Everybody thinks the Canadians

about the only ones in Belfast until

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to feel at home any time whether buy or just look

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WHOLE NUMBER

OF CANADA HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO

Your surplus earnings in our Savings Department earn inter-

est at current rate. BRANCH A. C. BURKHOLDER,

A Trip to Ireland

Plenty of Food in London & Belfast . Fred Ratcliff writes the following interesting letter to his parents: .

Dear Folks at Home .-- -Well. I'm back from leave and almost wish I had not gone, for it is so hard to come back and get down to work, and especially after the good time we had. I'll start from the beginning so you will see what kind of a trip we had. In the first place we arose about 5.30 a.m. on Friday, May 17 and left on the 8.40 train for London, twenty-six of us, and arrived at Victoria Station about 11 a.m., went across the street to the Y.M.C.A. (just three of us), and found that our train did not leave until 8.20 p.m., and left from Euston Station, so we had our dinner there and then took a taxi to Euston Station at one shilling apiece. We checked our coats and haversacks and then went out to see what we could see. We walked until we came to the Strand and took in a picture show. After that we found ourselves in Westminster and were walking along taking everything in when suddenly two M.P.'s (Military Police) came-up-behind-and-demanded to see our passes, or at least mine and Mallory's. We showed them thinking they just wanted to see if we were staying over our time but when they took out a notebook and put down our names and numbers I began to think it was time I knew what it was for, and found that we had failed to salute an officer that -we did not see. Well it took a little of the joy out of life but we went on until we saw the National Art Gallery and as it was thundering a good deal and looking like rain we went in to study art. About the only thing we saw worth studying was a

few old maids and men who were

trying to copy some of the paintings or trying to see if they could paint thought we would walk back to the station and get our supper and then get the train, but after walking for the best part of an hour we decided? we didn't know where the station. was, so saw a place to get the tubes and went down and took an underground to Euston. Had tea and then took the train to Holyhead arriving there about 3 a.m. and went right on the boat which was crowded to standing room only. It didn't leave until 5 a.m. and arrived in Dublin about 8:30 or 9. Took a jaunting car to the station and found we could not get a train to Belfast until 3 p. m., but could get one as far as Dun dalk and then get the express from there, so decided to do so: We didn' care about staying very long in Dublin but didn't see anything out of place. Saw the damage that was done in that big raid two years ago but it is mostly built up now ... We took a walk around the town until 1.30 and then took the train to Dundalk. Expected to have to wait there for some time but only had a few minutes. We landed in Belfast about 6-p.m. and took the 7.20 train: to Carrickfergus, about ten miles out. One of the fellows had been there and told us it was a swell place to have a good time, so we took his word for it, went out and walked down the Main Street to the Y.M., walked in, turned around and walked back to the station with everybody. in the burgh looking at us as though we were some criminals or wild animals, and took the next train back to Belfast. It was a little place about half the size of Stouffville and built about the 1st century. I don't know where he had his good time. Well, we landed back about 10 p.

m, and found a very good looking

demperance hotel so went in and are the whole cheese. We were look a room. It turned out to be a very nice place and had some very nice guests including a Belgian Major and didn't have a bar. only cost us a little over a £ apiece for our room and breakfasts from Saturday night until Thursday afternoon. We would have gone to the Y. but you never know who you have to sleep with there. We had a single bed and a double one in the room for the three of us. Sunday morning we got up and sent a wire back for 48 hours extension saying the boat and trains were all late and we had only been given six days in the first place. After breakfast we went out sightseeing and took a car out to Kelvin Gardens, one of them better than the original pain- the prettiest parks I was ever in. I ter I guess. When we came out we can't begin to describe that country. Even an Irishman couldn't. It is certainly "A little bit of Heaven." Everything is such a vivid green and all the blossoms and the flowers were out. Words could not describe it at all. I am enclosing some bluebells I picked away up on cave hill. They had a lovely perfume when I picked them. In the afternoon we went out on the Glengormeley can about 5 or 6 miles along the moun-Stain side or about half way up it. At night we went to church thinking some one would speak to us and maybe invite us home but no such luck. Monday we took in more tsights, mostly car rides out to the country. There are about six or eight lines that run away out to different parks and villages. I think we took them all. Tuesday afternoon Suctsinger received an answer to his wire and got the 48 hours. We got the word just a few hours before we would have had to leave. When it had got so late we had almost given up hope. Our extension gave us until 4.30 on Thursday afternoon. Fiforgot to say that we didn't care for the meals in the hotel and got all but breakfast out. We struck a very fine cafe, but we could not get Sugar unless we bought it outside; but as there was a very nice young lady serving our table we thought she might be prevailed upon to slip a little in our tea. The problem was was, who was going to put the question? I settled however, by slipping one over on the other fellows and went to the theatre that night. After that we got sugar or anything else

