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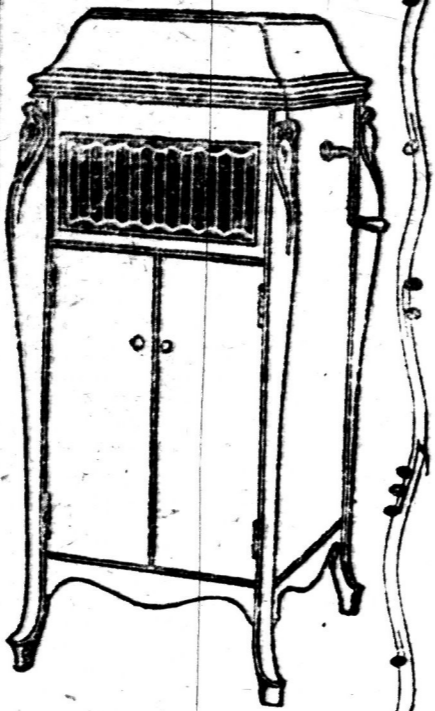
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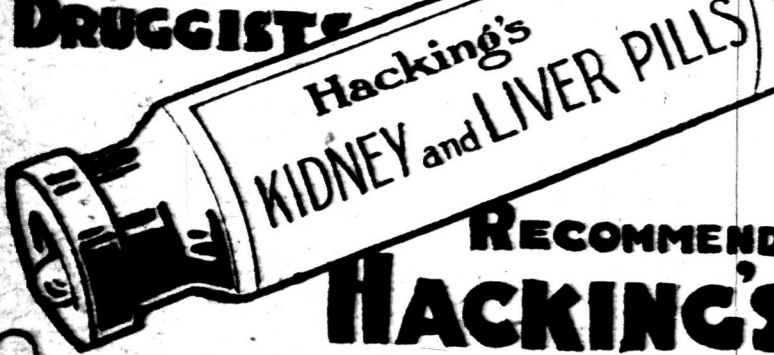
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## JULY 19TH HISTORIC

DATE WAS SELECTED FOR PEACE CELEBRATION.

It Was the Anniversary of the Day on Which the Canadians Began to Move Into the Great Battle. Known as the Last Hundred Days, Which Ended in Victory.

IT was a coincidence, but a very fitting coincidence, that July 19 should have been chosen for the official celebration and thanksgiving for the signing of peace. For just one year previously, on July 19, 1918, in France, began that wonderful movement of troops which culminated in the series of battles known now as the Last Hundred Days, the battles which resulted in the overwhelming of the enemy, his unconditional capitulation and finally in the treaty which has been acclaimed throughout the British Empire.

During the war little or nothing was heard of the preparations which preceded any great battle. The silence was necessary. Yet the organization of forces and material for any great battle, though with a greater romance than the actual fighting did, had been done thoroughly. The battle resolved itself into more or less of a mechanical movement.

The battle of the Somme, 1916, of Vimy, and of Passchendaele, 1917, were preceded by little or no attempt at secrecy. The army and army group commanders depended largely on a preponderance of artillery. Gen. Sir Julian Byng was the first man to show what silence could accomplish by his sudden onslaught on the Cambrai front in the autumn of 1917. It was by enlarging upon Byng's tactics that Ludendorff rose to power and achieved such triumphs in the spring of 1918.

Thus, a year ago secrecy of movement and of all organization became recognized as the chief factor in the prosecution of any major operation. And it was with the adoption of this maxim that romance of the last hundred days was born. It is only possible to tell it from the Canadian Corps' viewpoint, or rather from the actual experience of one battalion of the Canadian Corps. But what is common to that battalion was common to all.

On May 3, 1918, the Canadian Corps, which had been holding one-fifth of the whole British front in the Lens and Arras sectors, was moved into General Headquarters Reserve for the purposes of training for future offensive operations, and for the purpose of counter-attacking should the enemy have projected the expected attacks at Bethune and Arras. Early in July the corps again took its place in the line on the old corps' headquarters, Arras.

Then on July 19th, as one battalion was preparing to take over its routine section of the line, orders were suddenly cancelled and the battalion ordered to march to a camp at Agnes-la-Duisine, about seven kilometres behind Arras. As far as Canada was concerned, the important phase of the last hundred days had commenced.

Two days were spent at this camp, when the men were thoroughly refitted, machine guns and rifles overhauled, and all records checked. Each man was given a slip of paper to be pasted in his paybook. The slip was headed with bold black type which read, "Keep Your Mouth Shut." Then followed reasons for the necessity of secrecy, and an appeal to the men not to question any formation, even to their own name, unless they were absolutely sure of the identity of the questioner.

Late on the afternoon of the third day, orders were received for the battalion to proceed by route march to a given spot on the Arras-St. Pol road, where busses would be in waiting. The destination of those busses was not even known to the colonel of the battalion. At eight o'clock, just as the Gorbals were nearby, the battalion "em-bussed" and sped along the road to the railway station at Fingues. At two o'clock the next morning the battalion entrained, and the company commanders were issued with maps of Hazebrouck (Ypres sector).

