

Wishing our Clients a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. See us for your real estate bargains. Tanner & Gates, Tanner-Gates Building, 26-28 Adelaide West.

The Toronto World

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PROBS Fair and very cold. Senate Reading Room. Monday-1923. SENATE P O

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Why All This Nickel Mystery?

The nickel issue becomes more interesting. We had Hon. Frank Cochrane in town yesterday, and he knows something about it; and he was in conference with Hon. Mr. Hearst, and he must know something about it and what it means to Ontario, to Canada, to the empire. We also had a mysterious article in The Globe. It said The World did not appear to have confidence in Mr. Monell's statement as to the International Nickel Company's policy, and that if what we said were true, Sir Robert Borden ought to be in jail for treason.

If anyone ought to be in jail it is that one who helps the wrong-doer to put something over the nation in its hour of supreme trial. And this is the hour of supreme peril for the British Empire, when her navy is menaced and her coasts menaced, and her soldiers and sailors menaced by ships and shells and bullets armored with Canadian nickel, that got to Germany by stealth conduct, where there should have been vigilance, and where that one corrective of things of this kind, publicity, was side-tracked.

The World is not anxious to get people in jail; it is anxious to have the export of Canadian nickel out of Canada stopped absolutely and forthwith; and especially does it wish to see the production of our nickel controlled in our own country—not by a foreign company, one located in the United States, and who has some kind, or had some kind, of connection with the great German armament outfit engaged in supplying armor for warships and ammunition for rifles for the nation and the kaiser who is now engaged in a gigantic effort to put our race, our empire, and our world leadership out of business.

We published some surprising information yesterday, and we are only on the threshold. One of the most surprising things is that the legal agents of the American (German?) nickel trust in Canada are so active and influential, and so constant in their appearance in the political and economical affairs of this country, and how they seem to be all over the lot, so to speak, and how newspapers reflect their views and reiterate their assurances.

But the one great outstanding fact is that Germany got all, or nearly all, of her nickel from Canada, and that the British Government some years ago drew the attention of our authorities to this situation with a view to having it stopped, but that nothing substantial was done.

Germany has stocks of nickel in stock, and it will be no trouble to get more from the United States, where all our nickel ores are treated or smelted!

This present war costs Britain and Canada more in a fortnight than would buy out the nickel properties already acquired, all their plants, and pay wages for a dozen years!

And yet having the nickel and the right to control the output, we have given it all over to foreigners, who have made enormous profits! We have allowed them to juggle the organization of their companies, the Canadian public are ignorant as to who make them up, one or two Canadians are on the directorate, and they sell it to our enemies, an enemy that seeks to destroy our empire!

And we know nothing. But Germany gets the nickel and widows and orphans are being made in thousands, when British soldiers and sailors go to death because of bullets and torpedo boats and warships made in part of Canadian nickel.

Britain and Canada should have kept our nickel for imperial use and protection—not allowed it to get to our possible and probable enemies.

We do not like this state of affairs. We do not like the policy of the Ontario Government, or of the Dominion Government, and we do not like the inaction of the oppositions at Toronto and at Ottawa. Why is not The Globe making the welkin ring?

We hear that a commission may be appointed to investigate the situation. To us that only spells delay. There is only one thing to do, and that is, take over the nickel deposits, control the production and sale, and prohibit all export to Germany, or to countries whence she may draw it for her own use!

Commissions will spin out the situation and only find things that are already known, or should have been known, and made public for years back. The thing to do is to close the situation and cut off the menaces at once.

And one thing more for this Christmas morning: We say on the best authority that the greatest mineral deposit in any one place in the world in value is at Sudbury, Ontario, and that it consists of an enormous range of nickel and copper! It is worth in value more than the gold fields of the Rand, the copper deposits of the northwestern States, the diamond fields of Africa all put together! There are untold millions there. A small royalty out of the nickel and copper that can be produced there would pay the whole cost of governing and developing Ontario for a hundred years! And no other country outside of New Caledonia is known to have any. It's the greatest monopoly in the world.

