

FORT FRONTENAC

By Miss A. M. Goins.

Point Frederick, where today stand the granite limestone buildings of the Royal Military College of Canada, has a military history reaching back to the days when Count Frontenac built his fort at the entrance to the Cataragui River, which empties into Lake Ontario.

Point Frederick's low shores are protected by earthworks constructed in the early days of the last century, and by a martello tower, known as Fort Frederick, the thick walls and masonry of which were the work of the Royal Engineers stationed at what is now Kingston, in 1842.

Little used for many years, Fort Frederick is now being converted, under the direction of Major-General Macdonnell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commandant of the Royal Military College, into a permanent museum of the relics of the wars in which Canadian units have served.

The commandant of the Royal Military College, graciously consented to let the "story" of Fort Frederick, as an historic centre of defensive and offensive warfare, and as a museum of Canadian war relics, be given to the public.

great oaken doors. The earthworks form three sides of the square in which the martello tower stands, and our guide pointed out the foundation of the old block-house, burned in 1839. The earthworks were as they were during the war of 1812, save that the Royal Engineers cut passages leading to the lake. The sergt.-major, opening heavy oak doors, led us down stone steps till we came out on the shore. Retracing our steps, we found ourselves once more in the square and stopped to watch for a moment a party of cadets practising bayonet fighting. A shallow moat—surrounds Fort Frederick and a stairway leads to the heavy steel door in the thick walls. This door swings open to let us pass, our guide switching on the electricity, a sharp contrast to the pine torch or tallow candle of the builders of the tower.

Quaint, indeed, is the setting of this war collection. Stone walls, with heavy racks for equipment; old ovens, where the food for the garrison was cooked, still as they were when Royal Engineers or the 46th Regiment of Foot of the British Army, now known as the 2nd Berkshire, were quartered here. One of the most curious relics of the methods of warfare in use when the fort was built is a receptacle for heating shot to a red-hot temperature. The hot shot was fired from cannons which still have their places in the embrasures. The receptacle is composed of sheet iron and stands on wheels. It could be moved to any gun (aimed) on the enemy. The shot, great balls of which red hot, would set on fire the invading vessels in the harbor, are displayed near by, and the iron contrivance for carrying them, glowing and terrible, to the guns, is ready for use as of old. Stacked on one side is a unique collection of rifles and old muskets, relics of the War of 1812, several Brunswick rifles used in 1840, the Snider of 1860, and the Martini-Henry of 1875. Several old rifles of American make—a Peabody, 1869, and a Spencer, 1867—are in the collection.

The staff of the Royal Military College includes only men who have seen service overseas; so our guide, who had served overseas, was qualified to explain to us the curious devices of modern warfare, which are here side by side with out-of-date weapons that had been hidden for years in this old Canadian fort. An interesting capture from the Germans is one of the first models of a mine-warfare, of wood, tightly bound with wire, the death-dealing "Mine" in her early days contrasting oddly with the smaller and more deadly gun of a later date, captured by Canadian troops, to be seen in the Sir Arthur Currie hall. Signs from the trenches, "Kingston Road" and "Ottawa Street," tell their tale of homelick Canadian lads, and Boche "Rupprecht Farm" is significant of equally homelick German boys. Neatly executed in a sarcastic Boche sign, bearing this legend: "Footpath and bridle track to Goldfish Canteen." Periscopes of many kinds are nearby, with helmets, drinking bottles

and small arms, captured from the enemy.

Descending the narrow stairway to the lowest floor, our guide pointed out the well from which water was supplied to the garrison. Shortly we entered one of the four caponiers, or small projecting chambers, at the base of the fort. Loopholes in the stone walls for the sharpshooters to pick off the leaders of the attacking party, a flagged floor and great doors of barred steel give an old world air to these quaint cells, for as such they were used in peaceful days. The small rooms on this floor hold a strange collection of warlike instruments, to be more systematically arranged later. Curious old 32-pound and 60-pound grape shot ammunition for Fort Frederick's guns mingle with artillery relics from France and Flanders—a camouflaged periscope, a German range-finding device, furred pack-saddles of German make, shells, bombs, strange-looking flares, gas masks and hundreds of the wonderful contrivances and weapons of modern warfare. A bell, rung in the trenches to give the gas alarm, sounds out loud and clear in the old Canadian fort; a sniper's armer is in one corner, and a fine specimen of an anti-tank rifle, powerful and deadly, the one enemy to the armor of the tank, brings back the days when we first hoard of this new and terrible instrument of war.

