

# Historic Furniture in Palatial Hotel



The Montcalm Room in the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec.

Chippendale, Jacques Cartier and Montcalm, three of the great figures in the early settlement of North America about the Lawrence River have been happily united in a suite of rooms which have been named after them at the famous Chateau Frontenac in Quebec. This suite is in the original tower which forms one of the most notable landmarks in the ancient city and commemorates the historical personality of the great explorer and the great soldier. The furniture in the room is a fine example of the work of the Old Jesuit School. The habitants, or peasant proprietors of French Canada, are famous for their skill in handicraft, particularly weaving. The floor-covering used in these rooms is a specimen of this famous handicraft, known as 'Tapisserie,' a washable material of fine wool.

replicas of rooms in the seignorial Chateau of Old French Canada. The four-poster beds, chairs, fire irons, crockery and charcoal burners are actual antiques. Here can be seen the old massive iron safe of the 17th century and the old pipe-lighters of the days before matches were invented. The old-fashioned open hearth with its hallowed smoking bay and the family kettle over the fire, and the tall, dark, carved wooden chest of drawers, all these things are old and precious and precious.

## SPiritUALISM Madly Balanced People Often Go Crazy.

The war has given an enormous impetus to spiritualism. Prior to 1914 the number of people who tried to get in touch with the other world through table-turning and so on was limited to the comparatively few; now half London, if not, indeed, half England, are madly bitten with the craze, and this being so, a few hints as to the dangers these would-be "communicators" incur may not be inappropriate.

First of all there is the danger of people who are not absolutely evenly balanced and who are becoming so absorbed with the craze that they eventually go off their heads. From the quantity attending table-turning sittings and hearing their "real" or spurious spirit knockings and croakings, they fancy they hear the same sounds at home, and in the end go pursued by them wherever they go.

The asylums are full of such people, and I could quote at least ten cases within my personal knowledge where suicide has been the result. People who are naturally very emotional or highly strung, without being necessarily weak-minded, should also abstain from sittings, as the tension and excitement is very injurious to the nervous system, and often leads to attacks of hysterics and chronic insomnia. Epileptics and those inclined to epilepsy should also studiously avoid seances. I have seen several epileptic seizures when I have been at sittings.

There is also decided danger to those suffering with heart disease, as messages that come through are occasionally of a very alarming nature. For example, I was present on one occasion at a seance when a lady, anxious to hear news of her son at the front, was informed by the table that he had just been killed. She instantly fainted, and it was only with the greatest difficulty she could be brought round.

Apart from shocks produced by certain messages, there is the danger of much mischief being caused through the spitefulness of one of the sitters. For instance, if one of the sitters wishes to do anyone an injury, she not infrequently so manipulates the table that it tilts or raps out a message calculated to prejudice people against that person.

As an illustration, I knew a medium who once quarrelled with a particular friend of mine, and one day at a seance at which the medium was presiding, the table delivered a message of a most scandalous nature concerning my friend. Fortunately someone present had observed the medium cheating, otherwise my friend's reputation might have been damaged, and considerable mischief caused. At this sort of thing is without doubt far from uncommon, all messages purporting to come from the spirit world, whether obtained at table-tilting, or from a clairvoyant, or by automatic writing, should be taken with reserve.

Then there is always the possibility of getting into touch with a very undesirable class of spirit, and two things lead me to believe this happens more frequently than is generally supposed. Firstly, a certain percentage of messages that come through and which cannot be attributed to trickery on the part of any of the sitters, often turn out to be perfectly untrue. This shows the spirits are common or garden liars. And, secondly, one cannot help observing that the moral standard of people who constantly attend seances, or who take up spiritualism professionally often becomes very low; nor is the alteration gradual.

Lastly, there is the very great likelihood of conscious or unconscious fraud on the part of a sitter or sitters. The fraud may take the form of sleight-of-hand, the manipulation of some mechanical device (this has often happened at table-turning seances), or, as in the case of trances clever acting and ventriloquism.—E. O'Donnell in Pearson's.

## Four New States in Europe

ONE of the tasks of the Peace Conference which has consumed the greatest time and called for the wisest planning has been the erection in Europe of four new nations, and it is not yet completed. To draw the frontiers of even one nation might well occupy the attention of statesmen for weeks, and the difficulty of planning four of them is more than four times as great. Yet the task appears almost to have been done. This is rolling up the map of Europe indeed, and there are still more changes to come. Germany is to divide herself up in some manner not yet known. Austria-Hungary is likely to be further dismembered and there may be two or three republics finally emerge when the Bolshevik earthquake finally subsides in Russia. But these new formations are things that the Allies do not conceive to be their particular concern, unless it might be that they should forbid the unmaking of Austria and Germany. They have felt concerned, however, to establish Poland, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia and Czecho-Slavia.