And yet somehow the Canadian people have been more or less chloroformed as to this fact, and the control of it so far is out of our country, and it is a profound mystery to our various governments, past and present!

We await an explanation from Mr. Hearst, from Mr. Cochrane, from Sir Robert Borden. So far the explanations seem to come from the Honorable Wallace Nesbitt of Toronto, counsel for the International Nickel Company, whose headquarters are in the United States!

Hon. Mr. Hearst's Statement
In reply to the questions asked by The Toronto World re Ontario's responsibility in the matter of nickel export Hon. Mr. Hearst stated that it fell entirely under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Ontario had no control over the two companies in question and could not limit even if it so desired, the export of nickel ore.

He said in addition that the Ontario Government as well as that at Ottawa had abundant assurance that since the war had broken out not a pound of Ontario nickel had been exported either directly or indirectly to Germany. None of it had reached the enemy by any route.

The International Nickel Company is a large American corporation holding as one of its subsidiary companies the Canadian Copper Company. Its stockholders are in the majority New York capitalists, and it has a large nickel refinery established in New Jersey. Ore shipments from Ontario go to this point for treatment. The Ontario companies office in connection with the provincial secretary's department has no dealings with this concern and the incorporation is not entered on the books.

The president of the Canadian Copper Company is A. D. Miles of Cleveland. He succeeded A. P. Turner of the same city, who presided in 1909. The present secretary is L. J. Ashley of New York. This company was incorporated under a special act of the federal government of Canada.

Under the provincial companies law it is now stands such corporations are not obliged to make returns to the provincial government. As a matter of fact the Canadian Copper Company has made returns for the last two years, but it is acknowledged that they do so only with their own consent. The material which they have forwarded from year to year contains the changing of the directorships, the variation in capitalization and like matters.

It might even be good policy for the government to expropriate the main nickel deposits in Sudbury and carry on the industry of refining the ore as a government monopoly. Such a policy could easily be justified on the ground of military expediency.

BERLIN ADMITS OUTLOOK IS NOT BRIGHT IN EAST

No Marked Advantage Evident is Unusually Frank Admission.

AUSTRIA'S HEAVY LOSSES
Severe Defeat at Hands of Servians is Not Denied.

(GERMAN OFFICIAL)
Canadian Press Despatch.
BERLIN, Dec. 24.—(via London.)—The German official press bureau were the following:

"While there is general confidence that the Germans and their ally are making progress along the extended battle line in the east there is no indication either in the German or the Austrian official reports that any marked advantage has been won."

"Indeed, it is noticeable that Vienna uses the adjective 'favorable' in referring to the battles in the Carpathians, but contents itself with saying that the severe battle along the lower Danube River and on the Krosno-Tuchov line continue."

"Austria's Severe Reverse." "Strikingly frank and interesting is the official Vienna report concerning the Austrian withdrawal from Serbia, which was due to the terrible conditions of the country and the weather, and also the fact that the Servians had been reinforced. The Austrians lost considerably in the retreat, but the spirit of their army is unsurpassable. The report also brings the first news that Field Marshal Oskar Potiorek has been relieved of command of the Austrian army on account of his health."

"The situation in the west has not materially changed despite the desperate efforts of the allies."

CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN.
Canadian Press Despatch.
BERLIN, Dec. 24, via London, Dec. 25, 12:15 a.m.—Berlin is celebrating Christmas Eve under leaden skies. Several inches of snow fell during the night, but was promptly converted into slush as the temperature was several degrees from freezing.

Christmas in the German capital differs little from former years. The home enjoyments are on a more economical scale, and more public spiritness is being shown than ever before. The gifts for the poor have assumed proportions of snow-knife dimensions.

The soldiers at the front are being remembered by the whole population, and hundreds of car loads of presents have been sent to the east and west fronts. The Berlin school children figure largely in the gifts for the soldiers. There is scarcely a child who has not contributed several packages of presents, usually with the home address given in the hope of obtaining a much-coveted letter card.

