

CANADIAN OFFICIAL REPORT SHOWS CANUCKS HONORED BY BEING GIVEN MEDALS

Weather at the Front is Not Very Good, But Huns Suffer Much, Their Trenches Being Flooded Out.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 20.—The successful attack and capture of an enemy trench and two prisoners by a Canadian patrol and the award of a number of medals for distinguished conduct are the features of the week's communiqué to the militia department from the general representative at the front.

It says: "During the week of December twentieth-seventeenth, the general situation on the Canadian front has remained unchanged. The weather has turned colder, but frequent rains and wind, varied by periods of fog, have rendered conditions continuously unpleasant. Every effort has been made throughout the Canadian area to offset the ravages of the heavy rains. Large working parties have been incessantly employed dredging and clearing out ditches, communicating, support and front line trenches, and damage is being repaired as rapidly as possible. There has been every indication that the enemy has suffered greatly from inclemency of weather. In some places his parapets have collapsed. Sounds of pumping and slashing have been heard in his front trenches. His working parties have been numerous in every section of his line, and the condition of some of his communicating trenches has compelled his soldiers to expose themselves to our fire with increasing frequency. In spite of adverse weather conditions, the enemy's artillery has been more active than in preceding weeks. His fire has been chiefly concentrated on certain sections of our front defenses, but at times various roads, farms and other buildings further back in our line have been heavily shelled. Material result of his fire has been inconsiderable.

"Our artillery has retaliated on every occasion with good effect on the enemy's batteries and defensive works. The enemy has fired a considerable number of rifle grenades at our trenches during the period, but retaliation in kind has proved generally effective.

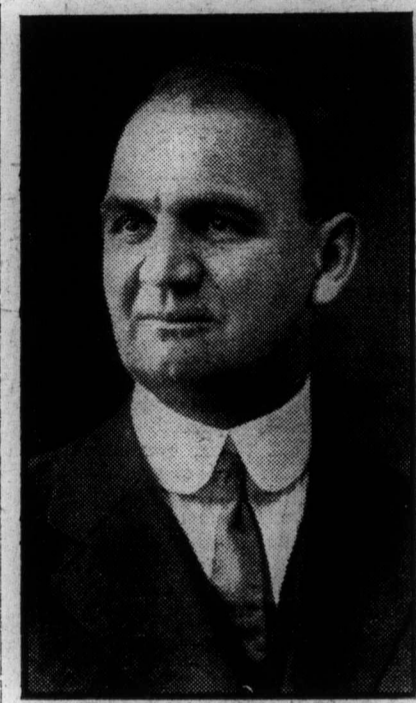
ACTIVE SNIPING

"The enemy's snipers have been active, and indications of enemy patrols

to our lines. The enemy opened a heavy machine gun and artillery fire, but at day break the parties returned safely to our trenches. Our only casualties were Lieutenant Campbell and one man, both slightly wounded. Among the articles captured was one Ross rifle.

PRESENTATION OF ORDERS AND MEDALS.

"A presentation of orders and medals was made on December 12th to a number of officers and men of the First Canadian Division by General Sir Herbert Plumer, KCB, commander of the Second Army. The distinguished conduct medal was awarded to Company Sergeant Major B. Benton, Company Sergeant Major J. D. Mathewson and Pte J. Donoghue, all of the Fourth Infantry Battalion, for conspicuous gallantry. In successful mining operation carried out by our Second Infantry Brigade on the 16th, 17th and 18th of November, the following awards were made: To be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, Lieut.-Col. V. W. Odlum, Seventh Battalion; Capt. C. T. Costigan, Tenth Battalion; Lieut. W. G. Haines and J. R. McIlrea, both Seventh Battalion Military Crosses, Lieut. A. I. H. Wrightson, Seventh Battalion; Distinguished Conduct Medal was presented to Sergeant H. Oshby, Sergeant H. Meyerstein, Sergeant R. Robertson and Corp A. K. Curry, all of the Seventh Battalion."



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Facts Versus Fiction!

ENDEAVORING to create the impression that boys of tender years are served with liquor in licensed hotels the local optionists claim and advertise: "The open field for the creation of the drink appetite is among the boys. After men have grown and their habits are formed they rarely ever change in this regard."

That's the Fiction

THE law says that no person under the age of 21 years may be served with liquor or anything else in a licensed bar and the law takes away the license of the man who does not observe its restrictions.

Those are Facts

BOYS become men when they are 21 years of age so that the only logical conclusion to be drawn from the local optionist's argument is that in the licensed bar lies their safety. It's in the "blind pig" that springs up where local option closes the licensed hotel that boys may get drink.

Keep the "Blind Pig" Out!

TO HELP YOU XMAS SHOP

Suggestions for "Milords"
Gift From This Real
Man's Store!

