

Death Of An Old Soldier A Canadian City in Ruins

MAJOR MAIR'S ADVENTUROUS CAREER.

A brave soldier and a worthy colonist passed away on Monday morning, when Major William Gilbert Mair died at Waitotapu. He was born at the Bay of Islands 80 years ago, and during a long life witnessed some of the most exciting and adventurous scenes that went towards the making of the Dominion. Not only did he witness these scenes, but took part in them, and no one was more justly entitled to be ranked among the "Defenders of New Zealand." His facility in the Maori language led to his appointment as interpreter to General Cameron's staff at the beginning of the Maori war, and he served rigid through the campaign. At the famous siege of Orakau (the Maori Thermopylae) young Mair was ordered to advance to the extreme limits of the sap, to call on the defenders of the pa either to surrender or send out their women and children. The reply was, as has often been told, "We shall fight on for ever and for

the Major organised a force of some 350 Arawas. Half went by the way of Lake Tarawera and the others went down the coast, and after some skirmishes with the enemy they joined forces to attack the stronghold at Te Teko, where the Hau-haus had taken refuge. The place was mostly strongly fortified with the swift-running Rangitiki at its rear, and impenetrable palisading on all sides. The leader of the expedition saw that sapping was the only way to take the place, and he began to apply the lessons he had learned so well from the Imperial troops at Orakau. The fanatics at last were forced to evacuate, and great was the jubilation of the Arawas, who indulged in a most realistic war dance. There were 80 prisoners, including the "prophet" Te Ia and eight of the party of Faleon's murderers, who afterwards paid the death penalty for their crime. This was one of the most successfully organised and carried out expeditions of the campaign, and served

The Model Western Capital, Regina, Swept by a Tornado—Wide Area Levelled—A Million Sterling Damage, and Loss of Life

(Comprehensive Views on Page 32.)

FROM a model city, the capital of the province of Saskatchewan, and the pride of Western Canada, famous for its miles of pavements, for its unique and ornate buildings, for its ample and well-laid-out public reserves, for its educational endowments, for its clean and orderly appearance, for its successful administration of municipal enterprises and low rate of taxation, Regina, representing years of patient endeavour and the expenditure of large sums of money, has in a few minutes of time been partly reduced to ruins. The destroying agency was a furious tornado, which struck the city in a thickly-built quarter, and, in cutting a swath two blocks wide and two miles long, levelled all the buildings within that area, and caused loss of life.

Communication was shut off from the outer world, but relief trains were sent along from Winnipeg with doctors and nurses. Fires broke out, following on the destruction of the houses, but were checked by the activity of the fire brigades. Several automobile parties were lifted bodily and hurled blocks distant. Six grain elevators were destroyed on the Canadian Pacific Tracks. Parliament Buildings, just completed of reinforced concrete, withstood the tornado's violence, but were badly shaken, and the town generally is a mass of ruins. Boats were hurled from the river surface, and carried three-quarters of a mile distant. Railway cars were carried into the streets from the yards. The girls who occupied the telephone exchange scrambled over the ruins of the

building unscathed to the street. A 15-ton switchboard fell beside them as they reached the street. A large grain elevator was carried off its foundations and moved 50 ft. from its accustomed spot. Property loss is roughly estimated at a million sterling. Martial law was proclaimed, and troops were brought out to suppress lawlessness.

Regina, situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 350 miles west of Winnipeg, is the centre of the most densely populated portion of the province. Being the financial centre of the middle West, the city had ten chartered banks and a large number of loan companies; it is a prominent distributing centre, and had railway facilities reaching to all parts of the province. Besides being the judicial centre of Saskatchewan it is the educational centre of the middle West, with a collegiate institute (a new building), a normal school, four public schools, and a separate school for which a new building was recently erected. The city hall was the finest and best-furnished in the West, provided by the proceeds of property sales, without costing the taxpayers a penny. The hotel accommodation in the city was also unequalled.

Regina had municipalized its water supply, inexhaustible and pure, and its electric light service, the revenue from which was sufficient to assist in keeping down the rate of taxation. There were six miles of greenolithic side-walks, besides roads paved in different material, and ample well-laid-out public reserves and boulevards. The magnificent church buildings were a feature of the city's architecture.

Personal Notes

MR. JAMES TRIGGS, father of Mr. J. R. Triggs, Conciliation Commissioner, died at Christchurch last week at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Deceased was a native of Portsmouth, England. On coming to the Dominion about 50 years ago he settled in Christchurch. Later he went to the Thames goldfields, but subsequently returned to Christchurch and started in business as a boot-maker. Latterly he had lived in retirement. He is survived by six sons and two daughters.

