

Stefansson Describes

Work That He Will Do

In the Arctic Regions

VILHJALMAR STEFANSSON, the Arctic explorer, has written Rear-Admiral Peary a detailed outline of his plans for 1916-17 in order that Peary may give the Canadian Government the benefit of his advice if it should be deemed necessary to send a rescue expedition. The letter is dated "Cape Kollerit, Banks Island, January 11, 1916."

Stefansson first reviews the rescue plans for 1914-15, and defends the Canadian Naval Service, saying: "The chief reason for writing the present communication is that the attitude of the Naval Service towards the rescue proposals of 1914-15 seems to have been interpreted by some of my friends as showing a want of care on the part of the Naval Service for our welfare and a callousness of what was considered our dire distress. I should like to have this impression removed if possible. I consider myself as having ample evidence of the opposite, for they have looked after our interests with a constant, considerate thoughtfulness, much being what could be expected as a mere matter of official routine. The attitude of Mr. Hazen and the Government generally has been most satisfactory to me, and even mem-



VILHJALMAR STEFANSSON.

bers of the Opposition, such as Mr. Oliver, have concerned themselves actively about our welfare. Mr. Desbarats, under whose direct personal supervision the expedition is managed, I believe to be a friend of mine personally, and I am sure of his friendliness towards the expedition as an organization. He is, too, a man in whose judgment I have a good deal of confidence, and to whom I would willingly trust the planning of any rescue expedition should one become necessary.

Stefansson's letter then continues: "Our plans then are to finish the geographic program of the Karluk if we can. Essentially stated as a problem to be solved, we want to try to settle the question of whether there is a considerable land mass between Alaska and the Pole east of 150 degrees west longitude. From the point of view of work to be done I consider we should try to explore the area lying west, north-west, and north of the known Parry Islands as we can go. I now put the limits at 145 degrees west and 83 degrees north."

"If we should be able to complete this spring the work outlined above and should we then be able to connect with the Bear we would try to return south (home) the fall of 1916. But completing the Karluk program is the primary consideration this year; the fall of 1917 we shall, however try to come home in any event, and shall come by the Atlantic or Pacific route according to convenience. The return section of this expedition will return home this year, and if we can we shall send home some members of the northern section also, who are not particularly needed. The details of this will depend on various things, but especially on ice conditions. A whaling ship may possibly touch here, so we can ship the men out that way, or either the Star or Sachs may take them out."

"If we have to stay a second year, as now seems likely, we would that year (1916-17) devote all our energies to the region west and north of our new land. That year, if not this, I hope to approach so near MacMillan's farthest, coming from the west, that we can demonstrate the presence or absence of Crocker Land."

Reclaimed Heroes.

Whether good boys are committed to reformatories and industrial schools or not, good boys certainly come out of these institutions, as is shown by their splendid record of war service. Up to March last 30,000 such old boys were known to be in His Majesty's forces, and of these thirty-two have been mentioned in despatches, four have been awarded the Victoria Cross, sixty-nine the D. C.M., eight the Russian Medal of St. George, three the French Medaille Militaire, one the Croix de Guerre, and nineteen have received commissions in the army.—London Chronicle.

Camel Riding in Egypt.

An officer of an Egyptian Camel Corps, now invalided home, tells a story current in Cairo how Lord Kitchener once described camel riding. "It's like a game of cup and ball," said he. "You throw the ball into the air and try to catch it in the cup. Well, when you ride a camel the brute plays cup and ball with you and misses nearly every time!"

British Raised an Army Of Over 5,000,000 Men With Wonderful Speed

IT is now possible to take stock of the development of the British fighting forces since the war began. Britain's contribution to the army, official figures show, has reached a total of six million men. In August 1914 the regular army, on mobilization, amounted to 450,000 men, including reserves and special reserves (the old Militia); and Lord Haldane's Territorial Force, trained in a very high degree, though not so thoroughly as the regular soldier, and only liable for home defence, added 250,000 more—an army in the aggregate of 700,000. But over 100,000 of these regulars were allocated to India and other foreign stations.

In a single day after the declaration of the war, 30,000 recruits were attested—the number provided for in a whole year of peace. The War Office machinery, at first quite inadequate, survived the avalanche, and adapted itself to the new heaven and the new earth, as everything else had to do. Members of Parliament and provincial business men were called in to help, or came in without being called; military officers who had retired in a world of their own found themselves suddenly attempting to communicate with civilians from quite another world.