House Coats...\$5 to \$12 Mufflers.....\$1 to \$4
Lounging Robes..\$8 to \$15 Sweater Coats...\$3 to \$8
Bath Robes...\$3.50 to \$8 Fancy Vests.....\$3 to \$7
Umbrellas.....\$1 to \$8 Shirts.....\$1 to \$3
Canes.....\$1 to \$3 Hats.....\$1.50 to \$6
Gloves.....\$1 to \$3.50 Pyjamas.....\$1.50 to \$6

Collars, Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, Cuff Links, Collar Boxes, Garters, Tie Pins, Belts, Underwear, Hosiery, Caps.

All goods handsomely boxed, with gift card enclosed, free.

Our Xmas Neckwear is the talk of the town, 35c to \$2

Our Military Shirts, etc., are the very best procurable.

OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL XMAS

"DOUBLE-BLUFF" DREW VON SPEE TO DESTRUCTION

Disbelieved Wireless Message, as It Was Meant He Should.

STORY OF THE
FALKLAND FIGHT
Germans Could Not Get Out of Range of Their Pursuers.

The Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nürnberg and Leipzig were sunk half a year ago off the Falkland Islands, and the defeat of the Good Hope and the Monmouth amply attested.

The young admiral, Sir Frederick Doveton Sturdee, belongs to a family of young admirals, as admirals go, but for cleverness he was more than a match for von Spee. He was chief of staff at the admiralty in the early stages of the war, which means that he assisted in planning the moves on the chessboard. It fell to him to apply the strategy and tactics which he planned for others at sea while he sat at a desk. It was his wit against von Spee's, who was not deficient in this respect. If he had been he might not have steamed into the trap. The trouble was that von Spee had some, but not enough. It would have been better for him if he were guileless.

Before you wing your bird you must flush him. The thing was to find von Spee and force him to give battle; for the South Atlantic is broad and von Spee, it is supposed, was in an Emden mood as bent on reaching harbor in German Southwest Africa, whence he could sailly out and destroy British shipping on the Cape route. When he intercepted a British wireless message—Sturdee had left off the sender's name and location—telling the plodding old Canopus seeking home or assistance before von Spee overtook her, that she would be perfectly safe in the harbor at Port William, as guns had been erected for her protection, von Spee guessed that this was a bluff and rightly. But it was only bluff Number One. He steamed into the harbor with a view to finishing off the old Canopus on the way across to Africa. There he fell foul of bluff Number Two. Sturdee did not have to seek him; he came to Sturdee.

There was no convenient Dogger Bank fog in that latitude to cover his flight. Sturdee had the speed of von Spee, and he had to fight. It was the one bit of strategy of the war which is like that of the story books and worked out as the strategy always does in proper story books. Practically the 12-inch guns of the Invincible had only to keep their distance and hang on to the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau in order to do the trick. Lightweights or middleweights have no business trafficking with heavyweights in naval warfare.

"Von Spee made a brave fight," said Sir Frederick, "but we kept him at a distance that suited us without letting him get out of range."

He had had the fortune to prove an established principle in action. It was in the course of duty, which is the way that all officers and all the men look at their work. Only a few ships have had a chance to fight and these are emblazoned on the public memory. But they did no better and no worse, probably than the others would have done. If the public singles out ships

the navy does not. Whatever is done and whoever does it, why, it is to the credit of the family, according to the spirit of service that promotes uniformity of efficiency. Leaders and ships which have won renown are resolved into the whole in that harbor where the fleet is the thing; and the good opinion that most desire is that of their fellows. If they have that they will earn the public's when the test comes.

Belong to the class of the first of battle cruisers is the Invincible which received a few taps in the Falklands. Tribune enough for its courage—the tribute of a chivalrous enemy—von Spee's squadron received from the officers and men of the Invincible who saw them go down into the sea tinged with sunset red with their colors still flying. Then in the sunset red the British saved as many of those afloat as they could.

VICTORS AND VANQUISHED
Those dripping German officers who had seen one of their battered turrets carried away bodily into the sea by a British 12 inch shell who had endured a fury of concussions and destruction with steel missiles crackling steel structures into fragments, came on board the Invincible looking for signs of some blows delivered by the British.

At least they had sent one shell home. The sight was sweet to them, so sweet that, in respect to the feeling of the vanquished, the victors held silence with a knightly consideration. But where had the shell ended? There was no sign of any hole. Then they learned that the fire of the guns of the starboard turret midships over the wardrobe, which was on the port side, had deposited a great many things on the floor which did not belong there; and their expression changed. Even this comfort was taken from them.

