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SOLDIER TOLD STORY

OF MIDNIGHT SKIRMISH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Was One of Column Sent into Borders of Transvaal—Was Able to Learn Something About Plant.

"Wait a bit," called one soldier to another. "Wait a bit," repeated my old soldier friend. "That reminds me of a story."

"Back in 1878 I was a serjeant of her Majesty's Queen. I was one of a column sent up into the northern borders of the Transvaal, which at that time was a British protectorate."

"We were sent up to chastise a tribe of hillmen called the Makateese Kafirs, of whom Marilla was chief."

"While on that trip I learned something about a plant we called the 'wait a bit.' The Boer name for this same creation was 'vaukembetche,' but neither name fully expresses what we fellows thought about it on one occasion."

"This infernal plant is something of the cactus kind, and its sharp spines tears through cloth and flesh, almost as easy as a Mauser bullet can drill a hole in a man's head."

"We'd marched thirty miles on one particular day, from an old Dutch post on the Sandy River to a camping ground in sight of Magnet Heights where the Kafirs were hidden."

"Col. Belders was in command of the column which consisted of six columns of the Somerset Light Infantry, a troop of bushwhackers and filibusters, who fought 'cos they liked it, and were well paid, a half battery of field artillery under Lieut. Slade, some friendly Kafirs under Chief Wimpooli, and about fifty camp dogs we'd picked up on the march."

"After supper we all laid down in our blankets in a circle, commencing about a hundred and fifty yards from the dying embers of our camp fire. Night came down on us black and sudden, and only the glow of the camp fire marked the encampment. Some of the boys partly undressed, some only took off their boots, and we settled down to sleep as well as needed."

PEAT FUEL

Dr. Haanel's Experiments Full of Promise For Canada.

Dr. Eugene Haanel, in a recent pamphlet, says that 1,000 square miles of peat already known form, probably, but a small fraction of the amount of this valuable fuel asset in existence in Canada.

He refers to the various expensive experiments made in Canada with new methods of manufacturing peat into fuel and expresses the opinion that it will be better to adopt the methods already proved successful in Europe and "leave experimentation and the development of new ideas to the future, when our peat industry is on a secure basis and peat-fuel in abundance on the market."

He thinks "we will then have gained in the manufacture of peat fuel along lines which are at present commercial the necessary experience to modifications and improvements of present processes will be based upon a thorough and practical understanding of the nature of peat and the principles upon which future economy may reasonably be expected."

He goes on to say that to re-establish the confidence of the people of Canada in the value of peat as a domestic and industrial fuel, and to stimulate renewed activity in the development of our peat resources, the Government has acquired 300 acres of peat bog at Alfred, Ont., with an average depth of nine feet, for the purpose of manufacturing peat fuel on a commercial scale by a method which has proven successful in European practice."

The capacity of the Government plant a production of 30 tons per day. Manual labor is employed in excavating the fuel, and Dr. Haanel says that, for a large commercial plant, mechanical excavators should replace manual labor."

The Government plant at Alfred is intended for the production of peat fuel on an extensive scale, but is to serve as a model of a successful process. The plant was established after an investigation of peat fuel manufacturing processes in various countries of Europe where peat is extensively used for fuel."

"There is nothing artistic about the appearance of the fuel produced at the Government bog," says Dr. Haanel. "It has not the regular geometric form of briquettes nor their smooth exterior, but it serves the purpose for which fuel is intended as well as briquettes, and has the advantage of being low in cost of manufacture."

It is stated that allowing 140 days for a season's operation, the cost per ton of air-dried machine peat, including interest on capital invested, amortization, oil and repairs is as follows:—

Cost of fuel on the field \$1.40
Cost of fuel stored in shed 1.65
Cost of fuel loaded on car 1.65
Cost of fuel in stock 1.70

STAYS WITH COCHRANE

George Yates Follows His Former Chief to Ottawa.

In the appointment of George Yates as secretary to Hon. Frank Cochrane, the new Minister of Railways and Canals in the Burden Cabinet, the Ontario Government will lose one of its most esteemed private secretaries. During the past eleven years, Mr. Yates has been private secretary to Hon. Frank Cochrane, ex-Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in the Ontario Cabinet and his worth has been so amply demonstrated that Mr. Cochrane urged his former secretary to continue as his right hand man at Ottawa. Mr. Yates' new office has a salary of \$3,000 a year, as compared with \$2,000, which he received as secretary to Mr. Cochrane in the Provincial Cabinet."