What astonished the efficient civilians most in those early times was the daily snowstorm of pay sheets and forms of all kinds which descended upon them, unlike manna, from London. The 500 paid officials who were snowed under by those documents at the beginning of the war have since been increased to 7,000. In the fifth week of the war 250,000 men presented themselves for the army or the territorial force, and of that number 175,000 were passed into the regulars.

A central organization, equipped to feed, house, clothe, arm, drill, and instruct an army, at the most, of 700,000 men was confronted, a few weeks after the declaration of war, with an army of about a million and a half, and winter was at hand. Appalled by the apparent impossibility of getting huts and clothes and boots, to say nothing of rifles, ready in time for all who were demanding them, the War Office on September 11, five weeks after the opening of the war, deliberately checked recruiting by raising the standards. The expedient was all too successful. It had not occurred to the War Office then to put the superfluous recruits into reserve groups, from which they might be called as they were required. Recruiting rapidly fell off, and at the same time—

...ing that the country had enlisted as many soldiers as it would need—the voice of the parrot was heard in the land repeating everywhere "Business as usual." This had an injurious influence, and the great slump in voluntary recruiting ensued. The standard for recruits was lowered again in the second month of the war, and the age limit was extended, but the mischief was not to be so easily undone.

Recruiting was now entrusted in a much larger degree to the civilian organizations, and the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee canvassed 8,000,000 heads of households on their duty to contribute to the military strength of the country. Under the National Registration Act, passed in July, 1915, all the men and women in the United Kingdom between the ages of 16 and 65 were registered, with all the information concerning them necessary for recruiting and industrial purposes. Then took place "the last great recruiting rally for the voluntary system." The new feature of this last rally was Lord Derby's group system, under which, in the space of two months, 2,250,000 men attested under the group system, and in addition it added over 275,000 men immediately to the army. At Great Scotland Yard 2,300 recruits were dealt with in one day, and 6,200 in the last six days of the scheme.

It was found by the Government, however, that an appreciably large number of single men of military age had neither attested nor enlisted, and accordingly, in January of the present year, Mr. Asquith introduced his Military Service Bill to conscript the unmarried, and it became law. A similar measure in respect of the married followed soon after, and by May 25 all men of military age in Great Britain had been made liable to be called into the army.

We know that before compulsion was introduced over 5,000,000 men in the United Kingdom had voluntarily come forward to fight the enemy. It is not known to the public how many have been added by conscription, but the British army is now spoken of in well-informed quarters as an army of at least six million men. Taking everything into account, it may be claimed with confidence that no other country has ever made or is making now a greater war effort than is being put forth in these times by Great Britain.

All the above figures relate to the United Kingdom only, and take no account of the magnificent contribution in men and money of the Oversea Dominions.

A Dethroned King.

Lidj Jeassu, who was recently dethroned as King of the Abyssinian domains, succeeded his grandfather, Emperor Menelik, in 1913, his mother being Menelik's second daughter. Among his first acts was the creation of his father as king of Wollo and Nigi. Lidj Jeassu being a minor, administration has been carried on since his accession by regents.

London Has 994,500 Miles of Wiring. London has 73,500 miles of overhead telegraph and telephone wires and 921,000 miles of underground.

THE BIRTHRATE DECLINES.

The Marriage Rate in England is the Highest on Record. Marriage rate—highest on record. Birth rate—still falling.

These are among the most interesting points brought out in the report for 1915 of Dr. W. H. Hamer, Medical Officer of Health for the County of London, England. The number of marriages registered in London was the highest ever recorded—58,345, as compared with 43,373 in 1914 and 41,409 in 1913. The increase over 1914 is 34 per cent., but as the corresponding increase for the rest of England and Wales is only 20 per cent., there is reason for thinking that a considerable number of these marriages may not properly belong to the London population.

The estimated "civil population" cannot be used for calculation of the rate, since the males married include a number of men on service, but taking the probable population of 4 1/2 millions the rate would be 25.9 per 1,000. There has been a slight annual increase in the marriage rate since 1909, but the bulk of last year's increase must be directly attributed to the war.

The birth rate shows a further fall from 25.0 in 1909-13 and 24.3 in 1914 to 23.6.

