

A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO A HALF MILLION MEN FOR CANADA'S NEW YEAR TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

Premier Borden, in Message from Sick Bed, Announces That Authorized Forces from Dominion Will Be 500,000 in Token of Dominion's Unflinching Resolve to Crown the Justice of our Cause With Victory and an Abiding Peace.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 31.—Canada's overseas force is to be increased to half a million men. Sir Robert Borden made this official announcement today. The authorized force at present is 250,000 and will shortly be recruited. There is no dearth of men willing to fight in the Canadian army for the good cause of the Allies, and half a million men will be recruited without much difficulty. This New Year message came from the sick bed of the premier. He is ill with a severe attack of lumbago and grippe. The net figures of recruiting for overseas service to Dec. 15, are 177, and since Dec. 15 about 15,000 have enlisted, making a total of 192,000. 118,922 have been sent to Europe and 1,200 to Bermuda and St. John's, so that the total force sent overseas is 120,122. About 1,817 have been brought back from Europe. In the firing line in France and Belgium today there are upwards of 50,000 Canadians. In the transport these troops in Canada one soldier was accidentally killed, not one yet been lost by water transport. There are now practically no divisions at the front with more than three in England for reinforcements. The following official statement was handed to the press:

MR. BORDEN'S MESSAGE

"More than a twelvemonth ago our empire consecrated all its powers and its supreme endeavor to a great purpose, which concerns the destinies of the world and the destinies of all its nations. In the dawn of another year our hearts are more resolute than ever to accomplish that purpose, however formidable it may prove. By the greatness of the need, whatever efforts must be measured. Nowhere is the Canadian spirit more firm and unwavering than among the men who hold the trenches and those who will shortly stand by their side; nowhere is it more undaunted than in the hospitals and convalescent homes.

"Already we have learned the full meaning of sacrifice. To all Canadian homes that have been saddened, to all Canadian hearts that have been stricken by the tragedy of this war, we pray that Divine blessing may bring consolation and healing.

"Much had to be learned during the past fifteen months, because we had not prepared for this war. The strongest assurance of ultimate victory lies in the fact that we were not crushed in learning that hard lessons. Those who forced this war upon us may be assured, by the traditions of our past, that the lesson will be thoroughly learned to the end that there shall be enduring peace. The very character and greatness of the ideals for which we are fighting for bid us not to pause until their triumph is fully assured.

"The Canadian forces at the front have indeed fought a good fight; and they have won the name of Canada with undying laurels. To them and to all the overseas forces now under arms, and awaiting the opportunity to do their part, we send the sure faith that they will never fall in their duty.

"On this, the last day of the year, the authorized forces of Canada number 250,000, and the number enlisted is rapidly approaching that limit.

"From tomorrow, the first day of the New Year, our authorized force will be 500,000.

"This announcement is made in token of Canada's unflinching resolve to crown the justice of our cause with victory and an abiding peace."

MR. OF K. MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH CABINET CHANGES

All Members of Government Present at Session Yesterday to Discuss Conscriptive Question—No Resignations Yet.

HUNGARIAN GOVT PROMOTES CREDIT OF 500 MILLION FRANCS

Will Be Used for Military Purposes—Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs Declares Nation Unwilling.

London, Dec. 31.—All the members of the cabinet attended the meeting today to consider the draft of the bill for compulsory military service, and accordingly there have been no resignations up to the present.

Foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and the war secretary, Earl Balfour, are also mentioned in connection with possible changes in the cabinet, but if several members withdraw it is not clear the government

BERLIN SAYS FRENCH "SUB" HAS BEEN SUNK

Claims the Monge Sent to Bottom by Austrian Fleet in Fight off Durazzo.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—By wireless to Italy.—An official Austrian report, received here today from Vienna, says that the French submarine Monge was sunk on Wednesday by the Austrian flotilla.

The action occurred in the Adriatic, off Durazzo, Albania. The statement follows:

"An Austro-Hungarian flotilla consisting of the cruiser Helgoland and five destroyers, on the morning of December 29 destroyed the French submarine Monge. The second officer and fifteen sailors were captured. The Monge was built in 1909. She was 167 feet long and 323 tons displacement above water. Her complement was 24 men.

London, Dec. 31.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Saloniki says:

"A Taube aeroplane which flew over Saloniki at midday was driven off by gunfire. The air raids of this week constitute the first overt acts of the enemy since December 12 when the Entente Allies recrossed the frontier. Bombs were dropped this morning on the British lines and encampments, but they did no damage.

"The Greek camp just outside the town apparently was mistaken for Entente Allied quarters. A bomb was dropped there and exploded near the divisional general's headquarters, killing one shepherd and four sheep.

"The scenes during the air raids have been reminiscent of the Zeppelin visits to London, except that they have occurred in the daytime. The movements of the raiders were closely followed by the populace. As the shells seemed to be getting nearer them, the aviators swerved their machines or dodged or altered their directions. Throughout the air-craft remained at high altitudes, some of them at 9,000 feet. The crowds gathered in the streets cheered when shells burst close to the machines. It is reported that two of the aircraft were hit during the first raid."

The Case Settled

Seven sailors of a Donaldson line steamer who had been charged with broaching a cargo recently, and stealing a quantity of whisky, were taken from the county jail last night by Detective Barrett and Briggs and placed on board the ship. The charge against the sailors was for the damage to the amount of forty dollars and the captain promising to take them on board the ship again.

Foreign Affairs Declares Nation Unwilling

London, Dec. 31.—The foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, today declared that the Bulgarian nation is unwilling to be used for military purposes.