The surprise of the officers can be imagined, when with the breaking speeding past they discovered in the direction of Arras. At 10 o'clock that morning the battalion detrained at a little wayside station in the Department of the Somme, and marched inland about five miles.

From that time onward no movement was done during the day. Everything was carried out under cover of darkness. Even then the strictest attention was paid to secrecy. The men could sing and talk and smile as much as they wished as they marched along the open countryside, but the moment a village was reached, no matter how small, absolute silence had to prevail. Only the tramp, tramp, tramp of thousands of steel shoe feet on the cobbles broke the stillness of the summer night, as the troops passed through the sleeping villages.

Though the men were free to chat and sing along the highway, they were, nevertheless, always alert to the danger of spies, so much so that often a company commander seeking word of one of his platoon commanders was unable to get the information from his own men. For to the question "Where is Lieut. Blank?" would come back the answer, "Never heard of him." Or to the question, "Who are you?" the answer, "Mule train or working party" would be retorts that never failed.

In the daytime all ranks were closely confined to billets. Only those whose duty forced them to pass along the streets, were permi-

ted outside their cottages go bare as the case might be. And those, whether officers or men, had to run across all open spaces, and when walking up a street to hug the sides of buildings. British airplanes flew overhead taking photographs, and a severe censure was the lot of any battalion commander whose men appeared in those photographs.

So that no stragglers, men who could not stand up to the rigors of the march, mounted police followed several miles in the rear of each unit, gathering these stragglers into groups and taking care of them until they could be transferred to the field hospitals. Not one point was overlooked. Battalion commanders commenced their nightly march with orders that took them to some deserted spot, where the additional and final orders for the completion of the march were given them.

While this was taking place, two battalions of the Second Canadian Division were rushed to the Ypres sector, where great visible activity was being shown. Dummy hospitals, gas, ammunition dumps, and hangars were erected, and a few battalions marched endlessly along the main roads, day after day, in order to convey to the enemy the impression that big movements of troops were in progress. The two Canadian battalions took their place in the trenches one night and made a raid, leaving behind identification in sufficient quantity to let the Hun know that Canadian troops were on that sector. After the raid they were at once relieved and hurried to Amiens, where, in conjunction with their brother battalions, they took part in that famous attack on the morning of August 8.

The result of this secrecy and this subterfuge was exactly what was intended. The enemy, seeing only the dummy preparations, hurried reinforcements to the Ypres salient, with the result that when, on that beautiful summer morning of August 8, the brilliant rays of the newborn sun were dimmed by the simultaneous dash from thousands of guns, they were woefully unprepared, and the Canadians, with their British, Australian and French brothers, broke through at Amiens for the greatest advance of the whole war on the western front, seven and one-half miles in one day, 15 miles in three days.

The events which followed are common knowledge—Monchy, Drouot-Quent Switch, Canal du Nord, Bourlon, Cambrai, Denain, La Senneille, Valenciennes, and last of all, Mons, July 19, 1918, was the real beginning of the peace which the world now enjoys. And for it the world owes as much to Gen. Rawlinson, so loyally carried out the strategy he created, as it does to the statesmen who drew up the final document which closed the era of strife.

### Jumbo.

Jumbo was seen by Sir Samuel Baker, the famous African traveler, in 1861. The elephant, which was then only about four feet high, was in the possession of some Arabs who sold him to an animal collector, who then sold him to the Jardin des Plantes, in Paris. In 1865 Jumbo was sold to the London Zoological Society, where he soon became a great favorite. Every day he was brought out in the gardens and encircled with a load of boys and girls on his back. At last it was rumored that he had developed a bad temper, and his keepers were afraid that he would injure somebody. When P. T. Barnum heard this he offered \$10,000 for Jumbo. The offer was accepted. When the sale became known a great outcry was raised in London, the newspapers and the public protesting against it. Offers were made to buy Jumbo back, but Mr. Barnum insisted upon taking him to the United States. In 1882 Jumbo arrived in New York and was dragged through Broadway in a great box which were attached sixteen horses. He continued to be an attraction of the Barnum Circus until September 13, 1885, when he was put out of existence by a freight train at St. Thomas, Ont. He was struck on the track when the engine crossing him, and he survived his wounds only fifteen minutes. He was about 26 years old when killed, and was not thought to have attained his full size. He high at the shoulders and weighed six and one-half tons. His trunk was seven feet four inches long, and his tusks one foot three and one-half inches in circumference.

### Pensions.

Compared with the annual pensions granted by the Overseas Dominions and other countries to their totally disabled soldiers, those paid by Great Britain cannot be said to err on the side of generosity.

From the following table, which gives the respective pensions at a glance, it will be seen that the United Kingdom comes fifth on the list. New Zealand pays each totally disabled married soldier £156, and £26 for each child under sixteen.

Canada—£145 and £20 for each child under seventeen.

Australia—£117 and £26 for the first child and £13 for others under sixteen.

United States—£112 10s., and £25 for each child up to three under sixteen.