Mr. Allan Macdonnell, who was selected in 1909 as New Zealand Rhodes scholar, and who went Home in that year to pursue his studies at Oxford, has been awarded first-class honours in English and Literature. A private tutor gave him his first lessons in the English language, for when he arrived in Wellington as a small boy Gaelic was his only tongue. He then went to the Terrace school, passed from there to Wellington College, and then to Victoria College. It is interesting to note that the Terrace school produced another Rhodes scholar in Mr. P. W. Robertson, who was selected in 1905.

Miss Margaret Miles, who came to New Zealand from England in March last, has been appointed matron of the Dunedin hospital.

Mr. John Russell has resigned from the teaching staff of the Wellington College.

The Rev. A. G. Forbes has given notice of his resignation of the cure of Waikari, as he is returning with Mrs. Forbes to Lincolnshire, England, in October next.

Mr. S. Dryden, of Bidwell Street, a resident of Wellington for 57 years, celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday last week. Mr. Dryden, who is still well and hearty, reached Wellington in the schooner *Mar-hioness*, from Melbourne. He is the father of the well-known stick-stick family.

Mr. O. E. Stout, youngest son of Sir Robert Stout (Chief Justice) has passed his LL.B degree at Cambridge University with third-class honours.

Mr. McGregor, town clerk to the Matura Borough Council for the past 29 years, has resigned on account of advancing years. He was granted six months' salary in appreciation of his past services.

Captain A. H. Thorpe, harbourmaster at Lyttelton, is on a holiday visit to Melbourne and Sydney. Captain T. M. Hunter is acting harbourmaster.

The Rev. J. A. Brown, who has accepted a call to Reefton after being in charge of the Flemington district for four years, was entertained at a social gathering at the Flemington School, and presented with a purse of sovereigns from the congregation and a similar gift on behalf of the Tinwald congregation. Miss Craig, who is also leaving Flemington, was presented with a marble clock and a silver afternoon tea service and tray, in recognition of the good work she had done in the Sunday school.

On the occasion of Bishop Grimes' jubilee, which was celebrated at Christchurch last week, the occasional sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean Power, of Hawera, and the sermon at vespers was preached by the Very Rev. Dean O'Shea, Vicar-General, of Wellington. The "Tablet," in referring to the sermons, says:—"Coupled with the magnificent discourse at the Pontifical High Mass, seldom have finer examples of pulpit eloquence been heard in the Cathedral." In honour of the jubilee Dean Power and Dean O'Shea have been appointed honorary deans of the Christchurch diocese.

Eight months' leave of absence has been granted Mr. George Adair, director of the boys' work at Auckland Y.M.C.A. He will pay a visit to America, and spend the time studying the latest methods of Y.M.C.A. work, and return in time for the opening of the new building. Mr. Wm. M. Barton, of Wellington, has been



THE LATE MAJOR MAIR.

ever." After delivering his message the plucky interpreter was fired on suddenly by a treacherous Maori, and the bullet ripped open his tunic as it passed over his shoulder. At the end of the Waikato campaign Mr. Mair was appointed Native Resident Magistrate, and was located for some time at Taupo, but when the war broke out on the East Coast he was gazetted Major and entrusted with the command of the Arawa contingent of friendly natives. The Major had great influence with his dusky followers, who were not the easiest of fighters to handle, as any one can judge for himself by reading Hodgson's history of the Maori war, and it was frequently only his personality and his daring bravery which saved the situation.

It was during the East Coast war that the Major and the Arawas performed their famous feat of taking the Te Teko Pa. That was in 1865. The whole countryside from Taupo to the East Cape was one seething mass of fanaticism. Volker's cruel murder by that sound-dred Kereopa and his friends was followed by the brutal murder of Faleon, the Government interpreter, and it was to avenge the death of the latter that

to illustrate in a marked manner the military genius of Major Mair. At the end of the East Coast war the Major again settled down to the duties of Resident Magistrate in the Upper Waikato. On several occasions during the war he received the thanks of the Government for his military services, and years afterwards he was mainly instrumental in securing peace with the Maori "King" Tawhiao, who in 1881 threatened to be troublesome over the land question.

In 1882 the Major was appointed a judge of the Native Land Court, an office for which he was eminently fitted by his unique knowledge of the Maori ways, customs, and language, as well as by his high sense of honour and justice. So great was the confidence of the Natives in him that he adjudicated upon the whole of the lands in what was known as the King Country, the Maoris being only too willing to come forward to have their claims settled. When he retired from active public life the Major settled down at Lake Takapuna, and latterly has been living on his station at "Rerewhakaitea," about 20 miles from Rotorua. He leaves a widow, two sons (Messrs H. M. Mair and N. L. Mair), who live on the station, and one daughter (Mrs H. Lloyd Brett).