

### Footing Was Slippery

On Christmas Eve a slight snowfall occurred, not enough to spoil the race for the spectators, nor to hinder the runners to a great extent, but enough to make the footing very slippery and hopes that had been expressed the day before for a record were given up. In fact the footing was not as good as that of last year, although there was not as much snow. Last year there was sufficient of the beautiful to make it possible for the competitors to wear spikes. But the light, unpacked snow of Saturday made this impossible, for the spikes would have cut through the pavement over which the majority of the race had to be run and would have made running impossible. And so all of the competitors had to wear rubber-soled running shoes, which slipped somewhat and made the time slow.

### Dressed for the Occasion

With wisdom born of experience, Decoteau appeared upon the scene dressed warmly, but lightly. He was the only one of the competitors to wear stockings. He also wore a long-sleeved jersey and gloves, while on his head he had a woolen toque, which he pulled down over his head just before "Cappy" Smart shot the starting pistol. It was one of those caps which completely cover the back of the head and neck and mouth, leaving a space for the eyes and nose. The woolen covering for the mouth also formed a respirator, which prevented the cold air from entering the lungs directly.

Decoteau ran with a free easy style, never having to extend himself, and seeming as fresh at the finish of the race as he was at the start. After the race he said that he had suffered from stomach cramps considerable of the distance, but no one would have known it judging from the ease with which he stepped along.

### Testimonial to Jack Buchanan

The winning of second and third places by the representatives of the 66th battalion was a striking testimonial to Sergt. Jack Buchanan, the veteran trainer, who accompanied the men from the north. For the past month Buchanan has carefully trained his men, starting with them at the half mile, then increasing the distance to two and three miles, then lessening it to the half mile and then to a quarter of a mile, practising them sprinting and plodding, but never sending them over the full six-mile distance until the day of the race.

The Edmonton soldiers, in addition to winning the solid gold medals, won the special prizes for soldiers' entries, an illuminated dial wrist watch for the first prize and a sterling silver cigarette case for the second soldier to

### Warburton Got a Stitch

W. J. Warburton, of the 56th battalion, who finished fourth in the race, made a very game fight. He was overcome with a severe stitch in his side about a mile from the start and this gave him great pain during the next five miles, but he gamely stuck to it, and went into second place on the Macleod trail, but had to drop to fourth place after a short time. Warburton ran in the 1913 race and finished second at that time.

### Le Fleur Unable to start

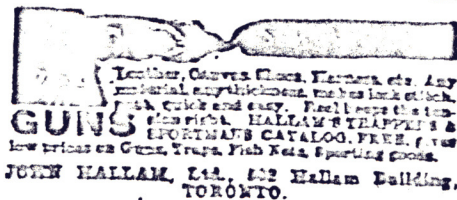
Alex. Le Fleur, who was expected to make Decoteau extend himself to win the race, did not start. When examined before the race by Dr. Dunlop, he was found to be running a fever, with a temperature of 101, and the examining physician ordered him not to start in the race. It was a keen disappointment to him as it was for the thousands of spectators. He had trained faithfully for the race. Furthermore, he was born in the same town as Decoteau and went to school with him but had never run against him. He had won the Winnipeg Telegram five mile race at the Olympic trial in Fort Saskatchewan, but in neither of these races had Decoteau entered. It would have given him considerable personal satisfaction to compete against Decoteau, but the fates were against him. Seventeen men faced Cappy Smart and of these fourteen finished. The slippery footing made W. J. Green, the Calgary dark horse slip and fall, while two others were overcome with cramps and had to drop out. It was the largest field that ever started and the largest percentage to finish.

### Auto Owners Careless

In spite of the appeal made to owners and drivers of automobiles to exercise consideration while traveling around the course, there were several car owners who disregarded this and insisted upon driving across the course and along side the runners, opening up the cutouts and blowing half burned gas into the faces of those competing. One auto driver in his anxiety to the race to the best advantage knocked over one of the competitors, who was in fourth place on the Macleod trail, thus spoiling his chances of finishing inside of the prize award. While many auto owners who accompanied the race acted splendidly, the few careless ones did a great deal of damage.

### Crowd a Record One

The crowd which witnessed the race



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Warburton, who was the local favorite, ran well until he took a stitch in his side on Eighth street west. This bothered him all the rest of the way, and although he ran a game race and fought with Hall and Miller for second place all the way up the Macleod trail, the physical difficulty was too much and it showed great nerve for him to come in fourth, clinging close to the heels of Hall and Miller.

### The Start

After the medical inspection of the contestants there were 17 lined up before "Cappy" Smart, who by merit and custom has been the official starter of the race since it was inaugurated. The snow had stopped and the sun was shining brightly when the scratch was scored in the snow, which was well packed by the hundreds who were stationed in front of The Herald block to see the start. There was the usual good-natured crowding and shoving by those who wanted to see everything, but the policemen kept the street cleared for the contestants. The men lined up in the order of their entry:

- 3—Alex. Decoteau, Edmonton.
  - 4—William J. Burn, 18th O.M.R., Medicine Hat.
  - 5—Thomas H. Coward, Bassano, Alta.
  - 7—Harry O. Nutt, 56th Battalion, Calgary.
  - 8—A. W. Warburton, 56th Battalion, Calgary.
  - 10—James H. Barratt, 82nd Battalion, Calgary.
  - 11—Ernest Whitaker, 82nd Battalion, Calgary.
  - 15—W. J. Lawson, P.O. Football club, Calgary.
  - 16—W. J. Green (unattached).
  - 17—A. Mitchell, Hillhurst F. C.
  - 18—Stanley Steven, 82nd Battalion, Edmonton.
  - 19—William E. Miller, 66th Battalion, Edmonton.
  - 20—Jack Hall, 66th Battalion, Edmonton.
  - 21—F. J. Watson, 82nd Battalion, Calgary.
  - 22—Olaf Johansson, Lethbridge.
  - 23—E. Russell Stewart, 1181 Ninth street east, Calgary.
  - 24—R. J. Vance, Meadow Creek, Alta.
- The men had been given their instructions by Capt. Bob Pearson upstairs, so there was no delay in making the start. After they were all in line "Cappy's" revolver rang out and the big race was on.

### At Mission Bridge

The Mission bridge being one of the chief landmarks of the race, formed a good vantage point for a crowd of about 100 spectators, who had a good view of the fourteen runners who had made their way to this stage of the race.

The runners were well strung out as a whole on passing this point, Alex. Decoteau leading the first bunch, at