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Impressive Memorial Service to Late Field Marshall Haig

Ceremony Held at New Empire Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 12th in Honour of the Late Field-Marshal. Address by Mr. Austin E. Neame on the Life of the Deceased.

(By Thos. Fellows, Secy., Timmings Post Can. Legion).

A very impressive memorial service was held in the New Empire theatre Timmings, on Sunday, February 12th, at 3 p.m. Overshadowed as it was by the distressing mine tragedy and the consequent poignant sorrow existing in our midst, the attendance was surprisingly large under the sad local conditions. The ceremony was held to honour the memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Haig, the Grand President of the British Empire Service League, and conducted under the auspices of Timmings Post No. 88, Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League.

Among those present were Colonel J. G. Wright, D.S.O., of Toronto; Colonel S. R. Harrison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., the president of Timmings Post No. 88, Canadian Legion; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Shragge; Mr. H. C. Garner, M.C.; Mr. and Mrs. D. Maxwell; Mr. H. Byrom; Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Hornby; Mr. Austin E. Neame; Mr. F. J. Bradley, D.C.M., M.M.; Mr. J. A. Caveney, Sandy Falls; Mr. I. W. Hunt, Sandy Falls; Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Harris, Schumacher; Mr. A. Thomas; Mr. J. Callum; Mr. J. J. Brennan; Mr. A. B. Walkley; Mr. J. Bodell; Rev. J. D. Parks, B.A.; Rev. Ivan E. Kennedy; Miss F. McCarthy; and many others.

Dr. S. R. Harrison commenced the memorial service with a short and appropriate address, pointing out the sorrow of the Legion in Timmings in the recent tragic happenings at Timmings. The order of service as follows, was carried out:

Hymn, "O God our Help in Ages Past."

Prayer, Rev. J. D. Parks, B.A., B.D. Address, Austin E. Neame, 1st vice-president of Timmings Post No. 88, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., on "Life and Work of Field-Marshal Earl Haig." Mr. Neame said: Comrades of the Canadian Legion, ladies and gentlemen. We have met together today to honour the memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Empire in the Great War, and founder of the British Empire Service League. His sudden death from heart disease, caused by war strain, just two weeks ago, came as a great shock and grief to his fellow countrymen, and to the Empire at large. Especially is he mourned by ex-servicemen and by the Legionnaires of the British Empire Service League, for whose welfare he devoted the greater part of his time since the end of the war. He won their respect and confidence by his leadership in the field, he won their gratitude by his efforts after the war, to promote their welfare in civil life. He sought to perpetuate the comradeship and the spirit of the front line, in an ex-servicemen's organization that would spread throughout the Empire. The Legion have lost their strongest ally, and they owe him much for his efforts to bring the many veteran organizations together. The late Field-Marshal was born in 1861 at Cameron Bridge, Fife, Scotland, and his forbears before him had been soldiers for seven hundred years. He followed in their footsteps, and took up a military career, entering the Royal Military College of Sandhurst, passing first out of the college, from thence to the cavalry. His first promotion came after service in the Sudan, where, in 1898, he took part in the Atbara and Khartoum affairs, serving under Lord Kitchener. In the following two years he distinguished himself in South Africa and in 1901 he was made Lieut.-Colonel and commanded the 17th Lancers. In 1903 he went to India and was given the post of Inspector-General of Cavalry. In 1910 he became Lieut.-General, and remained in the East until 1912, when he became General Officer commanding Aldershot, England. In 1914 he became General. He was Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France and Flanders from the middle of 1915 to the end of the

war, and there is no doubt that the burden of the responsibilities that he carried during that trying time shortened his life. It has been said of him that there never was a finer defensive leader. And he proved himself an able director of great offensive operations. Once through official red tape Britain came near to losing the man who eventually became Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Great War. Captain Haig, as he was then, applied for entrance to the Staff College at Camberley, and passed his entrance examination with flying colours. But later was declared to be colour blind, at the medical examination. In vain he protested his sight was as good as the next man's but a military Board of Doctors had declared him colour blind and colour blind he must be, and therefore not eligible for admission to that school of future generals. Fortunately for him, on appealing to the Duke of Cambridge, the difficulty was overcome, by the Duke giving Capt. Haig a specially Commander-in-Chief's nomination to the Staff College. Lord Haig always foresaw he would war, and spent a life-time of study preparing for it. During the war Field-Marshal Earl Haig proved himself a strict disciplinarian, a man with cool head, of indomitable courage, and great ability as a soldier. He was always thoughtful of the interests of his subordinates. A story is told of him when commander of the 1st Army Corps during the first battle of Ypres. He packed his generals off to bed at 8.30 every night, saying "there's big work to be done in the morning, you cannot be fit for four in the morning without rest overnight." When we think of the vastness of the operations under his command, Field-Marshal Haig must take a high place on the roll of British soldiers. Marlborough led but a corporal's guard as compared with the hosts assembled under Haig, and Wellington led to Waterloo but the equivalent of a few divisions on the Western front. His message to the troops in those dark days of the spring in 1918 shows the calibre of the great leader. "Many among us now are tired; to those I would say that victory will belong to the side which holds out the longest. There is no other course open to us but to fight it out." There too he voiced the dogged determination of the British soldier, that was a mighty factor in the great struggle. And that message to his troops ten years ago this spring may still be taken to heart and remembered by us in the stress of everyday life. To those of us who at times are discouraged possibly from ill-health, lack of employment, etc., let us take thought of Field-Marshal Earl Haig's words to his commanders, in one of the darkest periods of the war, before the battle of Amiens, "With our backs to the wall, pray and hang on." That is the spirit

that cannot be broken; it is the spirit shown in days gone by at Waterloo, Balaclava, Lueknov, Rorke's Drift, Spion Kop, and in the North Sea—it is the spirit that gave the final victory to our arms.