The increasing tendency to marry later in life is another factor which is examined. "The effect of postponement of marriage has hitherto been considered mainly from the point of view of its relation to the duration of marriage," Dr. Hamer says, "and insufficient allowance has been made for what might be termed the physiological effect."

The London Chronicle comments as follows on conditions: "It may be urged that if the decline in the European birth rate be largely attributed to emigration, the countries to which the emigrants go should show high birth rates. It may be noted that the United States have received nearly 20 millions of young adults from Europe during the last 40 years, and, as H. P. Fairchild notes, 'the high birth rate of our new large foreign-born population' is notorious; moreover, the years of this great exodus are precisely those of the declining birth rate throughout Europe."

"On curious effect of the war to which Dr. Hamer draws attention is the arrestment of building activity, the result of which has undoubtedly been to check the outward movement of the population which has been going on for some time, more particularly north of the Thames."

Rebuilds Soldiers' Faces.

When the European war broke out Lt. Derwent Wood, the son of an American father and an English mother, had already won fame as a sculptor. Past the age of enlistment, he joined the Army Medical Corps as an assistant, and was sent to a London military hospital, already filled with wounded and maimed British soldiers. In a few days he was drafted into the wards to take plaster casts of damaged limbs, and in the course of his work he saw the saddest sights of the war—the men with mutilated faces—relates "The Youth's Companion."

The sight so affected him that he went to Derwent and said: "Let me see what I can do for these poor fellows." Consent was gladly given. His skill as sculptor stood him in good stead here. By means of masks of thin copper, tinted to resemble flesh, he has wrought marvellous transformations in the facial appearance of horribly disfigured men.

One case among many in which happiness was made to displace despair was that of Trooper Everitt, whose face had been smashed by an explosive bullet. His nose had been carried away almost entirely and his left cheek torn open from his ear to the corner of his mouth. Before the war he was a taxi driver, and now, made presentable by the wonderful facial mask that Lieut. Wood has contrived for him—a mask consisting of false nose, cheek and moustache—he is plying his old trade and prospering. "When he saw himself for the first time," said the sculptor, "he jumped for joy."

Sacrificial Loyalty.

Part of the touching literature of the war is a little tract that has just appeared in London of quasi-official inspiration, named "Treasury Romance." James Douglas, who has compiled it, explains that often the patriotism of those who give to Britain's war fund is "buried five fathoms deep in the treasury files." He has brought to light with reticence and discretion a few typical instances of sacrificial loyalty. Here, for example, is a miner who sang at seventeen workmen's clubs and Inns "for the benefit of the war," and thus gathered in dribslets twenty pounds. An old woman writes: "I have much pleasure in sending you the pound," which leads the compiler to add: "Her particular and probably her only pound." A child of seven sends a shilling, a poor man transmits ninespence. From lonely Fanning Island, in the South Seas, come two contributions from natives of the Gilbert Islands at work there. A donkeyman aboard a ship bringing meat from Australia writes at the close of an impassioned letter: "Do not mind the grammar. Grammar does not count as a rule with gentlemen. I enclose a pound as a start." And so it goes. The Imperial hope of England is in such hearts as these.

Bird's Curious Nest.

The tailor bird of India, a tiny yellow creature, makes a most curious nest. To escape snakes and monkeys this bird takes a dead leaf, flies up into a tree, and with a fibre for a thread and its bill for a needle sews the leaf to a green one hanging from the tree, an opening to the nest thus formed being left at the top. The leaf, apparently hanging from a twig, would never be taken for a nest.

WATCH YOUR TIRES.

No Matter How Good They May Be This Caution is Necessary. Many a car is sold on the representation that "the Blankmobile will run from 7,000 to 10,000 miles on a set of tires," and the motorist thus gains the opinion that his tires need no attention for that length of time.

But no car dealer's statement or tire maker's guarantee can influence good or bad luck, and it is largely the work of the latter that places the bit of broken glass, the sharp stone or the protruding nail directly in the path of the unwary tire. Such an obstacle will not necessarily penetrate the tire—the chances are that it will not—but a cut will be formed in the outer layer of rubber or tread, which, like an infected wound, will eventually spread and "infect" the entire surface.

A few moments spent in examining, cleaning and plugging the cut or hole will add thousands of miles to the life of the tire. The inexperienced motorist can form no conception of the readiness with which mud, sand and water can enter the slight opening in the surface of the tire and by gradually working its way "under the skin" will tend to separate the tread from the outer layer of canvas.