United Kingdom—£71 10s. (plus 20 per cent. bonus for period from November, 1913, to June, 1919), and £17 10s. for the first child to £10 10s. for others under sixteen.

Germany—£36 to £85, which, from January, 1919, has been increased from 50 to 100 per cent., owing to the higher cost of living.

Italy—£62, and £5 10s. for each child under twelve.

France—£43 and £4 for each child. This, however, is being increased.

### Musk.

To the list of sources of musk must be added a kind of gnat, which is so common in the Australian bush at times as to fill the air with a musky odor.

### NEWS RECALLED.

Historic Buildings in Regina Will Be Destroyed.

Extensive new buildings are to be erected on the R.N.W.M.P. square at the headquarters of the famous force in Regina. While Commissioner Percy announced that the buildings would go up in the near future and would entail a large expenditure, he stated that he was not in a position to give many details.

The new buildings, he said, would be placed on the south side of the square. Officers' quarters and a large barracks will be erected. This will entail the tearing down and removal of the last of the old wooden buildings, including the historic guardroom where Louis Reil expiated his crimes on November 16, 1885. The guardroom was the first frame building erected on the ground. The other original buildings were made in Quebec in 1884, sent to Regina in sections, and then put together by men on the force at the rate of one each day.

Senior officers of the Montreal police expressed regret at the passing of the old buildings while delighted with the prospect of the new ones. There is a possibility that the old guardroom building will be removed to another spot and preserved in its present form. One of the officers stood on the scaffold when Reil with all the Stoicism of his race met his death by hanging. Another has a piece of the rope and a card, written by the rebellion leader just before the hour of execution.

From memory one of the officers recalled those on the scaffold. They were: Sheriff Chapleau, Deputy-Sheriff Gibson, Inspector J. A. McGibbon (now assistant commissioner), Hangman Henderson, Father Andre of Duck Lake, Father McWilliams and Riel himself. Telling of the actual hanging, the officer said there were two trap doors, and that Riel stood more on one than the other when the trap was sprung. The result was that when he fell his feet struck Dr. Dukes, the medical officer, who was standing below, in the face. Standing near Dr. Dukes were Dr. Cotton, the coroner, and the jurymen.

The hangman, Henderson, had been taken prisoner by Riel at the first rebellion in 1870 at Fort Garry. Two years after the hanging Henderson was lost in the dead of winter between Regina and Wood Mountain. After several unsuccessful attempts by other parties a party led by Inspector McGibbon found him on the prairie badly frozen but still alive. He was brought to Regina on a dog sled.

### The Sporting Instinct.

Back in the early days of 1915, when the ravages and terrors of war awoke the small game to the realization of the fact that something unusual was happening, a rather amusing incident occurred in one of our Canadian battalions which, at that time was holding a portion of the line in Northern France.

The amusing and exciting moment was caused by the appearance of a rabbit romping around in close proximity to the front line. "Stout" as he was nick-named, one of our battalion snipers, upon observing it quickly brought it to the attention of one of the boys and a small wager was speedily arranged between them as to who would be the first one to shoot it. "Stout" who was first to train his rifle on the target was about to fire when a shot from presumably a sniper in the Hun lines found the rabbit, thereby enabling them to gain their objective and incidentally saving probably a box of ammunition which undoubtedly they would have exhausted before achieving their aim.

The wager naturally having been called off on account of a "No Hit Game" on their side, was appropriately terminated so by one of the fans, who rearranged that the first one to secure the rabbit would win the stakes. At that time it was not considered probable to make the "hop-off" although, according to the conditions, an independent start could be made at any time without the knowledge of the other competitor. Stout's opponent, who was determined to gain the rabbit and the prize, started out by a circuitous route in order to be a less conspicuous target to the enemy's fire, finally arrived within a few yards from the scene, when to his astonishment the rabbit who had its fore legs aroost and limped feebly towards our front line trench. Its pursuer, not considering it advisable to follow in its wake, owing to complete exposure to fire, retraced his tracks homeward, only to find that "Stout" had caught the rabbit which had fallen exhausted within a few yards of the trench, and was preparing it for the evening meal.—R.H.W.

### Returned Soldiers as Teachers.

The Department of Education is receiving most satisfactory reports concerning the progress made by those returned soldiers, who have decided to prepare for the teaching profession, or finish their courses in that profession. The Hon. Dr. Cody, Minister of Education, stated recently: "I am delighted to feel that our expectations respecting the quality and spirit of the returned soldiers, who are entering the teaching profession, are being fulfilled. Those who finished their courses last spring at the Faculty of Education are reported to me as being equal to the very best class of candidates entering the teaching body. It is also a fact that those returned soldiers, who are now preparing them for the summer course to prepare them for the professional schools, exhibit all the qualities needed to make a success at teaching. The schools will be fortunate if they obtain some of these teachers, Empire."

### Discriminating Vercy.

"Is Higgins a truthful man?" "Yes. But the truth doesn't seem to interest him particularly unless it is something unpleasant about some body else."