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GRAND OPERA HOUSE
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
TUESDAY, FEB. 15
Hamilton
Elgar Choir
under auspices of the Red Cross
150 Voices
Prices $1.00, 75c., 50c., Gallery 25c.
Plan opens at Boles' Drug Store, Thursday.
Special cars to Paris after performance.
Soloists with Elgar Choir
Miss Edith Whittaker, soprano
Mrs. Geo. Allan, contralto.
Mr. Vernon Carry, tenor.
Mr. Roy McIntosh, bass.

Mr. John C. Sheehan, who succeeded Richard Croker as leader of Tammany Hall, is dead.

Thomas Egleston, of Atlanta, Ga., president of the South-eastern Tariff Association, is dead.

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR. BRANTFORD, CANADA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1916 PROBS: Wednesday, milder; snow flurries. ONE CENT

YOUNG MAN, IF YOU ARE FIT, IT IS NOT ONLY YOUR DUTY BUT YOUR PRIVILEGE TO JOIN THE RANKS OF 125TH BRANT BATTALION THIS WEEK---DON'T HESITATE!

REPORT OF A MURDEROUS PLOT IN THE UNITED STATES--THIS IS THE DAY OF SIR THOS. WHITE'S BUDGET SPEECH

U. S. POLICE BELIEVED TO HAVE UNEARTHED A MURDEROUS PLOT

To Destroy Buildings and Kill Prominent Men in a Dozen Cities of the United States—The Details.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—Search was started to-day for the principals in what is believed by the police to have been a plot to destroy buildings and kill members of the clergy, bankers and others, in a dozen cities in various sections of the United States. Discovery of the alleged plot according to the police resulted from examination of the personal effects of John Allegrini, confidant of Jean Crones, who is charged by the authorities with putting poison in soup at the banquet given Archbishop Mundelein, at the University Club Thursday night and causing the illness of one hundred of the guests.

Chief of Police Healy, Chief of Detectives Nicholas Hunt and Deputy Chief of Police Herman Schuettler announced to-day after studying numerous documents written in Italian, found in Allegrini's rooms that they regarded as established the existence of an anti-clerical organization, headed by a committee of fifteen of which Crones and Allegrini are believed to have been members.

Names of the committee of fifteen are said to be in the hands of the police and it was predicted that the arrest of some of the committee members would be made before night.

Police working on the cases pointed out to-day that the illness of fifty guests who attended the Knights of Columbus banquet on October 2 last might have been due to the activities of the alleged conspirators. At first it was believed that the illness of the banqueters was caused from ptomain poisoning, but discovery of the plot to poison guests at the Mundelein dinner has given strength to the belief that the illness of the other banqueters, may have been due to a similar plot.

In connection with the alleged plans of the conspirators to destroy public buildings and church property, police records show that two score or more Chicago churches have suffered fire losses within the last few years. At the Moody Church it was said no less than six fires, said to have been of incendiary origin, have been discovered and extinguished with small losses during the last year.

One of the interesting developments in the case yesterday was the finding of a letter in Allegrini's pocket in which reference was made to a fund collected for the widow of Gaetno Bresci, who assassinated King Humbert of Italy. Subsequent developments have led the police to believe that Crones and Allegrini may have had knowledge of the plot to assassinate the Italian monarch.

War Interest Centres Now in Struggle in the West

From Belfort, Shelled by Long Range Guns, to Champagne and Artois, Are Reported Fierce Engagements.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

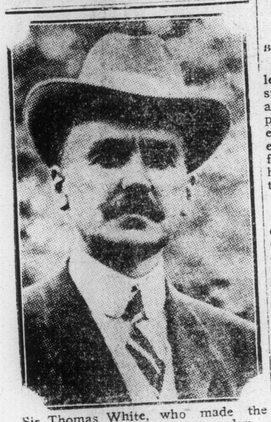
London, Feb. 15— Interest in active operations in the European war continues to center in the fighting along the western front, where the Germans have recently been driving heavily at the French lines in several sectors, notably in the Artois and the Champagne, with successes at various points in these regions.

It is announced semi-officially in Paris that despite the seeming great activity, the German attacks in question are in reality only local actions without gains of significance. It is declared that the French could easily undertake similar actions, but are refraining from doing so because the results are not worth the price that has to be paid.

