive their rights. They will derive their rights simply and solely from the authority of the state in which they live.

"The conception of the Empire as a League of Nations ought to do away with these claims which are so disturbing and unsettling in the Empire."

Large deposits of graphite have been discovered in British East Africa.

Another heavy cargo of British Columbia forest products arrived in Montreal recently from Vancouver, consigned to the British Empire Lumber Corporation, which has completed the erection of a timber yard and remanufacturing plant on Bickerdike pier. The cargo comprises about 5,000,000 feet.

THE EMPIRE MOURNS HIM.

Andrew Bonar Law, born in Canada Sept. 16, 1858, and for seven months Prime Minister of Britain, died Oct. 30 at his London home, after an illness which forced his resignation in May last. He was dearly beloved for his fine qualities. The honor of burial in Westminster Abbey is the signal tribute paid to the first Canadian to hold the office of Premier of Great Britain.

Mother—A Saint Uncanonized.

"Lead, Kindly Light!" Though silently
She sang along the upward road,
And O, the glory overflowed
Her brow and eyes benignantly.
And in her sweet lips' smiling showed,

"Lead, Kindly Light!" She followed close—
Not as the scholar Newman cried
To wrest the truth the angels hide,
But fearlessly as one who knows
He whom she trusts is at her side.

"Lead, Kindly Light!" And into rest
At last it led her weary feet.
And still shines on so strong and sweet
That we who loved the pilgrim best
Would follow her, "Lead Kindly Light!"

—JENNIE T. HILES.

Memorial at Valcartier Advocated by Canon Scott

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Canon Scott of Quebec has communicated with the Department of National Defence with regard to the erection of a cross of sacrifice at Valcartier Camp to commemorate the valor of those who trained at that camp and fell overseas. If the proposal is approved, as it probably will be, Canon Scott will proceed with a campaign to raise subscriptions for the purpose.

Experiments seem to prove that spiders can see to one another. Several spiders have on the underside of their abdomens a round depression containing small, hardened projections, which is suggested to be the calling organ.

University Enrolment.

At the beginning of the present university session the new entrance requirements in the Faculty of Arts went into effect at the University of Toronto. It had been thought that the higher standards would have materially reduced the enrolment but such has not been the case. In University College, the largest of the four federated Arts Colleges, there are 338 First Year students, while last year there were 397 and the total enrolment in all four years is 1,042 as compared with last year's total of 1,111. In the other three Arts Colleges the decrease is even less.

Where are the 59 who would have been in the First Year in Arts under the old conditions? Almost certainly they are in High Schools and Collegiate Institutes throughout the province taking another year of education at home at less expense and preparing themselves to enter next year some Honor Course or the Second Year of the Pass Course. Next September they will come, more mature and better prepared, to present their credentials to the Registrar of the provincial university.

What has been the effect of the change? The boy who discovered in August, on receipt of his Pass Matriculation certificate, that he had secured neither the necessary four "firsts" on that certificate nor the alternative six "seconds," went to the principal of the Collegiate Institute and said, "I must come back to school this year and take two Honor Matriculation subjects in order to be able to enter university in 1924." "But," replied the principal, "two Honor Matriculation subjects will not make a year's work. Why not take six subjects and prepare yourself to enter an Honor Course, or seven subjects and enter the Second Year of the Pass Course?" Scores of Ontario boys and girls have taken this advice and will have the privilege of taking much better university courses than they could otherwise have hoped for. Within two or three years, it is safe to predict, the attendance at all universities in Ontario will be greater than it ever was when low standards were in force—and the students will be more adequately prepared to benefit by university instruction.

But, it may be said, the Collegiate Institutes and the High Schools will have more pupils this year, and that is true. However, the highest form in the average Collegiate Institute is usually small. A classroom equipped for thirty pupils is often occupied by ten or fifteen Honor Matriculation or Upper School students. Under the new arrangement there may be twenty or twenty-five in that room and the same staff will teach the larger number quite as easily as the smaller.

The new university entrance requirements have not very noticeably reduced the attendance at the universities, nor have they added materially to the work of the secondary schools. But they have strengthened the fibre of the whole educational system.

JAMES CARRUTHERS

Prominent Canadian grain man, of Montreal, who, testifying before the Royal Commission investigating the grain trade, declared that Canadian wheat shipped to Europe through the United States was detained there, and inferior grades of U.S. wheat substituted.