Wounded Cared For.
The military aspect of this Christmas has also been increased by the lavish attention to the wounded in the hospitals. Here every hospital yesterday evening or this evening had a Christmas tree, and more packages of the cot were flanked with chairs and tables on which presents were heaped. These celebrations were attended by the school children, who sang Christmas carols.

Hundreds of wounded soldiers were assembled in the halls of the hospitals, children again took a prominent part in the festivities, many of them bringing simple presents on their own account. The empress at Potsdam last evening presented each wounded soldier with a woolen jacket, a notebook, fruits, nuts and cakes.

PREFER TRENCES TO HOLIDAY IN PARIS
Canadian Press Despatch.
PARIS, Dec. 24.—(6:21 p.m.)—A number of the members of the chamber of deputies serving in the army have decided not to take advantage of the extended leave granted them by Gen. Joffre, and have returned to the front. They had come to Paris to attend the session of the chamber.

The place of honor of the first regiment to move across the English Channel fell to Princess Patricia's Regiment, as it is made up largely of men who have seen previous service, and who needed but a few weeks to get their acquaintance with the game that they are expected to play in the fighting lines.

Canada's Scottish regiments from Nova Scotia were made into a separate unit soon after arrival at Salisbury by General Alderson.

MANY CANADIANS TO SPEND CHRISTMAS DAY IN CAMP

Direct Copyrighted Cable to The Toronto World.
SALISBURY, Dec. 24.—Fifteen thousand Canadians will celebrate Christmas in camp tomorrow. The others are off on four days' leave of absence, or are billeted with hospitable English people. Christmas will be a day of leisure, the officers purchasing eatables and meeting with the men.
Col. Turner is improving from the injuries that he received in an automobile accident.
J. A. MacLaren.

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR BIG VIADUCT TO ASSIGN OFFICERS TO MOUNTED CORPS

Three Years' Preliminary Preparations Ended by Final Endorsement of Agreement
List of Those Volunteering for Active Service Wanted Before Month End.

START ON DON SECTION TO RECRUIT MEN SOON

Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollar Job for Montreal Firm.

After three years spent in discussion and arrangement of details, the contract for the construction of the Don section of the Bloor street viaduct was finally signed in the office of the city solicitor at the city hall yesterday by a member of the firm of Quinlan & Robertson, Montreal, who two weeks ago, at a special council meeting, were awarded the contract at the price of \$947,076.01. Works Commissioner Harris gave out the above definite information at a late hour last night, and added that the work was to commence immediately.

From the standpoint of the citizens of Toronto, the news is the most welcome of any emanating from the city hall during the present year, as it heralds the beginning of one of the biggest civic undertakings ever launched in Toronto. The World was the first to point out the urgent necessity of the big undertaking to link up the fast growing eastern section of the city with the west.

Fight Over Materials.
It was a warm fight between the concrete and steel men as to who should get the work, and councilors have decided in the end in the council chamber before the issue of construction had been decided was the most important in the city's history.

Work will be commenced soon after Jan. 1 on excavation for the abutments, and two months later the concrete and steel men will probably be making a start on the structure proper. The contract signed is but for one-third of the undertaking, the city council having yet to award contracts for the Rosedale and Riverdale sections.

SWORD PRESENTED TO LIEUT.-COL. STEWART

Commander of Home Guard Honored at Armories by Pleasing Function.

Over seven hundred members of the Home Guard were on hand last night at the armories, Wellington street, the occasion being the presentation of a sword to Lieut.-Col. W. T. Stewart, Sir William Meredith, who made the presentation, was supported on the platform by W. K. McNaught, Controller McCarthy and Church and W. S. Dinick, all of whom made congratulatory addresses.

A letter was received from Lieut.-Col. Elliott, A.A.G., stating that the regiment had received recognition from the War Office, and Lieut.-Col. Stewart and his staff were to be decorated.

The trench digging around London began two months ago. It was announced at the time that this was mere practice for recruits. This pretence has now been abandoned, especially by the north and northeast, has ample opportunities to observe lines of trenches that would be ready to season sappers in Flanders. These extend in an almost unbroken line from York in the northwest, thru Tottenham and Epping Forest in the northeast and thence southward as far as the Thames.

