

Soldier's Opinion of the Work of the Canadian Red Cross

(From Red Cross Bulletin)
The "Canadian Veteran" again in its February 28th issue offered \$100.00 for incontrovertible proof that the Red Cross is selling socks or other comforts. A letter received from a Canadian soldier in England, upon reading this article in the "Canadian Veteran" states: "On the front page stood out an article effecting one of the great organizations doing everything in their power for human comforts. In our dealings with the Red Cross organization — of which dealings we have had a few — they have been to our advantage and comfort at all times. Last Christmas the Red Cross in our unit alone distributed 548 pullovers, 548 pairs of pyjamas, 548 scarves and skull caps and gloves to match. People who denounce so great and kind an organization couldn't possibly be in their right minds. This is putting it lightly. We all know that this is made possible through contributions from the Canadian public and we also know people the world over go out of their way to help the Red Cross."

"Well, my friends, from what I've seen in England I can safely say that the Red Cross go out of their way time and time again to give comfort without charge to the fighting units, and then to the public when it is possible."
"We, the boys of this unit, take off our hats to the Red Cross for the wonderful work they are doing. '\$100.00 for a headline'. Not even \$1,000.00 for a headline would bring an ungrateful louse who spreads false rumours out into the open to tell his story."
"Here's hoping your paper will have all success in the world. Hope the injustice to the Red Cross is straightened out pronto."

IN THE SCRIMMAGE

"The man with his ear to the ground knows that something is going on," says a political writer. Although he has a better idea than the opposing forwards get off his head and let him up.—Globe and Mail.

Good Work of Field Kitchens of the Canadian Red Cross

The fleet of 36 mobile field kitchens donated by the Canadian Red Cross to the British Government are rendering a wonderful service, particularly in country areas and smaller communities where homes and restaurants have been completely wiped out by air raids. Three of these kitchen units are allotted to each of Britain's twelve defence zones. Thirteen of the thirty-six have already been paid for by organizations or individual donors who earmarked their contributions for this specific project. The Canadian Red Cross is requesting additional funds for these kitchen units. Each unit costs \$3,100, is built on a four ton chassis, is equipped with a cooking range, fuel, water, supplies of meat and vegetables sufficient to provide meals for 250 individuals such as civilians, firemen, air raid workers. They are driven by English girls of the Woman's Voluntary Services and can be moved to any blitz area immediately.—From the News Bulletin of the Red Cross.

Remarkable Results Accomplished by Red Cross Workers

(From Red Cross Bulletin)
During 1940 "stupendous results" were accomplished by the Red Cross women workers throughout Canada. Mrs. Wallace Campbell National Chairman of Women's War Work, announced a total of 7,104,344 articles made. Supplies, comforts and clothing shipped overseas totalled 6,119,201, while distribution in Canada and Newfoundland amounted to 985,143 articles.

Mr. H. Milburne, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, reported that only six (value \$97,939) out of 202 shipments of Canadian Red Cross supplies were lost due to enemy action on the high seas. These goods were sent direct to all parts of the United Kingdom; to Iceland; to Kingston, Jamaica; to Caracas, Dutch West Indies; to Trinidad, British West Indies; to Rumania; and to Finland. Canadian Red Cross shipments to the United King-

dom totalled 87,347 cases (9,684,304 articles) worth \$2,944,928. Supplies were also shipped for the I.O.D.E. and Regimental Auxiliaries.

Mrs. H. P. Plumtree, National Commandant of the Women's Voluntary Service Corps, stated that the Canadian Red Cross, following the example of the British Red Cross, has mobilized 1,600 voluntary trained and disciplined women as transport drivers, nursing aides, office workers and food administrators for active service in case of need.

