THE NEW YEAR WAS QUIETLY USHERED IN

Usual Serenade of Whistles and Bells.—Events Planned for Today.—Watch Night Services.

With the clanging of the fire alarm and the blowing of the steamship whistles, the old year of 1916 faded away and 1917 was ushered in at sharp twelve o'clock. It was rather unusual for such a quiet time about the city on this joyous occasion, but perhaps the reason was found in that it was Sunday night, and the trouble makers were not about the streets as they had been on previous New Year's eves.

The street cars were kept in service long enough to convey citizens to their homes until well after the time that the watch-night services had finished. On the corner of King and Charlotte streets, for several years crowds of men and youths had gathered, sang songs, cheered, marched through the street with music, and, unfortunately, on a few occasions, became so riotous that a number of men were arrested, and the crowd of merry-makers developed into what has been termed a mob. Serious damage was done to property and much trouble was caused. From all appearances these King Square "riots", as they have been termed, are a thing of the past, and it is to be hoped that matters will continue in this way.

When the fire alarm sounded at last midnight, there were not more than fifty young men at the head of King street, and this small number were only waiting to see if something would happen. It was rather cold to stand about and a few youngsters started down King street singing a song; there were no followers and the New Year had not been a half hour old before everything was quiet on the streets. Those who had been waiting on the corners wended their way homewards and if the New Year continues to be as peaceable for the next twelve months, it should certainly be a happy and prosperous New Year.

On account of what has transpired in previous years Chief of Police Simpson was not taking any chances and he had plenty of men ready to cope with any disturbance, but the services of the police were not needed, it was quiet.

Watch-night Services.

Watch-night services were held in some of the Methodist, Anglican and other places of worship in the city with special music and other appropriate features to mark the opening of the new year. Large congregations were present in each case.

In Centenary church the service was of an impressive character. C. A. Munro sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." The pastor, Rev. W. H. Barraclough, took as his subject "How Shall We Spend the New Year?" At the close of the service the entire congration joined hands in the "Circle of Fellowship," whilst singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds." At the two earlier services there was also special music including solos by Captain D. B. Pidgeon. The pastor, both in the morning and evening, made strong appeals on behalf of national service.

In Exmouth street Methodist church the service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. G. Lane. Suitable hymns and other music were features of an hour of devotional exercises.

In St. Luke's, the rector, Rev. R. P. McKim, officiated, the proceedings throughout being of an especially earnest character.

Rev. R. Taylor McKim took charge of the service in St. Mary's. Appropriate hymns were sung and there was special intercession for the soldiers.

In the Church of the Good Shepherd, Fairville, there was a short service ending at a few minutes after midnight. Rev. W. P. Dunham was the officiating minister. There was a good attendance.

Ludlow St. Baptist.

A candlelight watch-night service was held last night at the Ludlow St. Baptist church under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society. Ronald Cowan, president of the society, presided and an address was given by Rev. W. R. Robinson, past or of the church, on "The past, present and future of the work of the young people."

Sunday School Rallies.

The New Year's Sunday school rallies, which are to be held in St. Andrew's church and Centenary church, today, promise to exceed in interest the rallies of former years.

Presbyterian and Congregational Sunday schools of the city will hold a rally day service in St. Andrew's at half-past ten this morning. The year's greetings will be given, a rally held at Centenary at 3 p. m. Magee and [illegible] schools will [illegible]

rinks will all have their quota of patrons, but generally the day will be as New Year's usually is, a period of social observance, the paying and receiving of calls and family gatherings. Quite a number of observances, receptions and treats have been planned for the day included in which are the following:

With The Curlers.

With the recent cold snap the ice in the curling rinks is in excellent condition for matches. There will be only scratch matches in the St. Andrew's rink; but the return matches of the President vs. Vice-president will take place in the Thistle and Carleton rinks.

Oddfellows Will Celebrate.

The annual New Year's celebration of the Oddfellows of the city will be held in Golden Rule lodge room, West Side, at ten o'clock this morning. The meeting will be presided over by District Deputy Saunderson, and all Oddfellows in the city are invited to attend.

Treat at War Veterans' Rooms.

At two o'clock this afternoon the European War Veterans will be at home to the mothers and children of all the returned soldiers and the children of men who have given their lives in the cause of Empire, at their rooms 38 Charlotte street. There will be a big Christmas tree, prize draw, entertainment and refreshments, and they will welcome all who come.

Military Notes.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Hickey of 14 Sydney street received word on Saturday to the effect that their son, Pte. Wm. Louis Hickey, had passed away at No. 2 Western Hospital, Manchester, Eng. The cause of the young soldier's death was the result of gunshot wounds which he received several months ago.