And now that our founder is gone to his last rest, let us carry our minds to some of the last scenes of a nation's farewell to the man who served his country so well. For three days his body lay in state in the Presbyterian Church of St. Coloma in London, visited by thousands of men who had served under him. The coffin draped with the Union Jack and covered with masses of poppies. Then the removal of the coffin from St. Coloma to Westminster Abbey, on the gun carriage, the gun that fired the first shell of the war from British guns—the same gun carriage that carried the body of the Unknown Warrior to its burial place. With its escort of troops, the leading generals of England as pall bearers, the Prince of Wales and his brothers as mourners, the multitudes of people lining the streets, the funeral cortege made its way to Westminster Abbey. After the service in the great Abbey, the body was removed to St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, where again there was a lying-in-state for three days, before removal by rail to the little station in Berwickshire near his home at Bemesyde. At the station 2,000 men of the B.E.S.L. were drawn up to honor the remains of their chief, and after a simple ceremony at the church the coffin was placed in a one-horse cart and taken to the burial ground at Dryburgh Abbey, a magnificent ruin, the old burying ground of his people, and he lies at rest, in the precincts of the old ruined Abbey, "Among his ain folks." It may seem a fanciful idea to some, but it has entered my mind more than once—I have tried to imagine the welcome to the great spirit that has gone, from the comrades he has now joined, who passed on before him. Let me in conclusion quote from the poem just used at the funeral of the Unknown Warrior.

"O valiant hearts
Tranquil you lie;
Your virtue proved—
Your memory hallowed
In the land you loved."
Hymn: Onward Christian Soldiers.
Address: Rev. Ivan E. Kennedy.
Hymn: Abide with Me.

The chairman requested Legionnaires and ex-servicemen to deposit their poppies on the war memorial immediately after the service.

The National Anthem—God Save the King.

Benediction: Rev. Ivan E. Kennedy

Organist: Miss F. McCarthy, organist of Timmings United Church.

Nearly one hundred legionnaires and ex-servicemen formed up under

the leadership of the President, Dr. S. R. Harrison, and in two ranks marched to the War Memorial, where a magnificent wreath of ferns and poppies was laid on the memorial, followed by the veterans depositing their poppies. Approaching the Memorial each veteran uncovered, and bare-headed, decorously deposited his mark of esteem and regret.

A large crowd assembled quickly to witness this part of the Memorial Service, while pictures were being taken of the laying of the wreath and poppies from the roof of the Empire Hotel.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES AND MEETING CANCELLED

Owing to the tragedy at the Hollinger mine, the anniversary services and congregational meeting and social in connection with the United Church, which were to be held Sunday and Monday were deferred until a later date.

Toronto Mail and Empire:—A Staten Island young man is said to have been cured of criminal tendencies by an operation on the brain. It is likely that he never would have had these tendencies if his parents had heeded the warning of Solomon and performed certain old-fashioned operations when he was younger.



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TELEGRAMS OF SYMPATHY FROM KIWANIS OFFICIALS

Read at Meeting on Monday. Timmings Kiwanis Offer Their Services in Any Way

At the Kiwanis Club meeting on Monday, reference was made to the disaster at the Hollinger mine here, and deep sympathy was expressed for the bereaved and anxious relatives. President C. G. Keddie presided at the meeting and the regular programme was dispensed with.

A motion was passed that the Committee on Public Affairs of the club get in touch with the officials of the mine to offer assistance in any way that may be of use,—in calling on the afflicted families, or in any other way possible.

The following telegrams were read: Chas. Keddie, Pres. Kiwanis Club of Timmings;

"New Liskeard Kiwanis Club sincerely sympathize with Timmings citizens in regrettable loss of lives in the Hollinger mine."

H. W. Sutcliffe, Pres. Kiwanis Club of New Liskeard.

Chas. Keddie, Pres. Kiwanis Club of Timmings;

"Please convey to your fellow townsmen through your members the sorrow and sincerest sympathy of scores of Kiwanians anxiously awaiting news. We have not forgotten the courtesies extended to us in times past by Hollinger officers and men. May rescue work reveal fewer fatalities than at first anticipated."

Dr. W. A. Lewis, Dist. Lieut. Gov. Kiwanis International.

Dr. Hare of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto, was a visitor to the club and spoke on the proposed visit of the Toronto Kiwanis Club to Timmings. He also expressed on behalf of the Toronto club deepest sympathy to the citizens of Timmings in the disaster that had occurred here. The matter of the visit of the Toronto Club was dealt with, and the formal invitation extended to the Toronto Kiwanis to visit here, the invitation to include any members of the Riverdale Kiwanis who cared to come.

The balance of the meeting dealt with the report of the committee attending the Charter Night at New Liskeard Kiwanis last week. Those who gave short accounts of the trip and the banquet were:—Messrs C. G. Keddie, Dr. L. Honey, W. S. Jamieson, W. O. Langdon, Phil Young and Jos. Weston.

WRONG NAMES IN LIST OF FLORAL TRIBUTES.

By an error in transmission over the phone, two names in the list of floral tributes in connection with the report of the funeral of the late Geo. McDonald appeared wrong in The Advance last week. One of the floral tributes should have been listed as from Mr. C. F. Mason and another as from Mrs. Ethel Mitchell.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review:— Investors used to be urged to adopt the motto: Investigate before you invest. Now it seems that the Governments seem to be putting the investigator after the investor.

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