Funeral at North Bay of the Late Thomas Burns

(From Pembroke Standard-Observer)
At the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption, North Bay, funeral service was held Monday for Thomas Burns who died Friday in his 82nd year. He had been ill for about seven years with a heart condition. Father Hussey said the funeral mass. Pallbearers were six sons, William, Ambrose, Harold, Joseph, John and Emmett Burns. Interment was in St. Mary's cemetery, Born at Chichester, Mr. Burns was a son of George and Catherine Burns. He was married at Chapeau January 31, 1885, to his first wife, the former Fanny Gregg, who predeceased him in 1903. His second wife, formerly Mary Gibbons, of Allumette Island, survives him. The large number of spiritual and floral tributes and telegrams of sympathy received by the bereaved family testify to the high regard in which Mr. Burns was held. The family residence was 152 First avenue west, from where the funeral was held. Mr. Burns had resided in North Bay for 17 years. Besides his wife, Mr. Burns is survived by two daughters, Mrs. J. Luesby and Iona Burns, and seven sons, Ambrose, Emmett, Arthur, John, Cletus, North Bay; Joseph, Kapuskasing, and Harold, Schumacher, from his second marriage. From the first marriage, five children survive, William, Coniston; Michael, Winnipeg; Mrs. A. Wilsher, Ottawa; Miss Kathleen Burns, New York; and Mrs. Donald Gordon, Seattle, Wash. Also surviving are two brothers, Solomon Burns, North Bay; James Burns, Milnet; one sister in International Falls, Wisconsin, and 25 grandchildren.

Iran Formerly Known as Persia; Iraq, Mesopotamia

Some Interesting Background About Places Much in the News.

Most people have the thought in their minds that Iran and Iraq—so much in the news at present—are better known to them by other names. More than one question has been made to The Advance along the line: "What did they use to call Iraq?" or "Wasn't Iraq known by some other name?" Of course these people are right. Iran and Iraq are comparatively new names for countries once more or less well known to the average man—at least by name. For the interest and information of readers the following article by Dr. H. L. Stewart is given in full. Dr. Stewart is professor of modern history at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. As an "aside," it is worth noting that the article appeared in The Sentinel, Kamloops, B. C., which is nearly the breadth of the Dominion from Halifax.

Iraq and Iran.

Correspondents ask me about certain geographical figures in the daily news. Particular areas "with queer new names" which interest belongs to Iraq and Iran, that have so obviously a special importance just now for the axis powers.

I mean to use my space today for the most part with the story of Iran, still the less familiar of the two.

A previous generation, reading the whole bible more than the present generation reads it, had a better chance to realize the geography of such places. "Iran" is the Persia of the bible story, and those who in days past read such books as Nehemiah, Esther, or the second part of Isaiah, used to turn up the colored map at the back of their "Reference Bible" to see just where Persia was and what route the returning Jewish exiles would have to take on their way back to rebuild the temple. In like manner the Iraq of our daily newspaper was the Mesopotamia of

Old Testament readers. They would look at the map to see the place in Iraq with that odd name "Ur of the Chaldees," where Abraham was born, and would trace the line of his emigration when he was summoned to leave it, marking his side-trip to Egypt and what came of that.

Furnishes Picture

Among other (and better) reasons for reading the Old Testament, we may note how it would help us to realize some important local details in the bulletins from morning to morning. It would furnish us with that invaluable thing—a "picture."

Our newspaper does not commonly refer, in speaking of Iraq, to the place at which angels in the bible story visited Abraham, but it does tell about the 1200 German settlers, agents of Adolf Hitler, who lately came to incite Moslems for war against the British. Nothing about the historic site of Ezekiel's vision by "the river of Chebar," but a good deal about the pipeline for conducting oil from Mosul in Iraq to the Palestinian port of Haifa, whence it can be carried through the Mediterranean for supply of British ships and planes.

Different interests, one observes at different times and in different circumstances! Were those "old Jewish books" that tell of heavenly visions, on a lower cultural level than "Mein Kampf?"

But I am getting away from Iran, about which I undertook to write.

Formerly Persia

Look at the map. See its geographic location, and its size. It adjoins Iraq has a territory about three times the size of France, and approximately 12,000,000 people. Until about 15 years ago, while still known as "Persia" (the name was not officially changed until 1935), Iran was an altogether Oriental country. There were stories about this. One told how the proposal to take a census had at first greatly alarmed and disgusted those primitive folk. They thought there was something impious about it. Another tale is about the Shah of Persia who had visited the British house of commons, and on being told that members on the left of the chair were "His Majesty's Opposition," exclaimed "Opposition indeed! If I had them in my country, I would cut off their heads."