German news sources report great damage to the French fortress of Belfort in the recent shelling by long-range German guns.

Following their visit of yesterday to Milan, Austrian air craft have raided on Monza, ten miles to the north-east, one person being killed and five injured by bombs. Airmen who appeared over Brescia were driven off by anti-air craft guns.

Heavy fighting in German East Africa between German forces and Belgian troops who are invading the colony is reported. Both sides have suffered losses.



Sir Thomas White, who made the Budget Speech at Ottawa to-day.

THREE LIVES ARE LOST IN A STORM

And Eight People Die in New York, Victims of Cold Wave.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ketcnikan, Alaska, Feb. 15—At least three lives were lost in a severe storm which swept southeastern Alaska for 48 hours, and fears were expressed to-day for the safety of others. It is believed the fishing schooner Dillah May which left here Friday for Prince Rupert, B.C., and since has not been heard from, was lost in the storm and that her crew perished.

VICTIMS OF COLD WAVE.

New York, Feb. 15—Eight persons died here yesterday as a result of the cold wave which sent the mercury down to two degrees above zero. The rapid drop in temperature, which followed a two-day snow storm caused much suffering and greatly impeded traffic of all kinds. The weather bureau predicted early this morning that the temperature would relax its freezing hold on the city to-day.

The Brant Battalion needs approximately 300 men to complete its strength. This number will be recruited this week. Get a move on, before it's too late.

CANADA'S MINISTER OF FINANCE LAYS BEFORE PARLIAMENT FIGURES AS TO MONEY WANTED

Ordinary Expenditures Were Cut Down and Revenue Leaped High, Giving a Surplus of 45 Millions of Dollars, But War Expenditures Puts the Country Heavily in Debt.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—An additional war appropriation of $250,000,000 and further ways and means of raising money for the needs of the Dominion's forces, were announced in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Thomas White, Federal Finance Minister.

REVENUE MORE THAN ESTIMATED.

Sir Thomas White opened his speech with a review of the past year and remarked that in his budget of last February he predicted that the revenue for the current fiscal year would reach a total of $150,000,000. That had been realized to a degree beyond his most sanguine hopes. On March 31st, he anticipated a grand total revenue of $170,000,000 or twenty millions in excess of the estimate. Up to February 10, revenue from all sources amounted to $145,000,000, an increase of thirty-one millions over the same period of the preceding year. Of this revenue, $82,000,000 was due to customs, $19,000,000 to excise, $14,000,000 to post office department receipts and $3,000,000 to special war taxes other than postal. The increase in customs duties, due to the higher tariff, the minister put at nineteen millions.

NO NEW EXPENDITURES

Turning to the ordinary expenditures, for the current year, Sir Thomas said that the decision not to initiate new expenditures on public works had been adhered to with the result that there had been a decrease of seven millions in capital expenditure. On ordinary account chargeable to revenue, the expenditure had totalled $93,000,000, a decrease of over thirteen millions as compared with the same period last year. Taking into account increased revenue and decreased capital and ordinary expenditure, there had been since April an all round betterment in the financial position as compared with last year of $51,799,000. By March 31, the betterment would probably amount to fifty-seven millions.

250 MILLIONS MORE NEEDED.

Sir Thomas next dealt with the war expenditure noting at the outset that $150,000,000 had been voted for that purpose so far. The Prime Minister at the present session, he said, would introduce a further measure providing for an additional amount of at least $250,000,00. From the outbreak of the war to the end of January, the war expenditure has been $158,000,000.

MUST FILL THE GAP.

"The general position of our finances," continued the minister, "has been that while our revenues have been increasing and our ordinary and capital expenses declining, our war expenditures have been mounting rapidly to enormous figures. Our problem is to fill the gap between the revenue and the outlay."

EXCHANGE BETTERED

After explaining the loan issues for the past fiscal year, including the domestic loan of $100,000,000, the finance minister said that as a result of the successful flotation of the latter it had been possible to place sums of $50,000,000 to the credit of the imperial government for the payment of munitions acounts. This overcame to a large extent a serious disadvantage arising out of adverse sterling exchange conditions.