London, Dec. 31.—The Athens correspondent of the Giornale D'Italia confirms the withdrawal of the Austro-German troops from the Macedonian frontier.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—(By wireless to Sayville)—Advises received from

ENGLAND AND FRANCE BOUND TOGETHER BY TIES WHICH HEROISM OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS HAVE MADE INDISSOLUBLE

London, Dec. 31.—The following telegram to President Poincaré of France, dated January 1, 1916:

"At the commencement of a new year I desire, M. Le Président, to convey my warmest wishes for the well-being and strength necessary to enable you to carry out your duties. Our two countries are united in common with the Allies in the prosecution of a great cause, and it is a source of gratification to me that the two peoples are bound together by the ties of the heroism and sacrifice of our gallant soldiers and sailors.

PILES OF BODIES HEARD IN FRONT OF TRENCHES AFTER ATTACK ON BRITISH NEAR KUT-EL-AMARA

London, Dec. 31.—The following official communication was issued this evening:

ALLIES STILL LANDING TROOPS AT SALONIKI

Offensive Against Allies Would Cost Enemy at Least 150,000 Men—Greece Again Protests Against Fortifying Territory Around Saloniki.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The situation at Saloniki as General Edmond Castellani, chief of the general staff of the French army, is said to view it after visiting the Entente forces at that place, is given by the Rome correspondent of the Journal, as follows:

"A person who discussed the situation at Saloniki, with General Castellani informs me that the general said: 'We are at Saloniki and have no intention of leaving. We are waiting for them to attack us, for that they have made up their minds to great sacrifices. I am more than satisfied. I am enthusiastic at the defenses prepared.'

"A member of the general's staff declared: 'An offensive at Saloniki would cost the invaders 150,000 men. Anglo-French troops continue to land.'"

Paris, Dec. 31.—The Journal's correspondent at Avtona, Albania, reports under date of Thursday:

"The Italians now have a fairly strong contingent here and have sent a regiment to Durazzo. All these troops seem intended for garrison duty, and there is no sign that they are preparing to march toward Macedonia, although an effective blow could be struck at the badly equipped Bulgarian army, which could be taken on the flank.

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SIR THOS. SHAUGHNESSY RAISED TO THE PEERAGE

C. P. R. President Created Baron, in New Year's List of Honors—Six Others Likewise Honored by His Majesty the King—Wm. Waldorf Astor One of Number.

London, Dec. 31.—Among the honors conferred by King George at the New Year list are the following:

Baron William Waldorf Astor, Lord Charles Bessborough, Sir Alexander Henderson, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, David A. Thomas, and Captain Cecil William Kennedy.

Among those who received baronies are Vice Admiral Sir Frederick C. B. Sturdee, Sir William Goschen, Sir Charles Johnston, and Alfred A. Cook.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, and the Duke of Devonshire are made Knights of the Garter.

Lord Murray is elevated to the rank of Viscount.

Aster Elevation The Big Surprise.

The honors announced tonight mark the conferring of a peerage on William Waldorf Astor, the wealthy American citizen, who years ago became an expatriate. Another surprise, which is certain to be as popular as it is harmonious with the spirit of the day, is the appointment of William, or Will, as he is better known, Crooks, the Labor leader, to the privy council.

CANADA'S GREETING TO MEN IN TRENCHES WHO ARE FIGHTING HER FIGHT

Ottawa, Dec. 31.—Sir Robert Borden sent the following cable to Sir George Parley, acting high commissioner for the Dominion of Canada in London:

"Please convey the following message to the officers commanding the Canadian Army Corps in France, to the officers commanding the Canadians in England, and to the officers commanding Overseas Canadian Units, if any, not comprised in above:

"On behalf of the Canadian people it is my duty and my privilege to convey to you the season's greetings and their warmest wishes for success and victory in all your enterprises during the coming year.

"All Canada has been inspired by the splendid gallantry and the dauntless spirit of the Canadian forces at the front, and we realize the intense eagerness of those still in England to undertake their part. You are fighting, not only for liberty and civilization, but for the future peace of the world. No nation ever sprang to arms for a greater or nobler cause. In the dawning of the New Year Canada bids you God-speed in firmest confidence that our cause is just, that you will uphold it worthily, and that it will assuredly prevail.

Battle on Southern Front still raging—German attempts to break through at Novo Alexiniee and take Tarnopol.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 31.—The battle on the southern front is still the subject of much conjecture. There is little official detail concerning it, and nothing but conflicting rumors from other sources.

"The general staff," says the Reich "draws attention for a third time to the fact that the battle is still continuing from Priepet southward and in Galicia, but at the same time it gives no details. The last German official reports said the Germans had taken the initiative in the offensive at Zaleszycki and the troops were advancing in close formation. Apart from this the news has cropped in of a German attempt to break through the Russian line at Novo Alexiniee and also to take Tarnopol.

"Not waiting for official confirmation of the above we point out the probability of the German concentration in the Galician Volynsk theatre, both at Tarnopol and at Novo Alexiniee, as being of great strategic importance. The Russians' possession of Tarnopol gives them complete control of the chief railways of eastern Galicia, while Novo Alexiniee is the centre of the principal wagon roads.

"The offensive in September in this region was more intense than at the present. At that time the Germans were driven back with great losses."

The Novos Vremya says:

"The battle in question is being fought according to a broad general plan. The fighting is equally severe along the whole line. If there is any concentration it is at Tarnopol and Novo Alexiniee."

"BORDEN."

Athens by the Overseas News Agency state that the Greek government has made a second protest against the fortifications by the Allies of the territory surrounding Saloniki.

Bulletin—London, Dec. 31—Greece has protested against the arrest of the consuls of the Central Powers and their allies at Saloniki, which it terms a violation of Greece's sovereign rights, says Reuter's Athens correspondent.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—(By wireless to Sayville)—Advises received from

Some attribute this," says the cor-