I cannot vouch for all these stories, but at least we know certain happenings in the country within the last 20 years that have made a great difference.

There was always oil in Iran, lots of it, and—like the carcass which attracts eagles—oil attracted certain western powers 20 years ago when its vast possibilities, especially for warfare, were beginning to be realized. Especially Great Britain and Russia, whose territories were nearest. Turkey, too, was near, but at the time when British and Russian prospectors began to pry into the oil resources of Persia, Turkey under the old Sultan Abdul Hamid was not awake to such chances and perils. So, after a lot of negotiating with the Shah of Persia, who probably had little appreciation of the coming value of that which he was asked to concede, British and Russian negotiators got what were called "spheres of influence" for their respective countries. This meant certain exclusive rights of mineral development.

Not Fulfilled

But the Russian revolution made a big difference. The fall of the czar, and the numerous difficulties of Russia elsewhere, extinguished Russia's claims, and at the end of the World War, when the Turks had been overwhelmed, the Shah of Persia signed an agreement placing his country under political and military control of Great Britain. Lord Curzon was British foreign secretary at the time, and was thought to have in view a great new frontier province of British India, extending from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian.

Well, if such was his project, it was not to be fulfilled. Something happened in Persia, like what happened in Turkey, and just about the same time. A young Persian military officer, with a handful of followers, proclaimed an enterprise of "Persia for the Persians," "Down with the Foreigner." Like the young Turkish officer who started an insurrection under the slogan "Turkey for the Turks." The name of the Persian who corresponded to the Turkish Mustapha Kemal was Riza Khan. Riza became dictator at Bagdad, like Mustapha at Ankara. Why did the European powers permit all this? Well, by that time they were war-weary. Their respective interests too, were conflicting. And each case, the Persian as well as the Turkish, looked like a project of "self-determination" such as Woodrow Wilson had taught us all to revere.

Did Iran Good

Riza turned out a good dictator. He established law and order, introduced a lot of modern improvements with imported western advisers (chiefly American and French) for he was shy of Russian or British (because British and Russian territorial interests were too close to Persia's own). Riza built railway and motor roads, developed Persia's export business (especially in oil, carpets, fruit), put an end to special privilege for foreigners and cancelled the concession to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, though it had still some 30 years to run. There was quite a row about this last step (in 1932). It was adjusted by the League of Nations.

Now, perhaps, it is plain why Hitler—who has been using oil at a rate so much beyond that at which it can be replaced—is thinking hard about Iran. Turkey lies between. But what of that? "Neutrals" mean nothing to Hitler.

Kingston Whig-Standard: Al Smith says that New York is a better place for boys than it was in the old days when he was a boy. But it seems to be just about the same sort of place for playboys.

Finds the Festival of Music a Real Cure for the Blues

Wonderful Relief from the Worries of War Time.

Timmins, May 14th, 1941

To the Editor of

The Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir: In the present time of war, the minds of all look for a channel of relaxation, a place where one can sit and let all thoughts of turmoil, strife and destruction completely disappear. This is hard to find. If you enter a movie theatre there are sure to be pictures of vicious bombing attacks and property damage for all to view. So one is no better off, and better stay home. You dare not turn on the radio, for at some time you will hear a commentary of war dispatches. If you knit or sew, the thought is constantly before you, "I wonder what brave lad will receive these?" At every turn one does not seem to have a channel into which to enter to be utterly away from all thoughts of the struggle of the present day. Trying to find a solution for the cure of this feeling of depression I was invited to attend a session of the Festival of Music held this week in Timmins. The prescription effected a complete cure and all present no doubt feel as I do, that blessings and thanks to the officers and members of the District of Cochrane Festival of Music are in order. Picture in your mind the feeling aroused by a large group of happy children, singing sweetly and in perfect harmony a lilting lyric of happy carefree days. Then you listened to the happy remarks of the adjudicator whose humour, along with his talent, gave a refreshing period of relaxation. My friend then invited me visit another hall where instrumental examinations were in progress. Your whole body fairly jumped to the happy and jolly selection then in progress. In pairs the little talented artists gave vivid interpretations of the composition. The mind and spirit completely changed. "There's something in music after all!" The adjudicator here gave one the final touch to his cure. In smiling manner he demonstrated to the contestants the real interpretation of the composition selected. Then came the scene of happy smiling boys and girls receiving their diplomas. Your depression had completely vanished, and as an added precaution to a relapse, a return visit later to another session of the Festival of Music was the result.