Sir Thomas then stated that since the beginning of the serious decline in sterling exchange from June last onwards, the government had been able to finance all war expenses in Canada without assistance from the Imperial treasury, thereby effecting a great saving.

Summarizing the financial situation he said:

45 MILLIONS SURPLUS.

"With a revenue of $170,000,000, and an ordinary expenditure of $125,000,000, the Dominion will have a surplus of revenue over ordinary ex-

(Continued on Page 2)

THIRTY MEN JOINED UP YESTERDAY WITH THE 125TH BRANT BATTALION; THE GREAT CAMPAIGN CONTINUES; 200 STILL NEEDED

Everywhere Yesterday Soldiers Acted as Recruiters and the Civilians Were Asked Pointedly Why, and When—Soldiers at the Rink After Skaters.

The first day of the campaign undertaken by the 125th Battalion to complete the strength of the unit this week was marked by most satisfactory returns. Over the past week end 23 new men enlisted for overseas service. Yesterday no less than thirty more decided to take their place in the ranks and do their bit, as men for King and Country. In addition to these, 16 others reported for duty yesterday, they having been previously attested. In consequence at the close of the second day of the campaign, no less than 69 names had been added to the muster roll of the battalion, bringing the present strength to 929 officers and men.

WORKED THE STREETS

Throughout yesterday the syllabus of training for the men of the battalion was practically disregarded, time being devoted to personal canvas of eligible young men in the business districts of the city. Several of the platoons were dismissed yesterday afternoon at two o'clock, and detailed to endeavor to secure recruits in the central sections of the city The work of the soldiers was pre-eminently satisfactory, several volunteers being secured within comparatively few minutes. Last evening Major McLean invited the men of the battalion to informally parade the streets of the city, and approach as many eligibles as possible, endeavoring to convince them of the undoubted duty at this time. Colborne and Market streets, and the entrances to the local theatres were fairly besieged during the early hours of the evening, the soldiers attempting in a friendly way to bring their pals and acquaintances with them into the ranks

AT THE RINK.

At the Alfred street rink, khaki was again conspicuous. In addition to the band of the 125th Battalion, which furnished lively airs for the skaters, a party of soldiers were especially detailed for recruiting purposes and under the direction of Lieuts. Morson Smith and Clifford Slemin, sought to convince skaters in "civies" that their place was waiting for them with the 125th.

APPEAL AT FACTORIES.

The parade of the battalion was called this morning at 10 o'clock, on account of the fact that the men were busily engaged last evening in recruiting. At 11 o'clock this morning, the parade was dismissed and the soldiers allowed to return to their homes or billets for dinner, in order to be present at the factories of the city at 12.30, where recruiting literature was distributed, and a further appeal made to men of serviceable age. Small sections of khaki-clad men were allotted to carry out this work at the factories in which they had previously been employed.

In company with the brass and bugle bands, the battalion paraded in mass at 1.30 p.m. to-day, and will parade again this evening at 7.15 p. m. On each occasion the route will be confined to the city streets.

NEARLY 100 SINCE SUNDAY.

On the south side of the city hall, a barometer with a growing soldier doing service as mercury, has been constructed. The indicator started on Sunday at the 850 point. To-day it has jumped to 900 as a result of the recruiting over the week end, and to-night, it will be again raised to 930.

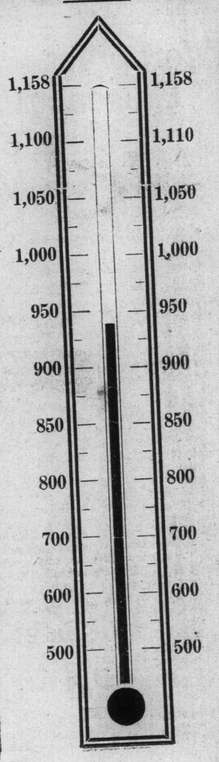
The following are the names of those who were added to the 125th muster roll yesterday, several more names being added to-day, the latter not being available in time for publication to-day:

THE RECORDS.

ARTHUR T. ELSDON, English, 25, drill hand, married, Farringdon P.O.

(Continued on Page 4)

WATCH THE MERCURY CLIMB FOR THE BRANT BATTALION!



