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THE OVERSEAS TRIP

At the conclusion of my last letter we were to leave the battlefront for Paris. Let us say first in passing that the British cemeteries which include the Canadians, are all well kept. Work is now going on in changing the old wooden crosses into permanent stone structures of the same size or perhaps a little larger than the wood cross. The graves are laid out in long colonades and in alphabetical order. At the entrance to the grounds one passes under an arch supported by square building on either side, the whole structure designed to represent the front of a cathedral. In the building on the one side is a book containing the names of all those buried in the cemetery, while on the other side visitors are requested to register their names. A courteous caretaker is in attendance at each cemetery and the cost of upkeep so far has been paid by the British government. Unfortunately we were not near enough to the cemeteries in which the Stouffville heroes were laid to visit them, and this was a great disappointment to us.

We visited great woollen mills along the battle area in France and were informed that these mills, as they stood before the war, were blown up by German mines because the enemy was jealous of the French competition, and they believed the works would never be rebuilt. Today there stands one of the finest woollen and cotton spinning concerns in the world. All the workmen are living in new homes, have gardens, sporting stadium, and enjoy working under better conditions than ever before. The men live in what looked to us a model community, on the suburbs of a great city. We were entertained there to a luncheon and the company's band furnished music, including several familiar national selections for our benefit. In the same area we visited a coal mine and received a royal reception with a splendid banquet. These industrial points were near Vimy Ridge, of which I spoke in my last letter.

After our second day on the battle fields we landed at Arras, a familiar war city, and the place where Lieut. Percy Stover was stationed for some time, when it was a busy military base. Tired, dusty and weary we entrained for Paris. Passing through the country either by train or in motor cars, we were impressed with the backwardness of the farming centres. Fourteen and a half acres is a good sized farm in this part of Europe of which we were in, but thousands dig their living off of three and four acres places. The farmers live in villages and walk back and forth daily to their fields on which there is likely to be no buildings. These villages are mostly built of stone or brick with tile roofing. Tile is much cheaper than cedar shingles in Europe. Women do most of the field work, and practically all the labor is done by hand, excepting the plowing, and for this work the family cow, if the farmer has one, is pressed into service. We saw the farmer leading the animal while his wife would control the plow. Fortunately for "Bossie", there is not a great deal of plowing to do. Other instances of their backwardness may be cited from seeing the fields of hay and grain being cut with a small hand cycle, and frequently here a woman would be employed at this work, a baby carriage stood nearby in the field. I have seen them cooking hay and pulling weeds by hand too. Such a thing as a binder or mower is unknown in the area through which we passed, although in England conditions were much advanced over the continent.

Not the least interesting of our stay in Paris is the night life of the gay city. It seemed to us to be decidedly a city of pleasure, and the visitor from Canada is likely to find much to startle him.

The city seemed full of dance halls. Women stand on the streets and sing and in the cabarets entertainment of vaudeville nature is going on. Drinking is in evidence everywhere. In front of the drinking houses, of which Paris has many thousands, tables and chairs are placed right out on the sidewalk and the passer-by must get off the curb for the beer, tables have the right of way. Every evening they are crowded with men, women and children, all sipping beer. In the theatres the same thing prevails. People sit and watch a picture show with a glass of beer in their hand or on the little stand attached to the seat. A quart of champagne costs twenty francs in a first-class hotel, and still less in a wine store. A glass of beer which before the war cost a penny now runs a trifle more. Fortunately for those people it is not too expensive, for in many places water is most difficult to get. It would seem that the ruling men of these countries reap the profits from the big breweries, and thus they are not over-anxious to develop a domestic water service for drinking purposes. One may go from Paris to London either by airship or the land and water route. Some of our party took the air route and made the journey in less than five hours. H. H. H. is a former teacher on the Stouffville school staff, was among the officers. The big planes carry twenty or thirty passengers and include a smoking room on board. There is plenty of room to walk about while on the journey if one so desires. We arrived in London on a Sunday evening, and it did seem like

getting home after our sojourn in Belgium and France, where we did not understand the language, and where customs are quite different. We had a busy day on Monday when a number of us visited the House of Parliament, being conducted through the expansive buildings by Sir Harry Britton, Sir William Bull and Sir Philip Dawson. Here we were privileged to sit in on the House of Lords when the lawyers were pleading a case. At noon hour we were entertained by Lord Riddell and in the afternoon we attended a reception at Kensington Palace (the girlhood home of the late Queen Victoria) where we were introduced to the members of the Society of Women Journalists.

