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IN THE EARLY PROGRESS DAYS OF CANADA

(Continued from Page 5)

turning to Niagara was not on his way with the information that an armistice had been signed by Sir George Prevost and General Desjardins on behalf of the Americans. At this news he stopped to speak to the people on the remaining river bank. Just three miles east of where Governor Simcoe spoke to them, General Brock stood in the centre of a tree (at the present time this would be near the old St. John's church which was built in 1824. This tree was left standing in the centre of the road on each side a driveway, for some 70 years after Brock's death, until it was struck with lightning to the very roots. Pines are now in 1827 to be seen, having been kept to his memory to this day by Mr. Conteleur an artist in Simcoe.

General Brock was much disappointed by the signing of the armistice, it was disagreeing to his plans he had made to attack the Americans, while the excitement of victory encouraged him. He was positively restricted to purely defensive measures, but as an obedient soldier he could only submit. He chafed at the situation, he watching across the river at Fort George and seeing General Van Busselslar on the other side his force gaining in strength each day. This was no light trial to his prompt energetic nature to lie with hands tied while it sent 800 Indians scurried to fight for the British in disgust to their homes. The armistice lasted one month as the President of the United States refused to ratify it. But this month was well employed by the Americans in hurrying troops and supplies to the front and rallying more men.

General Brock sent a letter on the 16th of September with a flag of truce to General Van Busselslar across the river, it was repeatedly fired upon.

History—Napoleon in the hopes of ruining British commerce, issued in 1806 the "Berlin Decrees" closing European ports to the British and declaring the ports of the British Isles under blockade. In retaliation the British Government issued certain orders in council which required the vessels of neutral powers to touch at British ports and to pay duty before trading with European countries. These restrictions bore heavily on the United States, who were carrying on an extensive trade. In 1809 the United States Government passed the Non Interchange Act, stopping all trade with France, Great Britain and the nations they controlled until the restrictions were removed. The bitter feeling to Great Britain by the United States was increased by it, being in the power of Great Britain to search American ships for deserting seamen. Finally Great Britain withdrew the order in council and made amends for any injustice done in enforcing the right to search their ships. It was not too late to avert war and all the differences between the two countries would have been removed, but the American people were now too eager for invasion to keenly desirous for the coveted prize it being dominated by a strong war party in the United States Congress.

On the 18th of September Brock wrote to his brother: "A river about 500 yards wide divides the troops. My instructions oblige me to adopt only defensive measures and I have evinced greater forebearance than was practiced on any former occasion. It is thought that without the aid of the sword the American people may be brought to a due sense of their own interest. I firmly believe everything before me between Fort Niagara and Buffalo. The Militia being principally composed of enraged Democrats, are more ardent and anxious to engage, but they have neither subordination nor discipline. It certainly is singular that we should be two months in a state of war and that along the widely extended frontier not a single death either natural or by the sword, should have occurred among the troops under my command, nor has a single desertion taken place."

It was the end of September and first of October from watching over the river from Fort George there was no doubt but that another attack would be made, but at what point the centre of action, they could not tell, as the Americans as judged by General Brock in his instructions in case of another attack from the enemy he wrote: "If we weight well the character of our enemy we shall find him more disposed to brave the impediments of nature and by giving us a surprise than in encountering the British troops ready formed for his reception."

General Brock had placed his men here and there to watch the frontier from Niagara Falls to Buffalo. A portion of his own 49th, with a body of Militia on guard at Queenston where the first attack might be expected, night watchmen along the river. He was gathering his men, a force of 1500 along the frontier in case of need to be ready for a hasty call.

Early on the morning of the 9th of October a British war brig and a private were attacked and captured opposite Fort Erie by Lieutenant Elliot of the American Navy who was then at Black Rock engaged in fitting out schooners for the American service on Lake Erie, a work which could hardly have been carried out in General Brock's close vicinity had he not been restricted to defensive measures. The brig of war was carrying down forty prisoners of war, with some cannons, small arms and shot—all the result of the capture of Detroit. The Caladonia was laden with furs belonging to the North West Company. The Americans attacking force, including the 40 prisoners who joined their countrymen, amounted to 140, while the crew of the brig consisting of Canadian seamen and Militia, numbered less than half of their assailants. "The Caladonia" was carried off to Black Rock

Here and There

Construction will be started shortly, it is announced, on the \$2,000,000 bushel elevator to be erected by the Alberta Wheat Pool at Vancouver, and it is expected that the big plant will be ready to handle grain from the 1927 crop.

Twenty-three members of the Ohio Wesleyan Glee Club sailed recently on the Canadian Pacific steamship Montrose for England, where they will visit a short while before beginning a singing tour of the countries of central Europe to last about a month.

The Holy Land is to be officially represented at the World's Poultry Congress, in its annual. Dr. David Uri of this poultry experimental station in Palestine, will represent that country at the great international event to be held in Ottawa from July 27th to August 4th.

A new direct steamship service between Saint John and Havana, Cuba, will likely be inaugurated soon. The steamer company, if the New Brunswick Government and the shippers of the province back the project, said P. L. Estabrooke, of Sackville, just returned from a trip of enquiries in Cuba.

A bed which rocks its occupant to sleep has been invented by Sir Alfred Yarrow, British scientist. Sir Alfred, while travelling across Canada on the Imperial Limited some months ago, noticed that the slight sway of the train cured his insomnia. This fact resulted in his constructing the unusual bed which enables him to sleep soundly.

