

# The Daily Times-Journal

## WESTERN ONTARIO HAS BORNE ITS SHARE IN THE CARRYING ON OF THE GREAT WAR

Men From the Head Of the Lakes Are Playing a Hero's Part On Every Front

THREE LOCAL BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED HERE

Two Have Made Good In France and Bull Moose Are Yet To Come

When first the German emperor, in his ambition to rule the world, tried havoc, and let slip the dogs of war upon a staggered Europe, he reckoned upon the disaffection of the British overseas dominions to keep them out of the fight, just as he trusted that India would revolt and that Ireland would plunge the united kingdom into civil war. Canada was among the first to dispel this illusion, first with 22,000 men, mustered, trained and despatched overseas six weeks from the time that recruiting was commenced, then with a quarter of a million, growing up to her full promise of five hundred thousand men.

It was a strange awakening. Canada's army had to be drawn from a nation that had never dreamed that they would ever hear a shot fired in anger, much less that they themselves would be called upon to face the horrors that modern science can weave around warfare on the battle fields of Europe. Three years ago the man who had predicted that Fort William would see thousands of men in khaki passing through on the way to real war, and would have contributed her thousands to those armies, would have been regarded as a wild dreamer. But the unexpected has come to pass, the thing that couldn't have occurred, and for over two years the man in khaki has been a matter of our daily life. The many of our best and bravest have gone overseas, and many of them, alas! have found a grave, marked by a wooden cross, close to the lines in France and Flanders.

**The Old 96th**  
Fort William has long had a militia unit in its midst, and the red coats of the 96th battalion were a familiar sight on its streets long before the call to war came, and it is noteworthy that over 1,000 rank and file who have qualified for overseas service have done so through the ranks of the old 96th Lake Superior regiment. But that is only a very small proportion of the men who have enlisted from this district, which has done its full share and more, in proportion to other parts of Canada. For example, the percentage of enlisted men from Thunder Bay to its population is close to 11 per cent, while the percentage of enlistment to population throughout the whole Dominion is only about one per cent, so that Thunder Bay is still three per cent ahead of the balance of Canada.

**Thunder Bay's "Hit"**  
Really accurate figures are not available, with the exception of a few of the units that have been enrolled in the district, since there have been many men who have left the district to enlist in some force that has taken their fancy, either because of old associations, or because they have been brought up to think that the hit or tartan has precedence over every other soldier's garb, and, as there have been no highland battalions organized here, they have wandered east or west seeking for a regiment where the swining sporrans keeps time to the tunes the pipers play. And no count has been kept accurately of the many reservists of the imperial army who, when war was declared, quietly disappeared and many of whom have been in the front lines since the fight at Mons.

But it may confidently be said that this district has contributed to the overseas contingents not less than 4,500 men, of whom 319 went with the gallant 84th, and fought at Ypres, 234 joined the 28th and have been doing yeoman work in the front trenches, these being companies that were enrolled with battalions anywhere throughout the tenth military district. This tenth district, taking in Winnipeg and Manitoba and Saskatchewan, has been credited with a very large enrollment, and it is the fashion to allude to it as a purely prairie enlistment, but it must not be forgotten that military district 10 includes also the Ontario districts of Thunder Bay and Rainy River, which have



LIEUT. COL. MCKENZIE

Officer commanding 141st Bull Moose battalion, now in training at the head of the lakes.

done their part well. The 52nd battalion was the first to be actually raised and trained here, and this battalion recruited from the cities and towns and country, no less than 1639 men who have shown their mettle in the trenches, and gained the reputation of being the hottest fighters that Canada has sent overseas. To the 44th, Col. Wayland's battalion, this district contributed 37 to the

the Rainy River country. Every trade and profession was represented, and it was the boast of the officers that there could not be a job that required doing, without there being a man in the ranks qualified to do it well. And that the boys from Fort William, Port Arthur, Kenora, Port Frances and the rest of the district have not been found wanting on the field of battle is borne witness to by the names of those who have been inscribed upon that modern honor roll—the casualty list. Some have paid the last debt to their country, some are wounded, some have recovered and have gone back to the firing line, some have fallen into German hands and are prisoners of war, many maimed for life, but, wherever they have been stationed, the boys we had Godspeed