Lord Riddell said that our delegation was the largest of its kind to ever visit England, and its importance might be judged, he thought, by the fact that within a few days the members had been received by a King and a President and the probability was that we would, while in London, be received by "the king". The prediction came true for we were received at Buckingham Palace a few days later by King George and Queen Mary. Lord Riddell is vitally interested in newspaper work and had specialized in Peace Conference advancement.

At Kensington Palace we had an opportunity to meet H.R.H. Princess Louise (whose late husband the Duke of Argyll was Governor General of Canada when Marquis of Lorne) and to Lady Patricia Ramsey, whose connection with the famous Princess Pats is well known to all of us. Another whom we met was Lady Byng, wife of our present Governor General. I asked her if she recalled meeting a section of our party at Ottawa three years ago, and she seemed quite interested and recalled the occasion readily. On entering the Palace, our names were each called out as we arrived, one by one, at the top of the famous queen's staircase, which was decorated with beautiful flowers, and we were conducted to the Queen Caroline room where we shook hands with their Royal Highnesses. After a luncheon Sir Walter Ball, in a little talk, reminded us that in this palace Queen Victoria the good was born. He referred us to her childhood toys, and they were not a bit "mussed up" like one might expect to see. It was in one of these rooms she slept when a young lady and on the memorable night when she was visited by the Lord Chamberlain and the Primate who broke the news to her that she was that morning Queen of England.

Lord Burnham, who was in Toronto last week, presided at a dinner on Tuesday at the Empire Press Union. Wednesday our party took in the Wembley exhibition, my views on which appeared in the Toronto Globe of August 4th, and which space is not available now. The visit of the party to Buckingham Palace as the guests of the King and Queen have also been referred to in these columns. Our invitations to the palace were the only credentials we required to gain admission, and while we were requested to leave cameras in the reception hall, we were not scrutinized in any way, which emphasized the high esteem in which the members of the royal family are held by all in England. There seems to be no fear of an impostor.

From London we journeyed to Weymouth and back, expecting to see the fleet in that port. Unfortunately the sea was so rough, the party could not go aboard the Queen Elizabeth flagship, as anticipated, but we saw submarines sunk, and passed in and out the long lane of war vessels, giving us some conception of the immensity of the Atlantic fleet. Later on, in our trip, we were fortunate in getting aboard at Torquay. A day was spent in travelling by boat over the great London docks. Probably we didn't cover all the docks, but we travelled over 23 miles of waterway. At one place we saw in cold storage a half million carcasses of lamb, yet England keeps only three months food supply on the island at any one time.

In England we found the drinking evil greatly reduced, as compared with the other countries of Europe. While the drinking tables were spread all over the street in France, this condition did not exist in the old land of England. We were informed by a prominent citizen there that much good had been done by the reduction in the number of selling hours per week, and there is little or no after hour selling. The English people have great respect for their laws, and they abide by them, even the saloon-keeper, as some of our party learned, when they attempted to buy refreshments out of hours.

A cut on the foot by broken glass proved fatal to young Clare Mahoney of Queensville. He died on Saturday at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, of lockjaw. This malady developed after the wound had apparently healed satisfactorily.

GOODWOOD

August 27th George Phinister of Sharon, is visiting at Bert Ashenhurst's.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Reid spent Sunday last with friends in Aurora.

Elmer and Miss Viola Reid, spending a few days with friends in Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Baston have returned from a motor trip to Brantford and Buffalo.

C. C. Otter is staying at the Elgin House, Lake Rosseau, for a two week's holiday.

Miss Maud Pockner has secured a school near Kaledar and will be leaving Monday to take up her duties.

More improvements in town. Clerk Ezekiah Roach and Mrs. Finckel have their houses repainted.

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Butter	29 to 30
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Hogs, thick smooth	10.
Hogs, select	11.
Butcher cattle	4.50 to 5.00
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Butchers	7.00
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