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BRAVEST AND BEST OF AIRMEN

This is the Opinion of William G. Claxton, Toronto Globe.

With thirty-three enemy planes in his credit in less than four months, Flight-Lieut. William G. Claxton, R.A.F., now a prisoner of war, whose home is at 248 Heath street west, has been awarded the D.S.O., in addition to the D.F.C. with bar which he had already possessed. Just a few hours before Mrs. Claxton received word of the second honor bestowed on her aviator son, a high tribute was paid him by Capt. F. R. McCall, M.C., D.F.C., D.S.O., C.G., of Calgary, who was his fighting mate overseas, and who is now in Toronto. Unwilling to talk about himself to a reporter, Capt. McCall, whose exploits are said to be excelled only by those of Bishop and Collins, said he was glad to get a chance to tell something about Lieut. Claxton, a hero whose praises are as yet unsung.

According to Capt. McCall, Lieut. Claxton has shown himself to be one of the best, bravest and headiest of the Class A men on the western front. "I doubt if there is an airman living who can touch my little flying partner's record, for within four months in France he officially downed no fewer than thirty-three enemy planes of all sorts," said Capt. McCall. Another record he scored was in getting six enemy machines in a single day.

Flight-Lieut. Claxton is a nephew of W. J. Franklin, Alfred street. His mother was formerly Miss Victoria Franklin, daughter of W. J. Franklin, Pittsburg township. His father was the late Dr. George Claxton, of Verona, Gladstone, Man., and Toronto.

EVEN CROSS, SICK CHILDREN LOVE SYRUP OF FIGS

If Feverish, Bilious, Constipated, Get Fruit Laxative at Once.

Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste.

When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomachache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.

Keep it handy, Mother! A little given to-day saves a sick child to-morrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grownups plainly on the bottle. Remember these are counterfeiters sold here, so surely look and see that yours is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Hand back with contempt any other fig syrup.

CANADIAN WRITERS

Some of the Makers of Our Literature.

Canada's loss of two prominent poets, Wilfred Campbell and Dr. John McRae, has received much attention, not only in the Dominion, but in Britain. Dr. McRae had recently risen to fame, chiefly through "In Flanders Fields," much used in recruiting and half-prophetic of his own death at Boulogne. Campbell, one of the "group of '61," had enjoyed a solid esteem for twenty-five years, ever since the publication of his "Lake Lyrics" and "The Dread Voyage," and had added to it by several dramas and romances, by one of the best descriptions of Canada, and by his editorship of the "Oxford Book of Canadian Verse." Since the death of W. H. Drummond, the inimitable habitant poet, this group has supplied the deans of Canadian poetry. Some of those surviving, as Bliss Carman and C. G. D. Roberts, are more responsive to changing times than was Campbell, and his death may be held to mark the ending of a stage in Canadian literature. Campbell was one with the old tradition of Canadian poetry—that of Charles Sangster, Isabella Valancy Crawford, G. F. Cameron, and Archibald Lampman.

Canadian poets are all minor poets, as Canadian novelists are minor. But their vigor has long given their work more than local currency, and no one who did not wish to convict himself of illiteracy would repeat of Owen Smith's sneer at American books. Most Canadian poets have been poets of nature, whether as a background to reflection or to action. Their verse is outdoor, though they have had a wider range than the poets of the South African and Australian Colonies. The trapper, the forester, the farmer, the prospector, are the chief human figures in Canadian poems. There has been much historical verse, partly inspired by Whittier and Longfellow. Arthur Wentworth Eaton has written with spirit in "Acadian Ballads" of the historically rich Nova Scotia region. Agnes Machar's "Lays of the True North" deal with Indian life. Scattered historical poems, like Roberts' "How the Mohawks Set Out for Medicine" and William T. Allinson's "Cartier," are frequent. But the Canadian tends to hold to prairies, lakes, and mountains, and the exhilaration of the climate. The appeal of Service's verse of Yukon adventure and R. C. Stead's poetry of Alberta, "The Empire Builders," is the appeal of the rough wilderness. Character-verse like Drummond's—every Canadian knows "The Habitant's Jubilee Ode" and "The Cure of Calumet"—and the verse of Imperial patriotism are out of the main current.

Readily also do Canadian novelists turn to nature and history. The first important Canadian novel was one written around Pontiac's Siege of Detroit by a Major Richardson, long before Parkman thought of the theme. The second was Kirby's "The Golden Dog," a romance of old Quebec. Gilbert Parker followed directly in Kirby's footsteps in his first successes, and the names of some of his novels indicate their historical content. Canada's development is not yet sufficiently complex to permit of noteworthy examples of the novel of social life. Moreover, the demand for historical romance or brisk outdoor adventure is as wide as the English-speaking world, while a story of urban Canadian life would mean little outside Canada. Parker has harked back naturally to the time of Phipps in "The Trail of the Sword," and of Wolfe in "The Seats of the Mighty" but has also essayed modern woodland settings, as in "An Adventurer of the North." Roberts, author of the historical "A Sister to Evangeline" on the one hand, likewise wrote "The Heart of the Ancient Wood." The novels of Ralph Connor are narratives of turbulent adventure in the Selkirk or the lumbermen's woods. Nature and adventure mingle again in the novels of Western Canada by John Mackie, once an officer in the Mounted Police. Both Canadian poetry and Canadian fiction will grow with the growing country. A foundation has been laid which is none too broad, but has the merit of being truly native. Large sections once wild will soon be tamed and settled, exploration of the remaining wilderness completed, and the development of industrial towns pushed much farther. Canadian literature is bound in the near future to reflect the preoccupation with social questions which is pushing to a place beside the old absorption in pioneer tasks. It is to be hoped that it will remain as frankly and unmistakably Canadian as it has been thus far.

An Ancient "Tank."

And now it seems that not even the tank is a brand new thing in war! John Napier, of Merchiston (the inventor of logarithms) described a number of inventions in 1596 one of which he wrote: "A round chariot of metal made of the proofs of double metal. The use thereof serveth to break the array of the enemy's battle, as also it serveth to destroy the environed enemy by continually charging and shooting through small holes, the enemy meanwhile being abused and altogether uncertain what defence to use against a moving mouth of metal."

Miss Detroit III. Fast.

Miss Detroit III., just completed by a Algona yard and believed to be the fastest motorboat yet built, has just had her speed trial at Port Lambton. She cost \$8,000, carries a 12-cylinder power plant, and develops 70-odd miles an hour.

Yet Another Explanation.

And now it is a Coldwater man who has found the letters "B" and "P" on the wheat leaves and is sure they "stand for Britain and Peace." Being at Coldwater, it is suggested that they more probably signify "Beerless Prohibition."

Be sure you have the proper bait when you fish for compliments. It sometimes happens that an innocent man pleads not guilty. If a man is afraid to think for himself he should marry.

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