INCREASED EARNINGS OF FIRMS MAKING MUNITIONS OF WAR

Likely to be Taxed Under New Budget of Finance Minister White---Increased General Tax Not Probable.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 15—The annual budget statement, outlining new taxation and war appropriation schemes of the government for the coming year will be made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Thos. White, finance minister. While the series of taxation innovations introduced last year by Sir Thomas and the general revenue have exceeded anticipations, and while Canada now has a large trade balance in her favor the constantly increasing number of soldiers being recruited—the establishment aimed at is 500,000—will necessitate the raising of more money by new taxation, while another war appropriation is expected. Already $150,000,000 has been borrowed, and it is expected that with the larger army now being supported, sanction will be asked for a much larger sum than this, something between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000.

The incident of the new taxation has been carefully guarded, but it is rumored that the increased earnings of certain concerns handling war munitions will receive attention. It is not likely that an income tax will be imposed after Sir Thomas' careful explanation last year of the difficulties attached to its computation, while the farmers will not be affected by either.

King's Speech Devoted Entirely to the War

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Feb. 15.—Notwithstanding the changed conditions on account of the war, the customary ceremonies, dating from former centuries were carried out before the proceedings were started. Yeomen of the Guard in Elizabethan uniforms searched the vaults of the Houses of Parliament.

The usual competition among the members to be the first to reach their seats in the House of Commons, was deprived of its spirit by the closing of the doors until 8 o'clock, but a handful of members had made their appearance at that hour and when the Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, about 200 Commoners were present to respond to the call from the upper house to come and hear the reading of the King's speech.

King George's speech from the throne follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen:

"It has been my duty to summon you after a short recess to renew your deliberations. The spirit of my allies and my people, who are united in this conflict by ever strengthening ties of sympathy and understanding, remains steadfast in the resolve to secure reparation for the victims of unprovoked and unjustifiable outrage and effectual safeguards for all nations against the aggression of a power which mistakes force for right and expediency for honor.

"With a proud and grateful confidence I look to the courage, tenacity and resource of my navy and army, on whom we depend worthily to perform our part in the attainment of this goal.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, you will be asked to make due financial provision for the conduct of the war. My lords and gentlemen, the only measures which will be submitted to you are such as, in the opinion of my advisers, tend to the attainment of our common object. I confidently commend them to your patriotism and loyalty, and I pray that the Almighty will give his blessing to your counsels."

OTTAWA FIRE INVESTIGATION ON ONCE MORE

Officials of Providence Journal Will be Examined Shortly.

NEWSPAPERMEN EXPLAIN

Several Witnesses Tell Story of How the Blaze Started.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—Evidence of the members of the staff of The Providence Journal, which paper represented that it had received a warning of the likelihood of incendiary fires being started in Canada by German sympathizers, will be taken by the federal commission consisting of R. A. Pringle, K.C., and Judge McTavish, now investigating the conflagration which partially destroyed the parliament buildings here on February 3rd, with a loss of seven lives. This announcement was made this morning by Mr. Pringle when the commission resumed its inquiry. He said that if it was not possible for The Journal authorities to come to Ottawa, the commission would visit them in Providence and take their

(Continued on Page 4)

ASQUITH'S SPEECH TO THE COMMONS

London, Feb. 15.—Premier Asquith delivered an address in the House of Commons to-day on the progress of the war. He said that in the last few weeks there had been a recrudescence of activity on both sides in France, and that the allies had held their own well.

The Premier stated that the situation of the British forces in Mesopotamia, which have been a source of concern to the English public, had materially improved, and that General Townshend, whose army is surrounded by the Turks was holding his own.

The Premier thought there was very good ground for hoping the forces of Gen. Townshend and General Aylmer, commander of the relief expedition might unite and that anything in the nature of a serious British check might be averted.

Premier Asquith announced that the government was now taking stock of all its munitions, men, finance and industrial reserves so as to be in a position to put forth its maximum strength.

The forecast made several weeks ago of a daily expenditure for the war of £5,000,000 had proved, the premier said, to be very nearly accurate and there was no prospects that the amount would be reduced.

Obligations incurred by the war, he added, would impose a serious strain on the country for a generation to come. This burden, he believed, could be met only by large additions to taxation and by maintenance of England's credit by keeping up the volume of exports, holding down unnecessary imports and reducing expenditures.