Something like 20,000 original kinds of orchids are known to exist, and from each of them as many as 3,000 crossed varieties have been reared.

Natural Resources Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa says:

Of all the many natural resources which Ontario possesses the greatest is her people. The natural increase from births is her best source of population, and the growth and maintenance of this increase is her first duty.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just issued a report on Vital Statistics for 1921, which gives some interesting figures on Ontario's birthrate. In that year there were 74,152 births, exclusive of 3,340 still births. Of living births there were 38,307 males and 35,845 females, or an excess of males of 2,462. During the same year there were 6,763 deaths of children under one year of age, of which 3,918 were male and 2,845 female; under five years of age, 8,553, of which 4,874 were male and 3,679 female; under ten years of age, 9,481 deaths of which 5,385 were males and 4,096 females, thus reducing the excess of male births before the age of ten years is reached from 2,462 to 1,289.

It is also interesting to note the lower rate of infant mortality in 1921 as compared with 1920. In the former year of every 1,000 children born 91.2 died, while in 1920 of every 1,000 births 103.7 died in the first year of life.

Every Mother.

"An Unknown Warrior!" No he was my son,
Gathered in love to Britain's heart to-day;
My son it was who came in royal state,
Though he with countless thousands marched away.

Have I not shed unnumbered midnight tears?
Have I not anguished in the dark days past?
And prayed my Lord for just one priceless boon,
To know one lone boy's resting-place at last?

And now my prayer is answered he is gone
In manner fit for the most glorious dead,
And I, who loved and gave him, smile once more
And rest content; my final tear is shed.

I am like one who long, long years ago
Came sorrowing to a loved one's grave to pray,
And found an empty space, the prisoner free,
So from my heart the stone is rolled away.

No longer nameless in the Flanders fields,
No more sad wondering Where? and When? and How?
For in the dim old Abbey safely lies
My soldier son, honored by high and low.

Quietly I waited in the crowded streets;
I heard soft music, saw the gleam of guns,
Then some one whispered gently at my side:
"Here comes the King (God bless him), and his sons."

Soldiers and sailors, brave and loyal men
Were there, but midst the splendor only one
Bright spot of glorious color met my eyes,
The Flag across the body of my son.

Then as they passed I knew an unseen host,
Gallant, triumphant, joined them on their way,
Dear, faithful, mourning, mothers, dry your tears,
For all your boys came home with mine to-day.

—G. R. H.

Toronto, Nov. 11.

A single crow is said to destroy 700,000 insects a year.

Canada from Coast to Coast

Halifax, N.S.—There is some prospect of a considerable development of the pulp and paper plant at Hawkesbury, if investigations now being made by representatives of American capital result in a favorable report as to location, supply of raw materials, adequate water supply, etc. The interests in question anticipate manufacturing between 4,000 and 5,000 tons of newsprint a year, of which a good proportion would be absorbed in the local market and the balance forwarded to Boston and New York.

Quebec, Que.—Next winter's cut in the Quebec forests is expected to be one of the largest in recent years. Three thousand lumber camps are to be in operation, employing in the neighborhood of 25,000 men, according to Chief Forester Piche. He stated that there was a scarcity of men in some sections of the lumber belt and that consequently higher wages were being offered as an inducement to go into the woods for the winter.

Toronto, Ont.—At the recent National Dairy Show, held at Syracuse, N.Y., the best state herd of Holsteins and Jerseys went to Ontario and the Ayrshires to Quebec, and the champion Ayrshire for the whole show was Palmerston Hyacinth 8th, belonging to E. Budge, of Beauharnois, Que.

Winnipeg, Man.—Three thousand applications from farmers of Western Canada for help for late fall and winter work are at present in the office of the Immigration Department here, according to a statement made by Thomas Geller, western commissioner of immigration. Mr. Geller stated also that 1,200 British harvesters had been placed on the farms for winter work.

Swift Current, Sask.—There is considerable activity at this point in overhauling and building additions to grain elevators to cope with the handling of the bumper crop of Saskatchewan this fall. A new grain elevator of 27,000 bushel capacity has been opened for business, and others are being renovated in order to handle what is expected to be a record quantity of wheat for this town.

