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TIMMINS

Reporters of Great War Lived in Big Chateau in France

Some of the Newspapermen Were Knighted.

(By D.S.R.)
War correspondents were on the blacklist when the writer reached London in February, 1915, as representative of The Evening Telegram. Kitchener had banned them from his armies and official eye witnesses were sending out the news. Meantime, however, Col. Sam Hughes had helped several young Canadian newspapermen to go overseas with the First Division.

They included C. B. Topp, of the Mail and Empire, subsequently a soldier who won the M.C. and bar and the D.S.O. and later became colonel of the Foot Guards in Ottawa; Jack MacLaren, of the old Toronto World, who is now a leading advertising agent in this city; "Bill" Marchington, of the Globe; "Mike" Moore, of the Montreal Star, who, later a soldier, was to become an editor of the Freeman's Journal, Dublin, and a writer on the Philadelphia Ledger; Roland Hill, of the Montreal Star, John Kidman, of the Montreal Gazette, and Walter Willison, of the Toronto News, went abroad independently. T. T. Champion was London resident correspondent of the Canadian Associated Press.

Two Trips To France

One day in February, 1915, Jack MacLaren and I went to France, where, on the pier at Boulogne, Sergeant Cox of Scotland Yard met us with a smile. Pocketing our passports, he said we would have to report to the British base commandant, who would probably deport us. We might stay for a few days but must not attempt to leave the town. We called on a party of famous British correspondents, who, there on sufferance, could not venture from Boulogne—which, strangely enough, was then brightly lit by night though London was pitch dark. In the end we left France, assured that our return without War Office permission would mean jail.

In September, however, began the long series of "Cocks' Tours" in which Canadian pressmen were enabled to visit their fellow countrymen in the trenches. In this connection the War Office issued each of us linen-paper documents inscribed "Press Correspondent's License." They bore our names, signatures and photos, and the names of our respective papers, plus the sign manual of Sir Reginald Brade, permanent secretary of the War Office, and Major-General J. W. Macdonogh. Along with these were handed green armlets with "War Corp. Canada" emblazoned on them in white letters, and a booklet setting forth our privileges and responsibilities. Nevertheless, we were known merely as "Visitors to the Front."

Famous Correspondents

It was good to be able to laugh at Sergeant Cox as we stepped into staff cars and whizzed away to British General Headquarters, where we stayed with Sir Max Aitken, the Canadian official eye witness. Subsequently we visited the British war correspondents,

now accepted and quartered in a fine chateau. Orderlies waited on them in a pretty drawing room with a grate fire, where we were offered refreshment and invited to dinner. A military censor and his staff were installed here at the "Press Chateau" to handle all newspaper despatches, ours included.

As they could not otherwise have moved about freely, these "accredited correspondents" wore officers' uniforms minus rank badges, though they were rated as honorary captains. Each man had his own car and an officer and military chauffeur to take him about. Philip Gibbs, W. Beach Thomas, Perry Robinson and Percival Phillips—all of whom got knighted after the war—were prominent members of the small and strictly limited group, as was also Herbert Russell of Reuters. As it was obviously impossible to be everywhere at once they frequently pooled their news, each writing it in his own way. Once when I was sitting tea with them at the Chateau de Tramcourt, Philip Gibbs came in remarking:—"I have just been up with the Australians. Does anyone want the story?"

A Night On Hill 60
Though my own visits to the front were short and infrequent, they extended over the years 1915-16-17 and 18 and took in the Canadian, Imperial, French, Italian and American fronts, to say nothing of a hectic time at the Easter Week rebellion in Dublin, in 1916. And though there was a bit of the personally conducted in our tours we did see a lot.

For instance, I, one day in August, 1916, breakfasted in London, had afternoon tea with a Canadian brigade in the battlements at Ypres, crossed the Salient under shell fire, dined in the Railway Dugouts with, among others, Major (now Brigadier) H. D. G. Crearer, Commandant of R.M.C., and spent the night on Hill 60, when Col. Rattray's 10th Battalion put on a raid—though I was in a dugout part of the time.