Guy R. Turner, M. C., eldest son of Mrs. Annie K. Turner, of Aroostook Junction, was married last Thursday in Dexhill, England, to Miss Margaret B. Osborne, formerly of St. John. Captain Turner enlisted as a private in the 12th Battalion under Lieut. Col. P. A. Guthrie and by bravery and ability won his commission on the field. He has been wounded twice and has won the military cross and D.C.M.

Nursing Sisters M. F. Sears, N. G. Foss and B. E. Gaskin, of the St James St. Hospital, have received word to make preparations to leave for England. The three nurses are graduates of the General Public Hospital.

Captain H. A. Pearson, representing the Y.M.C.A. overseas, will be in the city during the second week in January. While in the city he will speak on Y.M.C.A. work among the boys at the front.

On the Island.

The 9th Siege Battery did not hold a church parade yesterday in the city as is generally the custom, owing to the fact that quite a number of the men are home for the triple holiday. There are about 100 men on the Island today. Divine service was held on the Island by the Rev. G. F. Scovil, and was attended by officers and men.

On Friday three men who absented themselves from Partridge Island without leave, as well as one from the 165th Battalion, were apprehended at Moncton and have been returned to the city.

There will be no special parade today as was expected on account of the number who are away. Last night several of the boys attended watchnight services which were held in the different churches throughout the city.

Special Prayers.

At both the morning and evening services yesterday in Trinity church, the Rev. L. Ralph Sherman spoke on the heroic sacrifices made by the brave boys at the front during the year of 1916. Prayers of intercession were also offered by the pastor and congregation for those who have made the supreme sacrifice. Both services were largely attended.

The Ambulance Depot.

The Field Ambulance Training Depot did not hold a church parade yesterday, as many of their number are enjoying a few days at home. There is much speculation among the boys as to when they will be leaving for the other side. It was reported that both drafts were to leave the first week of the New Year, but no official word to this effect has reached the officer commanding the unit, Major G. G. Corbett. The unit is now up to full strength, but men are still being enlisted to replace those comprising the drafts.

Greeting to Returned Soldiers.

Charles Robinson, secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission has addressed a New Year's message to all returned soldiers in the province wishing them a Bright and Happy New Year, and a word of appreciation of their services as follows:

St. John, January 1, 1917.

The Military Hospital Commission desire to express to all the returned soldiers in New Brunswick genuine appreciation of the services rendered to the Empire in her hour of need, and to wish them a Bright and Happy New Year.

CHARLES ROBINSON,
Secretary Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission.

"I shall never scold my husband again for spending so much time at the club."

"Tell me about it."

"Last night a burglar got into [illegible] and my husband knocked him with the poker. I've [illegible] never speak of him as a [illegible] He has evidently been [illegible] the club for just such an [illegible]

[illegible] Robinson is still Mayor of [illegible] as a result of the election [illegible] capital.

ENTENTE ALLIES STANDING FIRM

(Continued from page 1)

"They have the further object of stiffening public opinion in Germany and in the countries allied to her—one and all severely tried by their losses, worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants.

"They endeavor to deceive and intimidate public opinion in neutral countries, whose inhabitants have long since made up their minds where the initial responsibilities lie and are far too enlightened to favor the designs of Germany by abandoning the defense of human freedom.

"Finally, these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality.

"Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment, but equally conscious of its requirements, the allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere.

No Peace Possible.

"Once again the Allies declare that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties, the recognition of the principle of nationalities and of the free existence of small states; so long as they have not brought about a settlement calculated to end once and for all forces which have constituted a perpetual menace to the nations and to afford the only effective guarantee for the future security of tthe world.

"In conclusion, the Allied powers thinuk it necessary to put forward the following considerations, which show the special situation of Belgium, after two and a half years of war. In virtue of the international treaties signed by five great European powers, of whom Germany was one, Belgium enjoyed before the war a special status, rendering her territory inviolable and placing her, under the guarantee of the powers, outside all European conflicts. She was, however, in spite of these treaties, the first to suffer the aggression of Germany. For this reason the Belgian government thinks it necessary to define the aims which Belgium has never ceased to pursue while fighting side by side with the Entente Powers for right and justice.

Uphold Belgium.

"Belgium has always scrupulously fulfilled the duties which her neutrality imposed upon her. She has taken up arms to defend her independence and her neutrality violated by Germany, and to show that she remains faithful to her international obligations.

On the fourth of August, 1914, in the Reichstag the German chancellor admitted that this aggression constituted an injustice contrary to the laws of nations, and pledged himself in the name of Germany to repair it. During two and a half years this injustice has been cruelly aggravated by the proceedings of the occupying forces, which have exhausted the resources of the country, ruined its industries, devastated its towns and villages and have been responsible for innumerable massacres, executions and imprisonments.