Lt. COL. E. R. WAYLAND, of Fort William, who left overseas with his battalion some months ago.

engineering corps, 16 to the machine gun section and 21 to the auto section, most of whom are also at the front. Of the battalions now enlisting and those already fled up, the district has raised 1157 men for the 94th, now overseas, 900 for the 141st and 149 for the 212th or American legion. This makes a grand total of enlistment from the districts of Thunder Bay and Rainy River of 4,470 men all accounted for, and it is a very moderate estimate to make of those who have joined other units, who have enrolled in the construction corps, the foresters' battalion, the artillery, or who have enlisted with other Cana-



MAJOR J. E. SWINBURNE, of Fort William, now at the front with western battalion.

dian battalions, or have gone as reservists, to place their number at 700. Probably a excess would find that it was nearer to 500.

**The Northern Breed**  
The class of men who have joined here has been of the best breed to make soldiers. Most of them used to open air life, many of them woodsmen, with a large sprinkling of well educated and recreational young men from the cities. There were two battalions that went out with a better balanced lot of men than those taken from the head of the lakes and

can send out, and the 141st of Bull Moose battalion, which has its apartment to win. With the 28th battalion went a company from the head of the lakes and with the 94th battalion we went out a grandly numbered company, while scattered among the others, notably Col. E. R. Wayland's battalion, the 44th, and the Princess Patricia, will be found men whose homes were at the head of the lakes. The first man to give his life for the cause from this district was "Duffy" Houston, of the Princess Patricia, sportsman and keen rifle shot, and since then many have followed his trail and "gone west." The firsting 22nd, who set to battle under their gallant leader, Col. Hay, and saw the worst of the struggle round the Ypres salient, where many good lives were lost, including that of the colonel himself, was the first battalion that was, as it were, personally known to the peo-



Lt. COL. H. A. C. MACHIN, officer commanding 94th battalion.

ple of the two cities, drilling in our open spaces, marching through our streets, their band playing music for our fetes, until they seemed almost to be an integral part of city life. But they passed but one evening and the 94th came here in their stead, another home unit, recruited from the best in Thunder Bay, Kenora and Rainy River, with a Kenora officer, Col. Machin at their head. They drew still deeper upon the district's resources in man-power, and, so keen was the martial spirit in our midst, that many boys repudiated their youth and enlisted as men in the 94th. Many hearts were sad when they drew out from the station, with a farewell hat



MAJOR S. C. YOUNG, former mayor of Fort William, now in charge of officers' training school, Winnipeg.

was none the less sincere because it lacked a little of the cheering and the safety which marked the enlisting of earlier drafts. Since the departure of the first contingent the tale told by the casualty lists had given warning that this was no child's play, and that every boy who donned the King's uniform went over taking his life in his hands. So, in many cases, tears took the place of laughter.

**The Bull Moose Battalion**  
But the 94th battalion was not to be the last call upon the manhood of the district. No sooner had the tall lights of their train vanished round the curve that work was started on the 141st or Bull Moose battalion, the nucleus of which was recruited from Fort Frances and the Rainy River district, but which came up to Fort William, and, after a short interval went into summer training quarters at Gresley Park, the old home of the 52nd. Under the command of Col. McKenzie, formerly a

Three Conspicuous Units  
Of all the battalions that have gone overseas, or been recruited in Canada, three stand out most clearly in the minds of the people of Fort William and the Thunder Bay district. The 52nd and the 94th, which have shown already what breed of men we



The New Leaf the Kaiser Couldn't Turn

physician at Fort Frances, the Bull Moose were rounded into shape, and have taken the same place in the warm affection of the people that their predecessors filled, so that when they see go overseas, the eyes of the head of the lakes will look anxiously to watch their career, whether they are sent to the front as a unit, or like the 94th, are scattered as reinforcements among the various battalions.

## RECEPTION TO COL. M'KENZIE

Presented With Illuminated Address At Lyceum Theater—Ifudatory Speeches and Good Music

Warm expressions of appreciation, congratulatory and satisfaction at Colonel B. C. McKenzie's reinstatement as officer commanding the 141st battalion emanated from the lips of every speaker at the civic reception rendered Colonel McKenzie at the Lyceum theater, Port Arthur, last evening.