"We had the range of you!" the British explained. The chaplain of the Invincible was bound to have an anecdote. His place was down behind the armor with the doctor waiting for wounded. He stood in this particular steel cave listening to the tremendous blasts of her guns which shook the Invincible's frame, and still no wounded arrived. Then he ran up a ladder to the deck and had a look around and saw the little points of the German ships with the shells sweeping toward them and the smoke of explosions which burst on board them. It was not the British who needed his prayers that day, but the Germans. The Germans are more in need of prayers at all times because of the damnable way they act.

and that candidates for ward 3 should take a stand on this matter in this connection.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The report of this committee was as follows:

That your committee recommend the communication of Messrs Harley & Sweet, re. E. B. Crompton & Co., which was referred to this committee, be referred to the finance committee of next year, and that they be asked to give it serious consideration.

That the communication of C. H. Waterous, president of the hospital board, be filed, and that an order be issued in favor of the Brantford General Hospital board for the sum of four thousand dollars.

The letter of E. B. Crompton & Co. asked for some relief in taxation, owing to the fact that they had been out of their building most of the year. After some discussion, pro and con, it was decided unanimously that the incoming council should deal with the matter.

The manufacturers' committee and board of works presented a combined report as follows. It was adopted without discussion.

That permission be given to Ham & Nott Co. to move the siding of the G. T. R. Co., which now exists on Bruce street, leaving 30 feet on the southerly side for roadway, upon condition that the Ham & Nott Co. will put the 30 feet of roadway in first-class condition for traffic, and shall further agree that if the westerly end of Bruce street should be opened for traffic by means of a subway or otherwise, the said track will be replaced in its present position.

It was further recommended that the Ham & Nott Co. be permitted to build a dry kiln on that part of Bruce street (indicated on blue plans) and that the necessary legal steps be taken to enable these permissions to be effectually given.

The committee further recommended that the Ham & Nott Co. have permission to cause the siding to be extended across Murray street between Elgin street and Campbell street, it being understood in connection with the above matters that an agreement satisfactory to the City Solicitor shall be made between the Ham & Nott Co. Ltd and the city. Moved by Ald. Calbeck, seconded by Ald. Dowling: That the report of the combined committees be adopted and council of 1916 be requested to enact the necessary by-law.

RAILWAY COM. REPORT

That the Municipal Railway Commissioners be paid a certain set sum, amounting to \$250 per annum to the chairman, and \$200 per annum to the other members, was the substance of this report. It was passed, though the Mayor stated that the matter would really lay in the hands of next year's council.

BY-LAWS

Four by-laws raising money for the local improvements carried on during the past year were put through the three readings.

A by-law giving the new buildings of the Brantford Cordage Co. a fixed assessment as is customary for manufacturing institutions in Brantford, was also adopted, as well as two by-laws to raise debentures to meet grants made to the War Relief and Patriotic Association (\$15,000) and the cost of the smallpox hospital, (\$5,000).

A resolution of sympathy to Ald. Suddaby in his illness and an expression of hope for full restoration to health in the near future, passed unanimously.

KIEL CANAL TO BE RAIDED FROM THE AIR

Possibility of That, Hints Aviation Expert From Britain.

New York, Dec. 21.—G. O. Robinson of the Curtiss Aeroplane Company, who returned yesterday by the American liner St. Paul, said he had been assembling aeroplanes at Hendon for the British army, and intimated that there might be a colossal air raid on Germany. He said the world would be astounded soon by several developments in aerial warfare, but refused to hint what they might be on the ground that he had been enjoined not to talk of what he had seen in England. His intimation caused a revival of the rumor that the objective of the great aerial fleet making ready at Hendon was the Kiel Canal.

Another passenger was General Wilfred Ellershaw, who will inspect ordnance and ammunition being manufactured here and in Canada for the Allies.

More Arrests.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Three more C. P. R. conductors arrested last night on charges of theft lodged by the company appeared in police court today and were remanded. The men James Fumerton, Ottawa; M. W. Taylor, North Bay and S. J. McGonigal, Ottawa.

Constipation Is Cured by HOOD'S PILLS

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—the delicious drink
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O'Keefe's Pilsener Lager

"The Light Beer in the Light Bottle"

113

MAY BE ORDERED AT 25

FORD.

COLBORNE ST., BRANT-

LAST SESSION

(Continued from Page 1)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The receiving and adopting of the reports of various committees was also an important item of business. These reports follow. They were all adopted unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

That the Building Inspector be laid off from Dec. 15th to May 1st.

BOARD OF WORKS

This was very lengthy, recommending that numerous communications and reports, all enumerated, be filed, also that the balance of money for the repairing of the sluiceway dam be paid to the contractor, Mr. A. J. Cromar. The board of works held 33 meetings during the year, and finishing with a surplus out of their appropriations. They had done work not foreseen at the beginning of the year, namely, re-floored Lorne bridge at a cost of \$2,348, and purchased a gravel pit at a cost of \$825.

In conclusion of the explanation of the report, Ald. Calbeck stated he wanted to see the incoming council take up the matter of pole removal.

J. S. HAMILTON & CO.

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Fine Old Wines
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