To those who believe that the Allies have been wasting their time on highly idealistic problems in trying to set these four nations upon their feet it may be answered that the interest of the Allies is by no means altruistic. They are impelled by not by wholly selfish motives, at least by the practical consideration of self-defence. For instance, in the late war Germany and Austria were in control of a man-power estimated at 30,000,000, made up of subject races that were no more racially akin to Germany than are the French. These millions were Poles, Czechs and Slavs who had been ruthlessly misgoverned by Germany and Austria for generations. When the opportunity occurred these forced soldiers surrendered in great numbers to their nominal enemies, who were their racial kin, as for instance when the Czecho-Slavs threw down their arms to the Russians and later volunteered for service against Germany in France. The Allies are determined that it shall be taken out of the power of Germany and Austria for all time to come to employ these millions as cannon fodder. The intention is to attach them permanently if informally, to the Allies. They will be the buffer between Germany and Western and Southern Europe.

Poland is re-established as a buffer state between the militarism of Germany and the anarchy of Russia. Poland has a couple of sweet neighbors. As all the world knows, the Poles have never lost their race identity whether under German, Russian or Austrian domination. They formed a solid block of about 20,000,000 people in the heart of Europe. But when the task came of drawing up the new Polish frontier a grave problem was encountered, and that was the presence of a tier of German nationality along the border. These two and a half millions are the most German of Germans. They shut off the new state of Poland from a sea outlet on the Baltic and Poland without a sea coast would be in economic slavery to Germany. On the other hand, one of the Wilson fourteen points seemed to forbid the annexation of so great a number of aliens as the Baltic Germans by the Poles. At one time the suggestion was made that Poland should be given a corridor through Germany to the Baltic. The objection to this course was that it would force on Poland two boundary lines that she could not defend against Germany. So now it appears to have been decided that the Baltic Germans will have to become citizens of the Polish state or move out. Poland is to get her Baltic coast and Danzig.

Immediately to the south of Poland forming a barrier between Germany, on the one hand, and Austria and Hungary on the other is Czecho-Slavia. It is composed of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and a part of Hungary, with a total population of 12,250,000, and an area of 53,500 square miles. Here, as with Poland, there was a problem constituted by the German population along the frontiers, and here again it was determined that in order that Czecho-Slavia should have natural boundaries, these aliens would have to be included. The re-establishing of Roumania was not difficult, since Roumania already existed, and the only task was to define her new frontiers. These had already been indicated by the fact that adjoining Roumania in both Russia and Austria, were large numbers of Roumanians by racial origin. The original Roumania had an area of 53,000 square miles and a population of 7,500,000. Under the new arrangement her population and her area will be practically doubled by the addition of Bessarabia, Transylvania, Bukovina and part of Banat.

The greatest problem of the map-makers and negotiators was in the erection of Jugo-Slavia, which is to include Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia-Slavonia, Carniola and Dalmatia. The population is homogeneous enough despite the formidable array of names, and is made up of three branches of the Southern Slav family, namely the Slovenes, the Croats and the Serbs. The difficulty was that while most of the frontiers of the new state were natural and easily determined, Jugo-Slavia and Italian interests and nationalities conflicted in Dalmatia and about Fiume and Trieste. These were accentuated by the fact that when Italy entered the war she was guaranteed by Britain and France the Slav hinterland of Trieste, then Austria, but now desired by Jugo-Slavia, of which our staunch ally, Serbia, is the controlling partner. At one time this clash threatened to be serious, but it is believed to have been amicably settled, Italy giving up all or most of her Dalmatian claims in return for Fiume, which is wholly Italian.

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### A "BATTALION MURDERER."

Odd Nickname Enjoyed by a Canadian Tommy.

"The Battalion Murderer" is the peculiar name bestowed upon "Buck" Hutchinson, of East Caledon, sergeant in the Fourth Battalion, by his admiring comrades. Hutchinson is an "Original," holding the D.C.M. and the M.M., and he has the reputation of having killed more Germans than any other man in the regiment. To meet him one would find it hard to believe, for anyone less like a "murderer" would be hard to find. A young fellow, tall and solidly built, he is an athlete all over. He has a slow smile and speaks very quietly. He is very popular.