**Was Given An Address**  
Opportunity was taken at this meeting of presenting the gallant colonel with an illuminated address, read by Ald. Bolder, to which the colonel replied, saying that he was gratified to be back in Port Arthur once again in his old position, pleased at the reception the citizens were giving him, and that the old truth had asserted itself that if a person honestly and conscientiously did what he thought to be right he need have no fear that his enemies could do him any permanent injury. (Cheers.) While he was glad to see the feeling of the public expressed itself by such a reception, he would ask for something more. He would ask the citizens to recruit the battalion up to full strength, for which they needed 300 men. What with stricter medical requirements, desertions and men weeded out from other causes, the battalion was now less in numbers than it was when they came from Fort Frances last June. When he was suspended September 4th the strength of the battalion was 876; at the present time it was not more than 750. "When we see such names as Colonel Hay, Major Milne and Percy Heason in the casualty lists, it is up to you and me to avenge their deaths," said the colonel.

**Other Speakers**  
Other speakers included I. L. Matthews, Mayor Cowan, who presided; Major Stethem, Rev. Capt. A. D. Reid, Col. Ray W. L. Bird, president of the Fort William board of trade, who brought greetings from Fort William, and J. A. Oliver. In addition to the speakers, those on the platform were Alderman L. J. B. Bolduc, Colonel C. N. Laurie, Alderman L. J. Falls and A. Woodside, Commissioner W. P. Cooke, J. A. Fire, Major Fife. The stage was prettily hung with British flags, and fronting the audience from the footlights were two large pictures of the king and queen.

**Fine Band Music**  
A splendid musical program was given. The bull moose band, a few months ago possibly the best band in the Dominion, is, under the leadership of Bandmaster Prentiss, fast coming back into its own. The rendition of the arrangement of Scottish airs last evening, so full of rich harmonies, was a wonderful revelation of what a band can do. The accompaniment to the solo instruments in this medley was almost perfect. The spirited march at the opening, also redolent of the heather and hills of Scotia, was very well done, and it will not be long before the bull moose band, renovated and reorganized, will take its place again among the premier bands of Canada.

**New Tenor Makes Hit**  
Mr. Colville, a new arrival in Port Arthur, with a fine, clear, lyric tenor voice, sang twice, both times being encored. His songs included The Braes of Mar, The Flight of Aces, a dainty little Scotch song to the lilt of refrain of Pye Ken John Peelf and Mary of Argyll. The 141st quartet made a decided hit, and had to respond to an encore.

The national anthem brought the evening to a fitting conclusion. By the courtesy of Manager Farmer, a Keystone comedy reel was thrown on the screen and kept the audience amused until shortly after 8.30 the curtain went up and the program was commenced.

**The Address**  
The address, which was beautifully illuminated by City Treasurer W. J. Gurney, in the royal colors, was as follows:  
Lieut. Col. D. C. McKenzie, C. C. 141st Battalion, Port Arthur, Ont.  
Dear Colonel.—The citizens of Port Arthur are pleased to extend to you a hearty civic welcome on your return to this city. It is a source of pleasure to all the citizens that you have been honorably restored to the command of the 141st overseas battalion.

"We recognize the splendid efforts which you have put forth, ably assisted by your officers, to recruiting and bringing your 94th battalion up to its present strength, and we deem it a pleasure as well as a duty, to assist you in every possible manner to recruit the battalion up to full strength. We appreciate your personal worth and vigorous efforts to do your duty to Canada and the empire in this great war, and assure you of our sympathy and co-operation to the fullest extent."

Signed, on behalf of the citizens of Port Arthur, D. J. COWAN, Mayor.  
"Early Christmas shoppers got the choice, and a small deposit secures it until wanted." is the way one "Times-Journal" advertiser puts it—do it early.  
Green Bones makes chickens lay every day. Dominion Meat Market, Phone 5. 122.  
Hotel Victoria. European plan. The snuggest spot in town. Cuisine unexcelled. Cafe open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On December 16, 1916 the Fort William Daily Times Journal published An overview of Thunder Bay District's involvement in the war since inception