Together there are now mobilized along the coast from Dover to Leith approximately half a million men. A large part of these are Territorials, but at important points are a number of regiments of seasoned regular troops.

All the east coast harbors, inlets and waterways have been mined. It is recalled that several years ago Norman Hugel of Port Hope, Ont., was awarded a gold medal for an essay outlining a plan for the defence of London in the event of invasion. The competition was open to essayists throughout the empire. Mr. Hugel, who is well-known in Toronto, is a graduate of the Royal Military College and has seen service in India.

The Dineen Company Extend Sincere Christmas Greetings.
For over 50 years the popular company has been retailing in this city and prospered with it during that time. After heavy Christmas fur selling the store is closed today, and the company desire to express sincere thanks for the generous patronage which the people of Toronto, and districts far beyond, have consistently bestowed during these years.

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year is the message sent out now with a full heart to the readers of this publication, and to thousands of friends in all parts.

ALSATIANS JOIN IN CELEBRATING LIBERTY GAINED

French Christmas Enjoyed in Twelve Mile Strip of Territory.
Services in Churches
Soldier Priests Fill Pulpits—Quiet Rejoicing is Generally Evident.

GERMANS WHO CROSSED BZURA AND RAWKA RIVERS WERE ROUTED.

Enemy's Offensive in East Prussia Succeeds—Hard Fighting in West.

Canadian Press Despatch.
THANN, Alsace, Dec. 24 (via Paris), Dec. 25.—The population of that portion of Alsace extending from near Altkirch to near St. Die, a strip of territory of about twelve miles, is enjoying a French Christmas for the first time since 1870. The midnight mass of Christmas Eve in Thann will be celebrated with exceptional pomp. Col. Albert Carr, director of the Comodie Francaise in Paris, has arranged to have a number of eminent musicians and singers come here to provide the music.

In other villages sermons in French will be preached at all the Christmas services by soldier priests. Most of their congregations will be old men and women and children and French soldiers. All the young men have gone to the war. In some cases brother is fighting against brother.

Quiet Rejoicing.
There is, however, a general air of quiet rejoicing at the prospect of an approaching reunion with the mother country. In humble homes little French flags fly openly, children who have been taught the German language from their birth now shout "Vive la France," and many young women who were engaged to marry Germans before the war are said to have broken their troth, declaring now they will only marry Frenchmen.

In spite of the daily fighting, the Alsatiens are having a good time, as quantities of food and delicacies are being sent them from France.

TWO CANADIAN SOLDIERS DEAD

Corp. Johnstone of Toronto Reported Seriously Ill in Salisbury Hospital.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—The following deaths in the Canadian expeditionary force at Salisbury Plain are reported to the militia department today:
Dec. 24, No. 7145. Pte. Hubert French, First Battalion, of cerebro-spinal meningitis; next of kin, Mrs. Eben Wilson, Hildesgrade, Monmouth, N.E.
Dec. 25, No. 41,812, Gunner Gordon Wilson, Second Artillery Brigade, of cerebro-spinal meningitis; next of kin, Mrs. Kate Johnstone, 711 Indian road, Toronto.

POPE WILL CONTINUE STRIVINGS FOR PEACE

Pontiff Still Hopes to Limit "Inhuman Sacrifices of Life" Caused by War.

Canadian Press Despatch.
ROME, Dec. 24, 11:50 p.m.—Pope Benedict today received the members of the Sacred College in solemn audience for the exchange of Christmas greetings, the ceremony taking on the pomp of the times of Pope Leo.

Addressing the cardinals, the pontiff expressed his regret at the absence of some of the prelates owing to illness, referring especially to Cardinals Agliardi and Martinielli. He added that the last news regarding the health of Cardinal Agliardi made it apparent that his recovery would be speedy.

The Pope then enumerated the efforts he had made to render the war less terrible, and said that he would continue to devote all his energies to the suppression or limitation of the inhuman sacrifice of life.

JAPAN NOT ASKED TO SEND ARMY TO EUROPE

Value of Arms Shipped is Five Million Dollars.