"I'm sorry I haven't any story I can give you," he said when interviewed recently. "He was perfectly willing to talk, but 'really couldn't think of anything of interest.'"

It was from some of his officers that the story of certain of his exploits was finally secured. "We never kept track of his record, but I do know that in two days he killed, single-handed, thirty-one Germans," said a lieutenant. On September 27 he killed 17, and on October 1 he killed 14. When I saw him he was blood from head to foot. He had used up all his own ammunition, and was carrying two German automatics he had taken."

"Do you know the story about Hutchinson telling a man to move his head?"

"That occurred at a time when we were in a tight corner and had retreated orders to take no prisoners," replied the officer. "Buck" saw one of our boys talking to a German. He walked up behind our man, putting his hand on his head and said: 'Move your head.' Then he put his revolver in the German's face and blew out his brains. 'You should never talk to a German unless he is dead,' he admonished our man, who was covered with the German's blood."

The story of how Hutchinson won his D.C.M. was told by Col. Nelles. While the fight was raging round Abancourt at the end of last September, Hutchinson found two German "75" field guns. He had seen guns fired, but there his knowledge of them ended. Lugging them round, he pointed them at the town of Abancourt. He did not know how to sight them, so propping up the trail, he looked down the barrel until he had them trained on the mark.

Then he opened fire. At first, thinking the Canadians were going to enter the town, he did not fire any gas shells, but later when he discovered that they were not going to attack, he opened fire with some gas shells which the Germans had left near the guns. One hundred and fifty shells, at a range of 1,200 yards, were sent by Hutchinson into the town. So great was the damage done that the Germans opened up a barrage all round him, but he went on firing as if nothing had happened. "And he only came away when a company commander forced him to, because he was drawing so much fire on our men," said Col. Nelles. "Our guns were firing very badly that day and I honestly think that 'Buck' alone did more damage than all our batteries did together."

### Cigarette Saved Canuck's Life.

"Cigarettes have done their bit in the war in more ways than one," says a returned soldier living in Goderich, Ont. On the morning of September 2, 1918, 'B' Company of the 47th Battalion, to which I belonged, marched from Arras up the line to our jumping-off place outside a little village. Finding no trenches, we took to shell holes and from them we jumped off behind our beautiful barrage and entered the Hun lines.

"But in about 15 minutes I was hit badly in the leg. I handed over my Lewis gun to my 'No. Two,' and crawled into a deep shell hole for shelter. A Fritz stretcher-bearer tied up my wounds and just completed the job when a great big Fritz leaped into the shell hole and raised his rifle to shoot me.

"I had a few Player's cigarettes with me, and as the Fritz took aim, I tossed him a cigarette. As he stooped to pick it up, another wounded lad near me got in a fast shot.

"And I fancy that Fritz is still stooping if a burial party has not found him.

"Each time I smoke a cigarette I devote full credit to the thing that 'Bowed me to come home to Canada."

### Four Reliable Huns.

Only four men in Germany have the confidence of the Allied powers, according to the Berne Zeitung. They are Prof. Forster, Dr. Muehlon, Dr. Grelling and Dr. Schlieben. Dr. Wilhelm Muehlon is, perhaps, the best known of the four men mentioned by the Berne newspaper. He is a former director of the Krupp works. In April, 1918, he published an article in which he charged that the German Imperial Government purposely started the war. He has reiterated his charge a number of times since. Prof. Forster, of the University of Munich, during the war was dismissed from his seat for criticism of the German Government. He was a member of the Provisional Government formed by Bavarian Liberals in Munich on February 24. The Dr. Grelling and the Dr. Schlieben referred to probably are Dr. Richard Grelling and Dr. Fritz Schlieben, a former member of the Reichstag. Both men had been leaders of Liberal thought in Germany.

### Municipal Restaurants for Japan.

In Tokio there are restaurants old and new; the old, established generations ago, which specialize in one or other particular dainty; the chief establishments of this character will be found in Hurl-by-Eating Lane, Nihombashi; the new, an endless number of cheap foreign-food restaurants, beer halls, and saloons. A large part of the commercial population depends for its midday meal on these places. The official population also has to be provided for, and lately a municipal official has suggested the establishment of municipal dining-rooms in all the centres of Tokio. Food would be provided by an officially-established market.

### Submarine Soldiers.

Dr. Nadal, writing in the Journal de Medicine de Bordeaux, urges training soldiers to walk through a running stream and walk through submerged for certain stretches. With a little training, he says, troops can thus accomplish the crossing of a river over 900 feet wide and carrying a load weighing from 66 to 88 pounds.