Two days later two of us went back to Hill 60, where we met Sir Julian Byng just emerging. German shell fire had caused many casualties among Col. Gascoigne's 60th Battalion that morning, but we were able to crawl out among broken sandbags to within a few yards of a now silent German front line and to talk with Capt. Ralston and Lieut. Butler, who, with a few men, were crouching down ready to repel a fresh onslaught. Capt. Ralston, who won the M.C. for that day's work, was a brother of Col. Ralston, the new Minister of Finance.

Papers Slow To Agree

Though the British authorities turned down requests from individual Canadian papers or syndicates to have a man permanently at Canadian Corps Headquarters, the War Office was willing to allow a Canadian who would supply all the papers. But not until early in 1917 could the Canadian papers agree on a man who should go there to represent the Canadian Associated Press. Stewart Lyon, editor of the Globe, was the first to hold this post. He remained for about six months and was succeeded, in turn, by Walter Willison and J. F. B. Livesay.

What will happen this time is conjecture. But it may be stated that during the Great War much war news appearing in Canadian papers came from the syndicated output of American correspondents, who, though mostly very friendly to the Allies, were naturally prone to colour their despatches with an American viewpoint.

Report on Abitibi Area by Quebec Mines Bureau

The Quebec Bureau of Mines are just publishing an 8 1/2 x 11, 46-page report P.R. 135 on Mining Properties and Development in Abitibi and Temiscamingue by S. H. Ross and W. N. Ashbury.

This report deals with 52 properties in 26 separate townships visited by Mr. Ross and his associates in the field season of 1938. It contains valuable information on the geology as well as the amount of work done, such as diamond drilling, etc. Assay results of samples are given in certain cases where it was possible to secure them. A very important feature of this report is its value to the prospector and small operator. A thorough examination has been made of each of the properties visited and information obtained relative to the geology, amount of work done and, as stated above, the tenor of the samples of ore taken. This will provide a valuable guide for future operations. This report is now available and may be obtained on application from the Director, Bureau of Mines, Quebec City.

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ALLIES BIG THREE, GAMELIN, GORT, IRONSIDE



Three famous military men are leading the Allies' attack on Germany. General Gustave Gamelin (LEFT), brilliant strategist of the last great war and chief of staff for France, is the Allies' military chief. Britain's commander in the field, Viscount Gort (CENTRE), England's chief of staff, is now chief of staff for Britain in six-foot-six General Ironside (RIGHT), who has been in Canada many times.

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From data in the Porcupine Advance Files

In The Advance ten years ago: "For some weeks past The Advance has been suggesting that the McIntyres had a good chance to add the Eastern Ontario Baseball Association championship to the championship of the Temiskaming Baseball League. Everybody in all this section of country is delighted that this is just what happened. The three final games at Ottawa were followed with the greatest interest by all in Schumacher, Timmins, South Porcupine, Iroquois Falls, and all through the Northland. Play-by-play reports of the games Saturday were received at the brokerage offices at Timmins and this service was much appreciated. Friday's game was postponed on account of wet grounds, a double-header being played on Saturday. Rideaus, of Ottawa, champions of Ottawa Valley, won the first game, 5 to 1. The McIntyres won the second 9 to 6, and the third one 7 to 6. It will be noted that the runs scored in the three games by each team were the same—17.

"There were a host of baseball fans from all over the district, and, of course, especially from Schumacher, at the station there Tuesday evening to greet the McIntyre baseball team on its return from Ottawa where the champions of the North also made themselves the champions of the Eastern Ontario Baseball Association," said The Advance ten years ago. "Among the first to greet the returning champions was Mr. A. F. Kenning, M.P.P. Others from Timmins included A. Borland, Sr., president of the T. A.A.A. and Jas. Cowan, the secretary. The reception very hurriedly arranged first took the form of a triumphant parade through the town and then through Timmins."