This is how the Festival affected myself and I am positive that the large attendances present must have felt the same way. Personally I am aware that the time and effort of those concerned must have been tremendous, but just as a citizen of Timmins I wish to close with a big "Thank You" to you all.

Yours truly,

W. A. D.

Evacuating Geraniums From the Office Window

The following amusing description of the evacuation of a number of geraniums from the office window is given by Thomas Richard Henry in his column in The Toronto Telegram:—
"We have evacuated our geraniums with only one casualty."
"Telegram stereotypes have a window garden that is international in character. Behind gloomy window panes they have living, if not flourishing, strange, if not exotic, plants from foreign lands intermingled with geraniums, foliage and patience plants. Incidentally patience plants seem especially fitted to the locality."
"They plant orange seeds and something grows; they plant grapefruit seeds and something grows; they plant a peach pit and something grows; and we wouldn't be surprised at any time if they planted some bird seed and grew a canary."
Last fall we decided to go into competition with them in a financial department window. We landed an expeditionary force of a dozen Geranium

slips, but we ran into many vicissitudes. "Wreckers tore down a wall and stopped up all their pores with plaster dust."
"Mice nibbled them."
"Painters enveloped them in poisonous gases."
"Finally, their position was untenable, but we did not retreat."
"We contacted the stereotypers and took up our position in an adjoining window to their garden."
"But it was a losing battle from the start."
"Our line of communications with our geraniums was difficult and we suspect a certain amount of fifth column activity."
"We think that the stereotypers used to throw any molten lead they had left over at the end of the day, on our geraniums."
"Finally, it was necessary for survival to evacuate the plants."
"In utmost secrecy we got them away one at a time until the last rearguard geranium was withdrawn on Saturday."
"Only one casualty resulted. A stout lady stepped on one of the flower pots in a crowded street car."
"Spindly, worn and bedraggled, we have eleven of our geraniums back in our garden to recuperate."
"Next fall we will attack again—but this time with petunias. They will grow anywhere."
"N.B.—We learn from one petunia fan, that even petunias aren't doing well this year. It must be the war news."

Reference was made in The Advance on Monday to a charge laid against Margaret Stringer, 260 Birch street north, for alleged breach of the liquor laws. This Margaret Stringer was convicted in police court on Tuesday of this week and sentenced to three months in jail. The Advance is informed that Mrs. Stringer, 79 Seventh avenue, has been annoyed by having her name coupled with the case by some friends and acquaintances. It is difficult to see how any careful person could confuse the two names, as the address of the woman charged and convicted was plainly given in The Advance. It is equally difficult to understand how anyone would be careless about connecting innocent people with police court cases. Sometimes this sort of thing is done from a perverted sense of humour and sometimes from sheer carelessness. In either case the practice is to be condemned as not only unfair and unkind but liable also to have serious results for those guilty of thus improperly connecting the names of innocent people with court cases.

Similarity in Names Results in Annoyance

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Timmins Man Remanded for a Week at Paris, Ont.

A despatch this week from Paris, Ont., says that Francis Fuller, 18 Timmins, Ont., was remanded for a week in court on Tuesday on a charge of assault and causing actual bodily harm after he allegedly hit Edward Mordue, 78-year-old farmer, several blows on the head with a hammer. Mordue suffered scalp wounds and shock.
The alleged assault occurred Monday night. Fuller, employed as a farm hand at the Mordue place only Monday, worked on the farm, about three miles north of here all day, then went to the barn to finish the chores.
Mrs. Mordue told police she saw her husband come from the barn with his head cut and bleeding. She said she telephoned a doctor in Paris.
Police said Fuller began going through drawers and cupboards in the house and finally demanded the keys to Mordue's automobile. By this time Dr. F. H. Jeffrey of Paris had arrived and he was able to quieten Fuller. When he left he took the man back to Paris with him, where Fuller was turned over to police.