And now we will go up to the top," said the sergent-major. "Up winding stone steps in the thick wall we climbed, stopping on the third floor, where the recruit class of the college now have their recreation room, and where a stove, used by the garrison in the forties is still in place.

Up still another stone stairs, and we come out in a turret-chamber, where the big guns still stand in position. They are useless now, but their black muzzles point across the water, as they have done during the three-quarters of a century since the Royal Engineers set them in their place to guard the entrance to Kingston's harbor. The wooden top, which is only a protection from the weather, opens at the side, and from this point of vantage we see Lake Ontario, blue-gray in a soft haze, meet the western sky-line; the St. Lawrence, with its Thousand Islands clothed in fir, here begins her long journey to the sea. From the Rideau Lakes on the North comes the Cataragui river; and beyond Navy Bay Fort Henry crowns the hill top, where since 1813 soldiers of the empire have guarded Ontario's garrison town. A fort of logs, with two substantial towers of rubble-work, stood on the site of the present stone fort until 1826; when work on Fort Henry was begun. Here, after the battle of the Windmill at Prescott, Col. Von Schultz was executed.

The long four-storey building of cream-colored stones, facing Navy Bay, is called "The Old Stone Frigate" and was built in 1789 when Kingston was a naval depot. It was occupied by the Admiral of the dockyard, who headed his reports "H.M.S. Stone Frigate." The story is told that the money granted for a frigate to guard the harbor was used for the construction of the building which has always borne this peculiar name. It is now used for dormitories.

As we return through the enclosure, we are shown the lunette, the stores house and last line of defence of the garrison. A brief visit is paid to the Sir Arthur Currie Hall, with its many treasures, a splendid war memorial to the men of the Canadian Corps. At the entrance is an old ship's gun of brass, of 1810 casting, used in the War of 1812, and a British pom-pom from the South African war.



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WHY THE WEATHER?

DR. CHARLES F. BROOKS Secretary, American Meteorological Society, Tells How.

America is Rainier than Europe. The densely inhabited parts of North America receive much more precipitation than those of Europe. Yet we hardly think we have more than we need nor do western Europeans generally find that they have too little. The western Europe rainfall generally goes farther north for inch than does that of eastern North America, for western Europe, generally, has its rains in smaller and more frequent falls and receives appreciably less sunshine than middle eastern North America.

In comparing average annual precipitation totals, however, it is surprising to see how small is the depth of rainfall in European cities with which we commonly associate much raininess. It takes much drizzling rain to make an inch. Great Britain, so well known to American soldiers, has an average of only 23 inches of rain a year, which is less than that of Chicago, with 33, St. Louis 37, and Kansas City with 37. London, with 25 inches, is drier than Minneapolis, which averages 29. Paris has but 21 inches, which is less than that of San Francisco, 22 inches, while Berlin, with 23 inches is about the same. Athens, with 15 inches, is even drier than Los Angeles and Salt Lake city with 16. Such rainfalls as 41, 45, 55 and 61 inches, the averages for Boston, New York, Washington and Atlanta, are not found in large European cities. Only on the western slopes of bold coast or mountain ranges as at Berger,

Norway (73 inches) and Lucerne (46 inches) are there corresponding rainfalls.

CANADIANS WELCOMED.

Ammonia Sulphate Producers Join British Federation. London, Nov. 20.—At the annual meeting of the British Sulphate of Ammonia Federation here it was announced by the chairman that the "Canadian producers of sulphate of ammonia, representing a large proportion of the total output of that country, have joined the federation. I am proud to be able to announce this mark of appreciation of our aims from makers whose production forms no small part of the total productive activity in the greatest of our sister nations. That is a very practical link of the Empire."

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Seven Sentence Sermon.

Marmora, Nov. 20.—The funeral took place here of William Hilton, one of the oldest citizens of Marmora. Deceased was born in Rawdon township eighty-three years ago. Besides being a successful farmer of Marmora township, he was also reeve and councillor of the township for many years. He also held the office of president of the Marmora cheese factory. Mr. Hilton was one of the best rifle shots in the country, having been a member of the Dominion Rifle Association, and was twice selected for the Wimbleton and Bisley teams sent to England to compete in empire matches.

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