"At this very moment, while Germany is proclaiming peace and humanity to the world, she is deporting Belgian citizens by thousands and reducing them to slavery.

"Belgium before the war asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Her king and her government have but one aim—the re-establishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to their country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future."

Spain's Reply to Wilson.

Madrid, Dec. 31, via Paris.—The Spanish government has sent a note in reply to President Wilson with reference to peace, as follows:

"The Spanish government has received from the Ambassador of the United States the note sent by the President of the United States to the belligerent nations and another communication in which it is said that the moment is opportune for action by the government of His Majesty in support of the attitude taken by the government of the United States.

"The Spanish government, in answer to the initiative of the President of the United States, knowing the various impressions produced, believes that the action in which Spain is invited to participate will be inefficacious, especially as the Central Empires have expressed their intention that the peace conditions shall be accorded among the belligerents.

"Nevertheless, the Spanish government, having in consideration the noble desires of the American government, which are worthy of all peoples, is disposed to associate itself with every negotiation which has for its object the facilitating of the humanitarian work of ending the present war.

"Spain, however, will suspend all action until the time when her efforts and work in favor of peace can be more useful and efficacious than at the present time. Until then the Spanish government believes that it would be opportune to declare with regard to an entente of the neutral powers, defense of their interests, that it is disposed now, as it was at the beginning of the war, to commence negotiations which might lead to an accord capable of uniting the belligerent powers."

NEWF'DLAND WENT DRY AT MIDNIGHT

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 1.—At midnight Newfoundland went dry. A prohibition act becoming effective, stops the importation, manufacture, or sales of intoxicating liquors of every kind within the colony. After this it will be impossible to obtain any alcoholic compound within the colony, except for medicinal, manufacturing, or sacramental purposes, and in order to prevent evasion of the law a long list of patent medicines has been placed under the ban.

The druggists association of the island having pettitioned the legislature not to put upon it the obligation of carrying stocks of liquors and dispensing the same on the prescription of doctors, the government has provided for St. John's a public controller through whom medicinal prescriptions will be filled and supplies obtained for manufacturing, while provision is made whereby the various churches can have their own agencies for importing wine for sacramental uses. Elsewhere on the island physicians or magistrates will be the local custodians of the supplies required for these purposes.

In St. John's fifty saloons go out of business.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Victoria.

J Mathews, Montreal; F G Rainnie, Sackville; M F Devine, Sussex; W J Cooney, Megantic; Thos Gilliland, Rothesay; W P Downing, Windsor, N S; W P Blair, Kentville; J H Clarke, Charlottetown; B R McNutch, Woodstock; Robt Sands, do; M Densmore, do; E R Carter ,do; G T Stone and wife, Moncton; Miss M Wilson, do; H J Hubert and wife, Dalhousie; H F Morton, Penobsquis; R P Gorham, Fredericton; D H Mansell, do; W R Small and wife, Sussex; B M Berry and wife, Moncton; A M Dann, Hampton; H Syme, do; C S Bennett, do; W R Johnson, do; E Wright, do; L H Richard, Buctouche; E Rene Richard, Dalhousie; E M Turnbull, Petitcodiac; Verne A Miller, Moncton; A W Guthrie, do; G F Burtt, Hartland; W A James, Westfield; A E Corbett, Preston; G Myhre, Brooklyn, N Y; [illegible]erson, do; V Ponde Brown, Montreal; J L Chisholm, Truro; A G Berry, Sussex.

Westfield, Dec. 27—Mrs. A. M. Woodman spent a few days last week in St. John.

Miss Grace Lamont, of Boston, is visiting Mrs. J. A. Hoyt, Ononette.

Miss Ruth Baxter is spending the holiday season with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Baxter.

Mr. E. C. Prime of Trenton, N. S., was the week-end guest of his parents Mr. and Mrs. S[illegible] Prime.

CONDITIONS GOOD IN WEST

D. Burns, Big Packer, Says Business is Twice as Good as at Outset of 1916.

That conditions in the west were twice as good as at the commencement of the 1916 was the statement made to The Standard at the Royal Hotel yesterday by D. Burns of Vancouver, head of the Burns Packing Company, who in addition to being large packers are extensive handlers of live stock.

"The people of New Brunswick are no doubt familiar with the reaction that set in in the west following the outbreak of war. For some time conditions generally were very bad," said Mr. Burns. "But I think I am safe in saying that conditions today are twice as good as they were at the start of the old year.