North Bay Nugget: And then there was the Indian rope trick performer who was discharged from the navy because every time he climbed the rigging he disappeared.

Yours truly,
W. A. D.

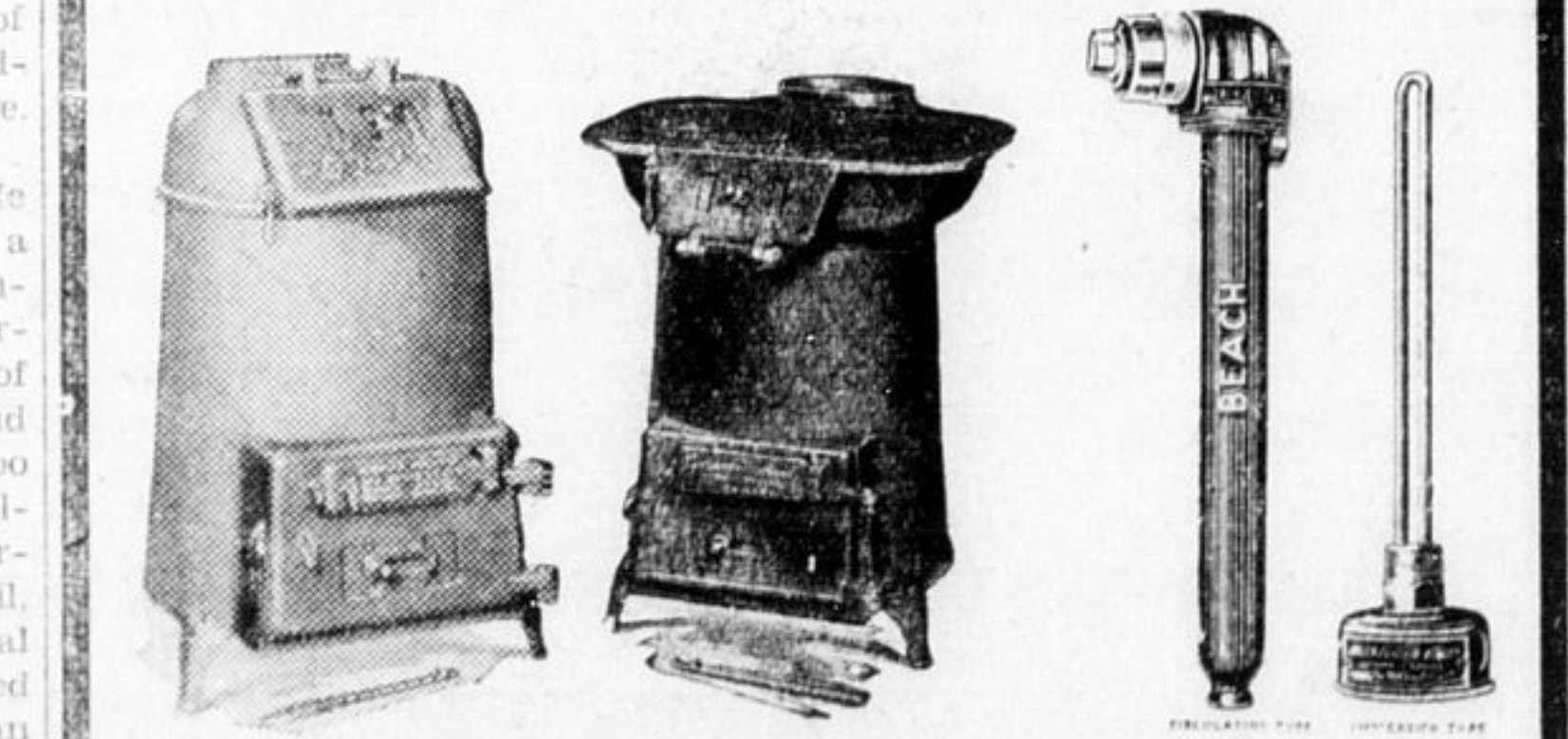
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