

# "SACRED DUST": GRAVES IN FRANCE

## WHERE LIE THE BODIES OF THE WORLD'S HEROES

### No Dead Sleep With Greater Calm Than Those Who Rest Beneath the Flowers of Flanders.

"If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is forever England. There shall be In that rich earth a richer dust concealed; A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware, Gave once her flowers to love, her ways to roam."

So wrote an English soldier about to die. So thought in terms of his own country many a son of Canada before he died.

No soldier passing down the far-flung battlefields of eastern France, where the long procession made of graves flanks the trenches could fail to wonder whether his body, too, would not become part of the soil of a foreign land. The home folks may grieve that the time-honored custom of placing their dead in the family plot of the cemetery is displaced by the grim necessity of this war. But their sons, who actually faced death, far afield from kith and kin, felt well content for the most part at the prospect of being where they fell, with the undying glory of the cause lighting forever the field of combat. There are places which history cradles in its arms with special reverence, like Thermopylae and Waterloo.

### Greatest of Historic Spots.

But will any historic spot, ancient or modern, claim to rival in brilliancy the glory of the whole battlefield from Flanders to Lorraine, where the glowing lamp of liberty has been fed by a myriad lives laid down without a thought of self? No dead sleep with greater calm than those who rest beneath the daisies and violets and sunny jonquils of France. They could never be transported to a fairer bed than that which they have earned with the red of their own rich blood. We can afford to leave them not only with satisfaction, but also with pride, where they lie in a foreign land that ceases to be foreign because they are there.

My first sight of the graves of those who had fallen on the field of honor was in the early spring of 1917, when I walked over part of the Marne, says a noted son of Canada, Bishop Brent. Peace reigned where once the battle had staggered and swayed.

No one could fail to be struck by the evident reverence with which these soldier boys were laid to rest. There was no touch of carelessness, no early forgetfulness from the living for those whose swift passage from earth saved France—and the world.

More than once I have been over the battle-scarred Vimy Ridge, made immortal by the Canadian corps the 9th of April, 1917. I recall one vast crater that told of the absolute obliteration of those who received the shock of the explosion which formed it. It has been converted most fittingly into a cemetery of those who perished there. A resurgent cross and inscription, ingenious in conception and execution, tell the tale. At another commanding point where the struggle was acute a massive monument marks the spot and records the victory. Behind the lines the cemeteries are given the same thoughtful care as at home. They are grass sown and planted with flowers and shrubs under the supervision of experts. I know of no city of the dead more solemn and Christian than the many that have been built along the western battle front.

### In Death Undivided.

One of the earliest cemeteries I visited was in Ypres, where the first grave bears the date of October 14, 1914, and the last December 31, 1917. Over each grave is a cross and inscription giving name, number, corps and whether killed in action or died of wounds. In some instances additional crosses had been erected by friends or comrades. One group of Australians had a common cross and over the graves was a map of Australia and a bit of Tasmania in a low relief of white stones. Until I was informed

on the subject I was puzzled to know what superstition marked many new graves with an inverted bottle. I found that superstition played no part in the matter. The bottle, being the best receptacle for the purpose, contained a paper of identification pending permanent inscription.

The director of graves registration and engineers in London, in response to the request of the relatives of British soldiers who have fallen, is prepared to send a photograph of any given grave. It is mailed in a cardboard frame and on an accompanying card is given the name, rank and initials, regiment, position of grave and the nearest railway station.

### MAIL DELIVERY IN ALASKA

#### Letters Are Carried to Interior on Sleds Drawn by Dogs.

The mails in Alaska recently have been seriously delayed and impeded by a lack of fish.

It is winter most of the year in that Arctic territory, and during the cold months the mails are carried to the interior of Alaska on sleds drawn by dogs.

The dogs are fed on fish, bought in quantities, frozen. But latterly there has been a scarcity of fish.