Edmonton, Alta.—Carbon black is now being manufactured in Canada, but negotiations are now in progress to establish factories in the Alberta gas fields that are remote from centres of population. In 1921 there was exported from the United States to Canada 1,500,000 pounds of carbon black, some of which was valued at 16 cents per pound, this grade being used in the manufacture of special printing inks used for embossing, lithographing and half-tone work.

Victoria, B.C.—The whaling fleet which has returned to port, reports a successful season, 277 whales having been caught. Rose Harbor station accounted for 161 whales; Kuyquot 116; Naden Harbor, 100.

Two Minutes of Silence.

Down in the Town's loud heart we, on our tasks intent,
Heard sudden stroke of bell,
And thereafter, silence fell
Suddenly, set wide apart
Above our desks we knelt,
Each in some sphere of silent own—
Not to another known.

My eyes I covered with bowed head,
Recording the sacrifice of many dead.
What had it meant?
And then, a thought held breath—
The soul within me said:
The world whose dear sons died down to death
This world itself is dead,
A world that could or would not heal its ill,
Gone, suddenly, stark-still!

As I sat brooding there, the bell
That for the others broke the spell,
One spoke—between a smile and tear
Her voice, half chiding: "Wake up, and hear
The children singing—they are gone, they go."
I caught the symbolled
Hope, not Fear
But I—would I might know!

—Edith M.

Weekly Market Report

TORONTO.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 northern, $1.06.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 46½c; No. 1 feed, 8 CW, 46½c.

Manitoba barley—Nominal.

All the above, track, bay ports.

American corn—Track, Toronto, No. 2 yellow, $1.25.

Ontario barley—58 to 60c.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 72 to 75c.

Ontario rye—No. 2, 73 to 75c.

Peas—Sample, $1.50 to $1.60.

Millfeed—Del., Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $30; middlings, $32; good feed flour, $2.05.

Ontario wheat—No. 2, 95 to 98c, outside.

Ont. No. 2 white oats—Nominal.

Ontario corn—Nominal.

Ontario flour—Ninety per cent. patents, in jute bags, Montreal, $4.50; Toronto, in bulk, seaboard, $4.40.

Manitoba flour—1st patents, in cotton sacks, $6.50 per barrel, Toronto.

Hay—Extra No. 2 timothy, per ton, track, Toronto, $14.50 to $15; No. 1, $14.50; No. 3, $12.50; mixed, $11.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.

Cheese—New, large, 24 to 25c; twins, 25 to 25½c; triplets, 26 to 26½c; Stiltons, 26 to 27c; old, 30 to 31c; twins, 31 to 32c.

Butter—Finest creamery, 41 to 42c; ordinary creamery, 37 to 38c; No. 2, 36 to 37c.

Eggs—Extras, in cartons, 45c; extras, 42 to 43c; firsts, 38c; seconds, 31 to 32c.

Live poultry—Spring chickens, 1 lbs. and over, 25c; chickens, 1 lbs., 22c; hens, over 5 lbs., 22c; hens, 4 to 5 lbs., 15c; roosters, 15c; ducklings, 5 lbs. and over, 25c; ducklings, 4 to 5 lbs., 18c; ducklings, 3 lbs. and under, young, 10 lbs. and up, 23c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 30c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 1 lbs. and over, 25c; chickens, 1 lbs., 30c; hens, over 5 lbs., 25c; hens, 4 to 5 lbs., 24c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 18c; roosters, 18c; ducklings, 5 lbs. and over, 28c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 25c; do, 3 lbs. and under, young, 10 lbs. and up, 38c; turkeys, young, 10 lbs. and up, 38c.

Beans—Canadian hand picked, 7c; primes, 6½c.

Maple products—Syrup, per imp. gal., $2.50; per 5-gal. tin, per imp. gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25c.

Honey—60-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; 10-lb. tins, 12 to 13c; 2½-lb. tins, 14 to 15c; comb honey, per doz., No. 1, $4; No. 2, $3.25 to $3.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 25 to 26c; cooked hams, 39 to 41c; cooked ham, 39 to 41c; rolled ham, 27 to 28c; breakfast bacon, 27 to 28c; breakfast bacon, 27 to 28c; special brand breakfast bacon, 27 to 28c; backs, boneless, 31 to 34c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 20 lbs. and over, 18c; 20 lbs., $18; 20 lbs. and up, 18c; 20 lbs. and up, 18c; 20 lbs. and up, 18c