Mr. Yates first came to the Ontario Parliament Buildings in 1899, when the Hardy Government was in power. He was at first in the office of Provincial Secretary to Hon. J. E. Davis, who twelve years ago was commissioner of Crown Lands. When the portfolio of Lands, Forests and Mines was established Mr. Yates was appointed secretary to the Minister, and has filled the position ever since. During those years Mr. Yates has met at his desk nearly all the newspapermen from every paper in Toronto. His unfailing kindness and courtesy have won for him the esteem of all."

Before coming to the Parliament Buildings Mr. Yates was engaged for many years as a reporter and had had a varied newspaper experience. He has occupied positions on the editorial staffs of all the London, Ont., newspapers and was legislative reporter for The Advertiser. He was also at one time on The Toronto Globe staff."

Mr. Yates has been secretary to five different Ministers in Queen's Park, and is the only private secretary still in office, who got their position at the same time as he did. Mr. Yates was, therefore, dean of the secretary corps. In the large and important Department of Lands, Forests and Mines Mr. Yates has worked hard, but his services have been appreciated to the full."

Deadly Spiders. Did you ever encounter a tarantula? Probably not unless you have traveled in the south. You can, however, see them right here in the city at times and still not be suffering from any form of zoonosis. Banana dealers occasionally find these poisonous big spiders hidden away in the large bunches that come in train-loads from the tropics. A writer tells of one seen recently at the railway lunch counter in North Bay. "There's a spider in one of those bunches," quoth the waitress, with a little shudder, "and I am afraid of it. Ugh!"

The newspaperman's curiosity was aroused. Presently one of the attendants volunteered to produce the creature, and grabbed a bunch of fruit he dropped it on the counter as if it had been red hot. Nothing happened. Then he started to jab the clusters where they joined the stalk. With a spring out darted a hideous, hairy spider in the centre of whose pink body two wicked green eyes shone like emeralds.

Stupefied by the cold, nothing this fellow was as full of life as a terrier after a rat, and the way he capered about this counter was a caution. But the tarantula dance didn't last long, for the proprietor subserviently entomology to business squelched the vermin with a broom. A bite from one of these creatures is not necessarily fatal, but they are filled with potent poison, and their stings cause intense pain. Ever since this experience this writer has wondered at the temerity with which fruit men handle the immense shipments of the luscious bananas that come to Canada.

Pushing Back the Frontier. Quite striking is a phrase in The Winnipeg Telegram describing how "The C.P.R. yesterday pushed Western Canada's frontier back 100 miles" by the opening of a new line from Vegreville south towards Calgary through Camrose and Stettler. Pushing back the frontier is the business of the Canadian Northern, Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Pacific. Soon they will be joined by the new Hudson Bay Railway. The pioneer who leads the way into the wilderness, erects his little shack and turns over a few acres of sod is pushing back the frontier, but when the railway construction gang follow in his wake the frontier is widely disturbed.

Only Two Roses. The citizens of Montreal seem to have almost entirely overlooked the occasion of Trafalgar Bay, the hundred and sixth anniversary of Nelson's great naval victory by which the supreme command of the sea passed into the keeping of Great Britain. No flags flew in Montreal that day, no celebration was in progress and the Nelson statue opposite the Court House was decorated with two roses, one red and one white which offer up a pathetic plea to the memory of the great admiral.

BATGER'S SUPERFINE BOILED SUGARS. EXTRA FLAVORED. Orange, Raspberry, Pineapple, Pear, Black Currant, Lime Juice, Horehound Drops, Brandy Balls. All one Price 30c. Per lb. Phone 141 R. H. TOYE, 302 KING ST.

The Famous Rayo Lamp. The best part of the day is the evening, when the whole family is gathered together around the lamp. The old days of the smoky fireplace and flickering candle are gone forever. In their place have come the convenient oil stove and the indispensable Rayo Lamp. There are to-day, in the United States alone, more than 3,000,000 of these Rayo lamps, giving their clear, white light to more than 3,000,000 homes. Other lamps cost more, while you cannot get a better light than the low-priced Rayo gives. It has become so popular we may almost call it "the official lamp of the American family." The Rayo is made of solid brass, with handsome nickel finish—an ornament anywhere. Ask your dealer for a Rayo lamp or write for descriptive circular to any agency of The Queen City Oil Company, Limited.

FLORIDA GRAPE FRUIT. FLORIDA ORANGES. JAMAICA GRAPE FRUIT. MALAGA GRAPES. A. J. REES, 166 PRINCESS ST. Phone 58.