In a few hundred or thousand miles this tread will be hanging in flapping shreds, worth no more than so much old rubber, and in order to be reclaimed the tire must be retreaded or used in connection with one of the several detachable treads on the market.—H. W. Slauson, M. E., in Leslie's.

Happiness.

Happiness is that single and glorious thing which is the very light and sum of the whole animated universe, and where she is not it is better that nothing should be.—Colton.

The most completely lost of all days is the one on which we have not laughed.—Chamfort.

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should be taken promptly for hard coughs, unyielding colds, or when strength is lowered from any cause. Its high nutritive value creates resistive force to ward off sickness. The rich cod liver oil improves the quality of the blood to relieve the cold and the glycerine is soothing and healing to the lung tissues.

Refuse Alcoholic Substitutes Which Exclude the Cod Liver Oil.

THE DEAD SEA.

Some Interesting Facts About This Curious Body of Water.

For a number of years many persons have declared the Dead sea, in Palestine, is diminishing, but a recent careful survey by experts has established beyond all doubt that the sea is steadily increasing.

At many points on its southern and eastern borders there are vast forests with large trees becoming submerged. The sea is about forty miles in length and ten miles wide at the broadest portion. Should it continue to enlarge it will take in valuable country, but, so far as known, there is no way to prevent this.

Mediterranean waters are 1,300 feet higher than the Dead sea level, but this is no proof the waters of the Dead sea are drying up.

A survey of the wonderful region of years ago shows islands that are now gone. It is declared these are covered. There is so much solid matter in the water that it makes about one-fifth, or 20 per cent, of the matter solid. It is so intensely salt and bitter that no creature can live in it.

The bed of the sea is rich with mineral deposits. Salts, copper, lead and zinc and marble are found in vast quantities, and experts are of the opinion there is a great deposit of petroleum beneath the vast body of water. A man's body is lighter than the amount of water it displaces, and it is therefore impossible for a person to sink.

Vegetation is scarce and greatly stunted for miles about the sea.

When a Dog Chokes. Dogs frequently choke. A bone, a gull or a piece of tin gets in the throat,

and there is great danger of death before the arrival of the surgeon. Many of them do die, but there is no reason for this, for it is easy, without the slightest danger of getting bitten, to put the hand in the mouth of a dog and to draw out or push down the obstruction that is choking it. A bandage—a handkerchief or towel will do—is passed between the teeth and over the upper jaw, and in a similar way another bandage is passed between the teeth and over the under jaw. One person, holding the ends of these two bandages, keeps the dog's mouth wide open. A second person can then with perfect ease and safety put his fingers down the animal's throat and relieve it.

The Holland Primrose.

There is a plant in Holland known as the evening primrose, which grows to a height of five or six feet and bears a profusion of large yellow flowers, so brilliant that they attract immediate attention, even at a great distance, but the chief peculiarity about the plant is the fact that the flowers, which open just before sunset, burst into bloom so suddenly that they give one the impression of some magical agency. A man who has seen this sudden blooming says it is just as if some one had touched the land with a wand and thus covered it all at once with a golden sheet.

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The Price of Your Local Newspaper

THE cost of living has nearly doubled during the last twenty years. Almost everything in common use has risen in price. Your weekly newspaper remained a dollar a year without variation.

The printers and publishers have not escaped having to pay the highest cost of living and publishing.

They pay what others pay for the necessities of life.

Even before the war broke out, the old dollar rate was known to be unprofitable. It costs at least \$1.50 to produce a good weekly newspaper—this when it has a good circulation, and when circulations are small the \$1.50 rate is scarcely enough.

But the war made the old dollar rate quite impossible. Paper prices have jumped alarmingly. Ink prices have doubled, trebled, quadrupled. Many colored inks are quite off the market. Linotype metal is terribly high. And so we could go on reciting the dismal tale of higher publishing costs.

YOUR weekly newspaper is rendering this community a service no city daily can. No daily gives space to local news and affairs as The HERALD does. No city daily publishes the advertising of local merchants. If you had to depend solely on a city daily for local news you would cry out for your local weekly.

We ask you and all the good people to fall in with the new rate—just because it is an honest price and because you are fair-minded.

Your Local Newspaper Keeps This Community on the Map.