A new departure in the province was the recent formation of an association known as the Nova Scotia Chimichilla Rabbit Breeders' Association, at a meeting at Kentville, presided by F. W. Foster of Dayspring, president; Mrs. J. B. Barrett, of Avonport, vice-president; and G. E. Roberts, of Grand Pre, secretary. Feits will be marketed through the English Fur Board.

Search for the missing French aviators, Nungesser and Coli has been resumed by two Pathe News and two New York Daily News men who arrived at the C.P.R. station in Montreal recently enroute to Chicoutimi. Three of the party will form a land expedition, while the fourth will fly into the Quebec woods from Grand'Mere. They will stay in until the mystery of the flares is cleared up.

B. Macdougall, former Saskatoon aviator and now a leading stunt flier in Los Angeles, has written asking if the citizens of Saskatoon will provide a plane to be entered in the flight from the Pacific coast to Havana, which will fly half the distance. He offers to pay half the prize money and half any other receipts, should he be successful. The President of the Star has announced that The Star is prepared to make a substantial contribution towards the \$15,000 required. The plane would be named the "City of Saskatoon."

and her cargo secured, but the operations of the Canadian batteries compelled the captors to run the Detroit war brig around on Squaw Island. There she lay till evening when just as General Brock was about to reach the spot soon after sunset, was making arrangements to recover her, she was set on fire by the enemy. The little knot of officers looked on with grave faces. They knew that this disaster meant a good deal to them in a critical position of affairs. It was not only the material loss of the vessel and arms, the country's need, but also the encouragement which the affair must give to the enemy, who had been exerting themselves to gain a naval superiority on the lakes. General Brock said this event is particularly unfortunate. "It is one consolation at least that the brig has escaped the enemy. Certainly his conduct has not entitled him to so rich a prize."

The second week of October had set in cold and chilly. The immense logs crackled on the stone hearth, the fireplace the only means of heat in those pioneer days, the men sitting in corners, the officers sitting on benches near the fire hooversing. One officer made his way through them from the table where he had been writing by the light of a candle with a sealed letter addressed to Major General Brock. Reaching the door he remarked that it was raining, feeling drops striking his face. Then passing through the darkness he went toward the river to meet the sentry, who hearing footsteps called out, "Halt," at the same time leveling his musket. Making himself known he asked, "Where are the other sentries?" "My companion comes now the best I know the others are on three rampart to Fort George." Major Evans giving the letter with an order to the sentry said: "Be watchful, on such a night as this they may make their attack. Report the slightest suspicion." He listened, he could hear nothing unusual. He then went back to the barracks to give orders for the night.

The evening of the 12th of October there was a meeting of men of the 49th and officers. General Brock in addressing them said: "Let them be taught that Canadians will never bow their necks to a foreign yoke."

The meeting in the council room at Fort George being broken up late in the night General Brock took Colonel McDonald, his Aid de Camp, General Sheaffe and two others to his own private rooms. After all had been arranged in case of a mishap occurred, General Sheaffe was to take command. Then they took their departure, the sentry seeing all lights were out except in General Brock's sleeping rooms.

(Continued next week)

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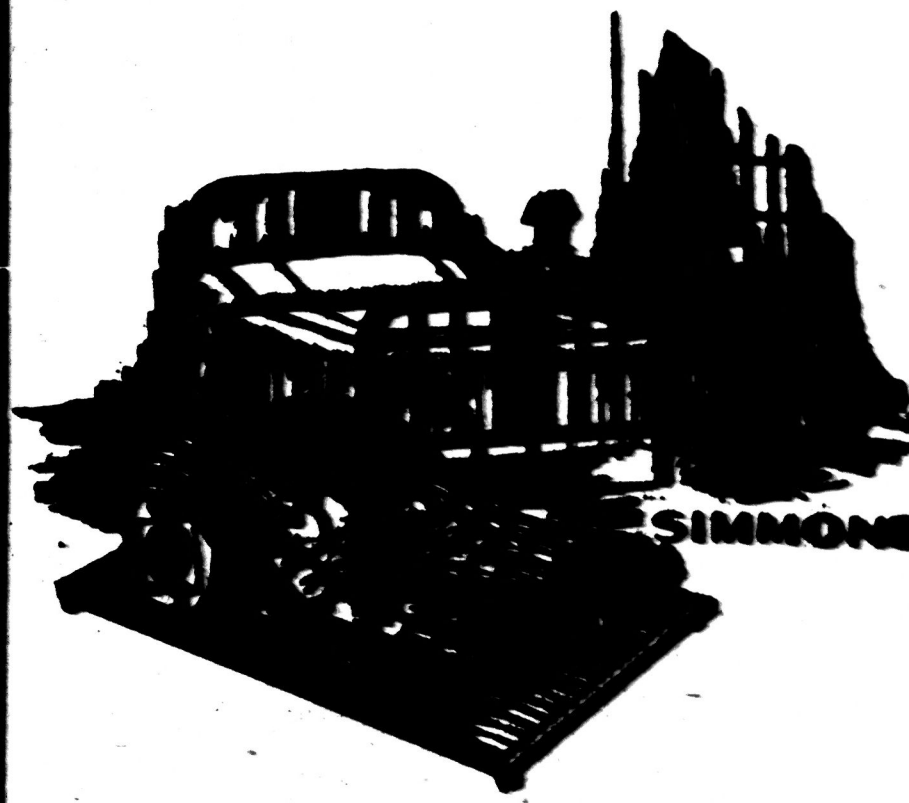


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