Mr. Burns is in the city in connection with the exportation of large quantities of beef and packed stuffs which are going to the markets of Europe. He said that business was good in the various branches of the firm at Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Seattle. He said that the had recently made large shipments of live stock to Chicago and that while prices were not as high as they were in Canada, a very good figure had been obtained.

"The west has done well in recruiting," said Mr. Burns. "While the number enlisting at the present time is not as large as it was at the outbreak of the war, I feel that when the large numbers who have gone are taken into consideraiton the number enlisting at the present time is large in proportion to the eligible population who have remained."

A TEN-ROUND FIGHT.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 26—Ernest Beauchamp of Winfield, Iowa, knocked out Dan Ketchel of New York in the fifth round of a scheduled ten-round bout here tonight. The men are lightweight.

WASHINGTON'S OPINION OF ENTENTE REPLY

Washington, Dec. 31—Opinion as to the effect of the unfavorable Entente reply to the peace proposals of the Central Powers varies widely here, but in all quarters interest now centers upon the Allies' answer to President Wilson's note in which peace advocates ardently hope to find an opening for advancement of the negotiations.

Comment from officials of the administration was lacking entirely again today. Secretary of State Lansing formally announced that the Entente note had not been cabled for delivery to Germany and her allies and that the state department had received the official text of the Spanish note refusing to join in a peace movement at this time. The secretary refused flatly to be questioned about the announcement or any other phase of the situation.

It is understood that the Entente note will go forward just as soon as the task of checking for errors in cable transmission has been completed. Neither President Wilson nor Secretary Lansing has seen the official text, though they have read the press translation.

HEAVY BATTLE RAGING ALONG ROUMANIAN FRONT

(Continued from page 1)

Heavy Fighting.

Berlin, Dec. 31, via Sayville—The German official statement issued today reads:

"Western front: The artillery fighting was violent at times south of La Bassee Canal, on both sides of the Somme, and northwest of Rheims.

"On the south bank of the Ancre our long range guns set fire to several ammunition depots.

"Roumanian front: Front of Archduke Joseph: In the frontier mountains towards Moldavia the fighting continues to be favorable for us. North of the Uzul Valley German troops captured Solymtar Height from the Russians and maintained it against strong counter-thrusts. One officer and eighty men were made prisoner. On both sides of the Oituz Valley German and Austro-Hungarian regiments took Roumanian and Russian positions. They made gains in the Putna Valley in the course of hard fighting. Near Nereyu, in the Zabala Valley our troops advanced.

"Front of Field Marshal Von Mackensen: The troops of Lieut..General Von Morgen and Lieut.-General Kuehne encountered strong resistance north and northeast of Rimnik Sarat, especially on the edge of the mountain. By a strenuous attack they succeeded in entering the hostile position and repulsing strong counter-attacks. Between Rimnik Sarat and the Buzaul lowlands our troops gained ground after violent fighting.

"The Danube army is fighting its way towards the strongly fortified line between Gurgueti, west of Braila and Ciucia, southwest of Braila.

"In Dobrudja Bulgarian troops have gained further victories and are progressing towards Matchin.

"Macedonian front: On the Struma successful enterprises were carried out by Bulgarian and Turkish patrols.

"On the Russo-Galician front, the statement says, the activity of the artillery increased south of Jacobstadt."

French Statement.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The bulletin issued by the war office tonight on the progress of the campaign reads:

"No event of importance occurred during the day.

"In the course of the year 1916 the French troops in breaking the assault of the enemy against the Verdun fortress, forcing the enemy to withdraw on both banks of the Somme, have taken 78,500 German prisoners.

"South of the Somme we carried out an attack on a small German post south of Chilly. We took prisoners. Elsewhere the night was calm."

Belgian communication:

"There was intermittent artillery activity on both sides today in the sector of Dixmude and in the direction of Steenstraete."

Artillery Action.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads:

"The day, relatively calm, was marked by intermittent artillery actions on both sides of the Avre and on the left bank of the Meuse. The German artillery was very active today in the neighborhood of Dixmude and Steenstraete, the Belgian batteries replying.

"Eastern front: From December 24 to 29 there was no event of importance. The artillery struggle continued particularly spirited in the Monastir sector. Italian troops repulsed a Bulgarian reconnaissance near Lake Presba. In the region of Lake Ochrida, Mosschishta, which had been occupied by Austrian elements, was re-taken by the Allies. The British army carried out several successful raids on the Struma base and bombarded Domir-Hissar by means of airplanes."

