

A CANADIAN IN BELGIUM.

Mrs W. D. Bayley, wife of one of the Canadian Prohibition Campaigners, now visiting New Zealand, has just received word from her brother, Captain A. D. McRae, M.C., that he is now with his battalion in Germany. Captain McRae was wounded last August, after two years' service, a bullet passing through his nose and cheek. He received the Military Cross for his work in the fighting during which he was wounded.

Captain McRae described his adventures in getting to his battalion after returning from hospital in England. He says, November 25, 1918:—

"I got back to the Battalion a few days ago, after quite a wonderful trip up from Boulogne, the last hundred miles or so being done by hopping the odd motor lorries. I spent the first night in Valenciennes, and the next in the famous Mons. The towns and cities here are a mass of flags, floral arches, etc.

"It seemed quite strange, when nearing the old battle ground, not to hear any guns, and I think it made it seem all the more desolate, if possible.

"The roads for miles on either side of the old zone are crowded with old men, women, and children, pushing wheelbarrows, pulling carts and wagons, or carrying great bundles, on their way to their old homes, though in many cases it will be but the place where their homes used to be. Many will not even be able to find a vestige of the town or village left. What some of these wonderful French people are going through (smiling with the knowledge that they are to be free of the Hun) the world at large will never appreciate.

The roads, as we now march through Belgium towards the Rhine are ever lined with old men (the others are in their own army), women and children and all seem to have learned the word *Welcome*. Floral arches decorate the streets, and great banners bear some welcome in Belgian, French, English, or a mixture. Women rush out with cups of tea or coffee to the boys as we pass, and when we stop for the night they do their utmost to make us comfortable. (The little lady here has me fixed up in fine style.)

It is often quite touching to see the older people standing to welcome us with tears of joy running down their

cheeks. Yesterday, when nearing a little town, we were met with a band of some dozen pieces, no member of which I should judge was a day under sixty years. They played "Oh, Canada" and "God Save the King," and not too badly either."

Captain McRae figured very prominently two years ago as a witness in the famous British Columbia Soldiers' Vote investigation. A referendum on Prohibition was held, and a Government Commission sat in England and discovered that dead soldiers, as well as thousands of fictitious names, had been voted. Captain McRae had acted as scrutineer for the Drys, and was able to give evidence that proved that ballots marked for Prohibition had been destroyed, and Wet ballots substituted. Captain McRae later on was placed in charge of the Canadian General Election for one of the four divisions of the Canadian Army.

THE FUTURE.

Be brave, O Heart! and meet the coming years

With a strong courage born of faith and love;

Be brave and, smiling through the falling tears,

Look up to where God's stars still shine above.

Be brave, O Heart! the years short or long,

With steps that do not falter tread the way;

Take courage, meet the future with a song.

Have faith that joy will come at close of day.

Be brave, O Heart! so many feet have passed

O'er sorrow's road where now the light grows dim,

Beyond the hills, the dawn is breaking fast.

O trust in God, and leave the rest to Him.

—"The Messenger."

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