we asked for. One night we were

out walking, away out near the city

limits an met a couple of girls on

wheels. We looked in the opposite

direction, of course, but for some

reason, after they had passed us,

they stopped. We went back to see

if anything was wrong with their

wheels but they said they just stop-

ped because their dog, which was

running along behind, had gotten

tired. They certainly were well bles-

sed with the proverbial Irish wit.

the last day or two when I saw three or four others from south camps here. One afternoon we hired three wheels and went out for a wheel and got lost from each other. I was walking up a hill and a little kid came along and wanted to run my wheel up for a penny, so I let him and then took his picture. From the time you leave you have either little ragged urchins or old ragged beggars after you to point out places of interest or where to go or something, and then it's "Give us a penny or a thruppence." They came in handy though, sometimes. Thursday it rained all day so we stuck to our room and with great sorrow took the 4.30 train for Dublin arriving about 7 p.m., and went right on the boat Left about 8 o'clock and it was quite rough. Suetsinger was sick but I enjoyed it. I think Mallory said it felt as though there was a grind organ inside of him but it didn't send forth any melodies. We arrived at Holyhead about 11.30 and left for London at once, arriving there about 6. a. m. Went to the Y.M. for breakfast and then arranged for a tour in the afternoon through part of the slums and through the Peek, Fuan Biscuit Co., the largest biscuit factory in the world. I was very nervous about going through for they have 4000 girls in the factory. However, we saw everything and ended by going into the lunch room having all the biscuits and sandwiches and tea we wanted and a first-class cigarette apiece, and then were presented with a 1½ pound box of biscuits besides. It was certainly a fine trip. They sent word to the Y.M. to take Canadians up every week. They treat them all the same too. After breakfast we went up to see the Abbey and Parliament buildings but met a Y.M. officer and he asked us if we would care to go through the Tower of London. Of course we went .. There were nearly 200 absent from parade this morning and they were all marked present on the rolls. There is going to be the deuce to pay in the morning. They are calling a muster parade at 8 p.m. to see how

many they have in the Company. That seems to be the only way they know of finding how many they have. I never saw such a system in my life. The depot is known as the Can. Eng. Training Centre and our Company is the Can. Eng. Reserve Depot. When we get through our training we are in the C.E.R.D. That means that we are held as reserves. It will be some weeks yet before we are through and then quite likely some time before we leave.

I got a good feast when I was away, of eggs and meat but could not get much fruit. I saw apples in Belfast marked one shilling. I don't know if they meant a shilling apiece or a dozen. You can buy all you want at the restaraunts both in London and Belfast and kids go around selling cakes and sandwiches on the streets. For the life of me I can't see where they are short of food. We are getting more in camp now than at first, all we can eat, and sometimes more.

If some Canadians were over here they would do more than mortgage their farms to get a car to run on these roads and to see the scenery. I wish you could have seen the sight from the tops of the mountains between Dublin and Belfast. All the farms are cut up in little fields about an acre in size, with a hedge around each field, and the hedges are covered with white blossoms. I never saw anything prettier in my life and one could see nothing else for miles except a little white house and barn here and there, or a village: The villages are so thick the train has to back up to whistle for the next. The trains travel 75 to 80 miles an hour. On the whole I never had a better time in my life and am sorry I am not there now.

Mallory and I are to go before the O.C. to-morrow for not saluting the officer. I don't think we will get anything. There are so many officers in London you have to keep your hand to your cap all the time. Most of them try to get out of your way.

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