### New Kinds of Leather.

In the hunt for new sources of leather strange things are turning up. It has been ascertained that the skins of frogs and toads can be tanned and turned to account for card cases and other fancy articles.

# CONFERENCES ARE HELD AT SPA

## INTERNATIONAL ARMISTICE COMMISSION MEETS.

### Allied Leaders Occupy Houses That Once Sheltered the Former German War Lords.

There is no more interesting spot along the German border to-day than the famous town of Spa, in which the international armistice commission is holding conferences amidst a dramatic setting, which, were it seen on the stage, would be recorded as a masterpiece of the histrionic art.

Over 200,000,000 pounds of codfish are caught by Canadian fishermen annually. This is by far the largest quantity of any Canadian fish, or indeed, of any three varieties. Nor is this surprising, for codfishing early attracted the fishermen of the Bay of Biscay and of the Portuguese coast to Newfoundland.

The cod is native to both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. In the latter, there are, in fact, three varieties, ling, red and bray cod. The last named resembles the Atlantic fish. The flesh of the codfish is not salty. Fresh or frozen codfish is as white and palatable as lake whitefish.

### LOGGING THE LIEUTENANT.

#### How Officers Are Punished for Misconduct in the Royal Navy.

Although a naval captain can exact unquestioning obedience from all under his command, he has no power to inflict punishment on an officer.

### FROM MONS TO MONS.

#### Gunner With a Canadian Battery Goes Through Whole War.

To have been with the British at Mons in 1914, and to return and retake Mons, with the Canadians, in 1918, has been the unique experience of Gunner E. J. Bowyer, of the 110th Heavy Battery, R.G.A.

# CANADIAN COD FISHERIES

## New Food Permanently Added to the Domestic List.

Codfish has come into its own in Canada during the war. It has always been a favorite fish of the French and other New-Latin countries, both in Europe and in South America. It has, however, been one of the most neglected fish so far as Canada is concerned.

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### HOW THE WAR WAS MADE

#### Revelations Which Fix the Guilt of Bloodshed on Hun Rulers.

New revelations giving a sinister insight into the plottings of Berlin in July, 1914, come in official reports from the Bavarian Minister at Berlin to his government at Munich.

# THE AUTOMOBILE

### Helpful Hints.

With the coming of cold weather one should make slight changes in carburetor adjustment. Adjust the needle valve to give a slightly richer mixture. On carburetors which have no needle valve change the low speed adjustment to give a richer mixture.

Look over the hot air inlet to carburetor and see that no air can enter it except around the exhaust pipe. If there is a cold air vent it should be closed. If there is no hot air pipe on the engine have one installed as it will more than pay for itself owing to the difficulty of evaporating the present low grade of gasoline.

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# ONE MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER

## GENERAL CURRIE'S REQUEST TO THE CANADIANS

### Capt. A. W. Dyas Tells of Scene With First Canadian Brigade on Day That the Armistice Began.

The following letter has been received by a Toronto man from his son-in-law, Capt. Arthur Dyas, written on Nov. 11th:

"We've had a rather thrilling day to-day, being 'the day' that we've longed for some years now. Hostilities ceased at 11 this morning. We got the message at 7.30. Just as I'd finished breakfast this morning I was called to the phone, and the head major gave me the good news. When I told the mess a cheer went up. That set the men all buzzing. The battalion was parading at 8, and when it was announced on parade a cheer went up that you could hear for miles. The men laughed, kissed, punched each other, and in some eyes was the odd tear, probably a passing thought of some pal lost lately.

### In Silent Prayer.

"There were 4,000 officers and men on parade, and for one minute they one of us stood with our steel helmets on our arm, our heads bowed, and I believe that a very sincere prayer went up from every soldier present. The general couldn't say any more. He finished up by saying: 'Men of the old 1st Brigade, my heart is too full for words. And tears rolled down his cheeks. Needless to say he got three of the loudest cheers and a tiger the men could give.

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# BRINGING UP FATHER