Friday the thirteenth was a lucky night for those who liked good dancing and a good time, ten years ago. It was the date chosen for the Midnight Frolic put on at the McIntyre hall by Tommy Stephens and his orchestra. There were many good things said about this event in The Advance and elsewhere before the event occurred, and everything good was fully warranted by the affair itself. The hall was packed for the occasion.

In The Advance ten years ago: "The Advance was shown last week a bagful of crab apples grown in the garden of Mr. E. Savard, 156 Pine street, north, this year. The apples were of fair size and good flavour, and were part of the crop from two trees on Mr. Savard's property. With all the beautiful lawns and gardens in town for many years and with the specially fine vegetables produced here from year to year, there has not been much progress made in growing fruit in this locality. Attempts to grow apples here have not been specially successful. Mr. Savard's two trees, however, have wintered well and given a good crop this year, with promise of better results in following years. This is one of the first, if not the first case in Timmins, where apples have been grown in the usual way and so is worthy of note."

Miss Willow Faydor, of Ottawa, President of the Grand Assembly of Ontario of the Rebekah Lodge, paid her official visit to Gold Nugget Lodge, Timmins, on Thursday evening, September 12th, 1929. There was a large attendance of the members of the local lodge of the Rebekahs together with some visitors from Schumacher and South Porcupine and other parts of the district to meet and greet the President of the Grand Assembly of Ontario of the Rebekahs.

When the daily editors visited Timmins and asked about the needs of the North Land ten years ago, very special emphasis was given to the fact that the one great need of this country at the time was for roads for settlers. No one who knew this area of the North questioned this fact. Settlers packing in on their backs all their supplies, and bringing out all their produce by the same method was proof enough of the fact of the need for roads. "Every time there is anything said about helping the settlers," said The Advance at the time, "some settler rises to say with emphasis, and often with justifiable bitterness, 'If the Government would give us roads, we would ask nothing else.' Without roads the settlers have a task so difficult as to approach the impossible."
*Some months ago The Advance

Spy of Napoleon the Feature at Cartier Theatre

Richard Barthelmess and Dorothy Haas the Stars, Friday and Saturday.

Magnificent spectacle, a fine dramatic plot and a great cast of internationally famous stars, combine to make "Spy of Napoleon," Baroness Orey's great historical romance, which is showing at the Cartier theatre, on Friday and Saturday of this week, Sept. 22nd and 23rd, a really outstanding screen entertainment. Maurice Elvey's direction is exceptionally fine in this, his first film since he joined Julius Hagen as Director of Productions at the J. H. Studios, Elstree.

The scenario adheres closely to the novel which is set in France during the reign of Louis Napoleon III. The members of the old aristocracy bitterly resented the new Emperor and were continually plotting against his life. Toulon, his Chief of Police, conceived the idea of introducing Eloise, Napoleon's natural daughter, into the Emperor's entourage, as by means of her beauty and wit she would be an acquisition in exposing the many intrigues by which he was surrounded. To do this she must bear a great family name, and so Toulon offers Gerard de Lanoy, a young nobleman under arrest for treason, the choice of marrying Eloise and going immediately into permanent exile as an alternative to the death sentence. The rest of the film is concerned with the exciting adventures of these two young people who cross each other's paths more than once before they find happiness.

Dolly Haas and Richard Barthelmess are co-stars as Eloise and Gerard, and form a delightful team. It will be remembered that after seeing Dolly Haas in "Broken Blossoms," Barthelmess expressed a wish to play in a film with her, and producer Julius Hagen

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consequently assigned him this role. Merritt, Wilfrid Calhoun and Lyn Louis Napoleon is played by Frank Vosper, whose make-up is perfect and whose acting is, as always, impeccable. Francis L. Sullivan is Toulon, the Emperor's Chief of Police, and Joyce Bland a delightful Empress. Others in an outstanding cast are Henry Oscar, Majorie Mars, Denier Warren, George Merritt, Wilfrid Calhoun and Lyn Harding, who makes a brief but effective appearance as Bismarck.
Surbury Star:—Ireland stands aloof from the great war, as it is all she can do to keep the present hospitals going with that sweepstakes dough.

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