GREETINGS TO BOY SCOUTS

Ottawa, Dec. 31—His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire sends New Year greetings to Boy Scouts of Canada, as follows:

"As your chief scout for Canada I desire to extend my warmest, best wishes to the officers and members of the Boy Scouts' Association throughout Canada for the continued success and extension of this splendid movement and for a happy New Year.

"The Boy Scouts of Canada have already proved their worth alike in peace and in war, and I am looking forward to meeting you personally and seeing as much as I can of your work.

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE."

MEXICAN RAILWAY CO. NOT OUT OF DANGER

London, Dec. 29—Vincent York, presiding at the half-yearly meeting of the Mexican Railway Company, said he had received the railway back on Sept. 16 after its having been in the possession of the Mexican government for nearly two years. Since the property was returned there have been numerous and serious difficulties to contend with and there was no reason to think that they had come to an end.

Regarding revenue earned he could not speak definitely as the past and prospective value of enormous blocks of paper currency received was uncertain. He had no knowledge whether the management would be able to convert the paper into gold exchange. The silver earnings, however, since December 1 were distinctly encouraging. There was no option with the directors but to appeal to holders of debenture stock and debentures for a further moratorium.

REDUCTION IN BANK OF ENGLAND RATE LIKELY

Special to The Standard.

London, Dec. 29—The money market is getting easier and funds were more plentiful today. A reduction in the bank rate is expected early in the new year. Discount rates were quiet. The stock market had a good tone and was moderately active with business chiefly in colonial stocks, Argentine rails and a few Kaffirs. American metal stocks were weak and railroad shares declined in sympathy with Wall street. Consols were 55.

DEMAND OF ALLIES TO GREECE

Paris, Dec. 31—A Havas despatch from Piraeus dated December 31 says: "The ministers of France, Great Britain and Russia yesterday signed a note for presentation to the Greek government, demanding the following guarantees and reparations:

"Guarantees—First, all Greek forces outside of Pelopennesus to be recalled to a number strictly necessary for the preservaiton of order and duty; all corresponding arms and munition to be transported to Pelopennesus, including all cannon and machine guns; this situation to last as long as the Allies judge necessary.

"Second—Prohibition of all landings of reservists in Greece north of the Isthmus of Corinth, and no Greek to carry arms.

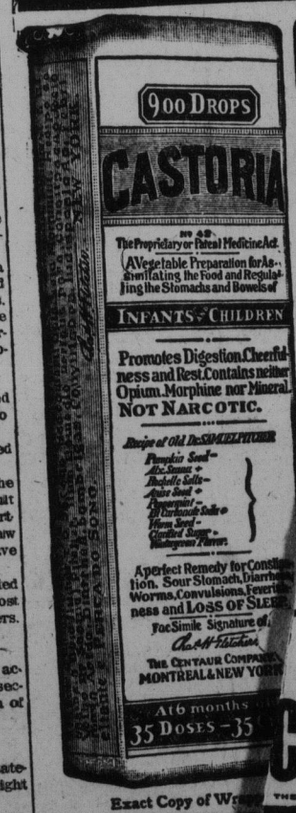
"Third—Re-establishment of the Allies' control.

Reparations—First, all persons detained for high treason or for political reasons to be released forthwith. Second: Dismissal of the commandant of the first army corps, unless the government shows that the measure should be applied to another general. Third: The Greek government to make apologies to the Allies, to come public ministers and flags at the state-spot in Athens.

"The note concludes with the liberty of action in case the attitude of the Greek government is unsatisfactory.

"The note undertakes on the part of the Allies not to permit the armed forces of the national government to profit by the withdrawal of the royal troops by passing the neutral zone established in agreement with the Greek government, states that the blockade of the Greek coasts will be maintained until full satisfaction with regard to the above points is accorded."

Shediac, Dec. 29—The schools closed on Friday afternoon for the Christmas tide. The closing programme took place in the Assembly Hall of the Central School, Sackville, St. A large number were present to hear the pupils put on an excellent literary and musical performance. The pupils were heard to good advantage in the different numbers. Pretty very special entertainment worthy of drill, motion song, tion were the "Pandora's Box" and a play entitled "Pandora's Box." H. B. Steeves, chairman, Miss Alice School acted as pianist at the piano. The Bourque presided. The occasion was decorations for Christmas like, in de very effective sign.



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Date, Jan. ..... 1917.

Enclosed here[illegible] Dollars for which please send The St. John Standard [illegible] following address from now until Decem[illegible] 31st, 1917:

Name .....

P. O. Box ..... City or Town .....

County .....

Sender's Sign[illegible] .....

Address .....

This ra[illegible] for papers delivered by mail outside the Ci[illegible] of St. John [illegible] be renewed at the regular rate of not less th[illegible] $2.00 per [illegible]

K