Peerless Peninsular. A DURABLE CAST-IRON RANGE WITH MODERN CONVENIENCES. You don't want to use a range as a step-ladder—not as the ordinary thing—but you do want a strong, well-built range. This picture is given here to show that the oven door—a weak spot in most ranges—is a firm, strong piece of construction in the Peninsular and it is typical of the whole make-up of this durable range. Some people prefer a cast-iron range but want one or two features usually found only in steel ranges. The Peerless is designed for just such people. It has the perfectly-fitting doors and parts, the firm, substantial body and the cozy, homelike appearance peculiar to cast-iron ranges. At the same time it has an oven made partly of iron and partly of steel—an oven that will heat quickly and evenly all over. It has a large oven, two inches deeper than any other range of its size. It has a drop oven door, which is not usual on a cast-iron range. It may be had with a hot water reservoir and a steel warming closet with drop door. The Part You Cannot See. These are all things that you can see—very important things, but not more so than the things you cannot see—the interior construction, which decides whether or not your pies will burn, whether your oven will be perfectly tight so as to keep out dust and smoke, whether it will wear. These unseen points you can be sure of when you buy a Peninsular range. Fifty years of building stoves—honest stoves—are behind every range that bears the name "Peninsular." That name says the materials are good—the flue arrangement is good—the oven is built to heat evenly—the range will wear. There is a Peninsular range to suit every purse and to please every taste in range architecture. "The Cost" illustrates some of the more popular lines and explains why Peninsular ranges cost less in the long run than others. Don't buy a range before reading this book. It's free. Low Closet for Pots and Pans. CLARE BROS. & CO. Preston, Ont. Limited. PENINSULAR RANGES. ELLIOTT BROS., Kingston.

Wants No Presents. In a characteristic communication to his parishioners, Rev. Father Adderley, vicar of Sallley, Birmingham, England, who has intimated his intention of resigning the living at the end of the present year, says: "I do not wish any testimonial to be given to me for my seven years' service. It is administration of this parish." It is doubtful, however, if there is a more popular and hard-working clergyman, particularly among the poor, in this country than Father Adderley, who is noted for his outspoken views. "We are getting a little tired of the man in the street," was one of his sayings. "There are men who own the street but do not love it or the people who inhabit it. The great landlords of London could transform half London into a garden city if they were but impressed with the religious ideal. Father Adderley is the fifth son of the first Lord Norton, and brother of the present peer."

A Solemn Plea. Laughter is unknown among the Veddhans of Ceylon. They are the most solemn people in the world. When a traveler asked some of them why their people never gave indications of mirth, they replied that they never saw anything to laugh at. On the other hand, some savages appear to have a more robust sense of humor than their civilized brethren. Dr. Livingston tells of an African tribe who, when dressed in clothes for the first time, "rolled about on the ground in uncontrollable fits of laughter."

Queer Way of Earning Living. Thousands of men in England earn their living during a considerable portion of the year by their ability to walk and work on stilts. Most of them are employed in the hop fields, where they have displaced the high step-ladders formerly in use. During the pole stringing season the still workers, 12 feet from the ground, perform the work with ease and without loss of time or motion. A trained stiltman will do the work of four men working with step-ladders, it is said.

Princess a Dancer. Princess Mary has been having a series of dancing lessons in Highland reels and flings and strathspeys. She revels in them, and is already quite an accomplished dancer.

Montreal and Toronto. In comparing the census figures for Montreal and Toronto it should be noted that Toronto has annexed all its contiguous suburbs except North Toronto, whereas Montreal has a number of populous suburbs that have not been annexed, says The Canadian Century of Montreal. In making comparisons regarding the growth of the two cities the suburbs of both should be included as they are merely out-growths of the city. Both Montreal and Toronto will very soon be regarded as among the world's great cities, and the probability is that they will show a larger percentage of growth during the next ten years than they ever did before. We believe that the population of Montreal has not been fully counted by the census enumerators, but even the census makes the Montreal urban district, including the city and its contiguous suburbs, over 534,000. It is almost certain that Montreal will have over a million people when the next census is taken. Toronto is also growing wonderfully. Both cities should quickly plan and carry out improvements that will make them compare favorably with other great cities.

Hay's Hair Health. Restores color to Gray or Faded hair—Removes Dandruff and invigorates the Scalp.—Promotes a luxuriant, healthy hair growth—Stops its falling out. Is not a dye. \$1.00 and 50c. at Drug Stores or direct upon receipt of price and dealer's name. Send for sample bottle.—Paris Hair Specialties Co., Newark, N. J., U.S.A. Hay's Hair Soap is unequalled for shampooing the hair and keeping the scalp cool and healthy, also red, rough chapped hands and face. Use at Druggists. REFUSE ALL SUBSTITUTES. JAS. B. McLEOD, AGENT.

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