Canadian Press Despatch.
TOKYO, Dec. 24.—During the course of an interpellation, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, Takaoka Kato, declared that no country had asked Japan to send an army to Europe.

The war minister, Lieut.-Gen. Oku, said that the Japanese had sent arms to Europe to the value of 10,000,000 yen (\$5,000,000).

MAIN RUSSIAN LINE REPULSED

Enemy's Offensive in East Prussia Succeeds—Hard Fighting in West.

GERMANS WHO CROSSED BZURA AND RAWKA RIVERS WERE ROUTED.

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Canadian Press Despatch.
LONDON, Dec. 24, 10 p.m.—Instead of the Christmas truce which Pope Benedict endeavored to arrange, Christmas Eve finds the armies of the belligerent powers in fierce battles on both the eastern and western fronts, and all Europe celebrating the anniversary in a very subdued manner.

In the west the allies are hammer-tapping at the German entrenchments, trying to find a weak point, while in the east the Russians, who have been driven back from the Austrian and German frontiers, seemingly have been brought to bay behind rivers which offer them natural lines of defence, and turning, have counter-attacked the Austro-German forces which aimed at their undoing.

Routed by Russians.
The Germans in their great rush toward Warsaw, under direction of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, drove the Russians before the Bzura and Rawka rivers, and they themselves succeeded in crossing these rivers; but according to the Russian official report received tonight the Germans there reached the main Russian line and were routed. From this report it is gathered that the Germans directed their main attacks against the Russian front, which lies along the banks of the Bzura, Rawka, and thence southward to the Pilica River, but without success.

Along the rest of the front south to the Carpathian Mountains, the Russians claim similar victories, but on the east Prussian frontier the Germans apparently have turned the scales on their advantage, and after scaling the Carpathians, and in which the river treated into their own territory, resumed the offensive, and again are back in Miawa, whence they originally tried to outflank the Russian forces north of the Vistula and work their way to Warsaw from the north.

By Backdoor Route?
Even now it is possible that the Germans have resumed their outflanking tactics, and while keeping frontal attacks, are hoping to get into Warsaw by the back door. All that is certain at present is that the two armies, whose numbers can only be roughly estimated, are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the world history on a front which extends from East Prussia to the Carpathians, and in which the advantage favors first to one side and then to the other.

Military experts say that one of the advantages the Russians retain is that they hold the right bank of the Vistula as far west as Flock, and thus can prevent the Germans from crossing the river for keeping their army supplied, and that along the whole of the rest of the front they have rivers and streams to fall behind when hard pressed. This, however, will all be changed, the experts say, when the rivers freeze and the armies can be moved over them as easily as over the land.

Change in West.
Mining and sapping, artillery duels, attacks and counter-attacks, and in fact every means of warfare is being employed in Belgium and France by the allies in their effort to force the Germans to give up their present lines of defence. Some advance has been made, but only against stubborn opposition and counter-attacks which succeeded occasionally in regaining the ground that the allies have taken at great cost.

England this morning had her first experience of an aerial attack, when a German aeroplane, coming from the Belgian coast, flew over Dover, and dropped bombs in the garden of Saint James' Rectory, which is in front of Dover Castle. No damage was done. Two British aeroplanes immediately rose in pursuit, but the German escaped in the mist.

COL. MERCER ADMIRES BEHAVIOR OF TROOPS

Ontario Volunteers at Salisbury Endure Severe Trials Cheerfully.

There is a note of cheer to the people of Canada, and particularly to families of the soldiers at Salisbury, expressed by Colonel Mercer of Toronto, the commander of the Ontario troops in the following statement in a personal letter.

"After three months command of Ontario troops, I hope nothing but admiration of their splendid earnestness, and their strength to stand most severe trials without murmur and indeed with cheerfulness."

"The 'Chocolate Soldier'." Cast. Mr. Fred C. Whitley, who is responsible for "The Chocolate Soldier," which comes here next week to the Princess, sends word that the cast which will be seen here in this favorite comic opera again this season is fully up to that which appeared in the original company several seasons since.