

JUDGE HODGINS SAYS CANADIANS MERIT THE BEST

They Know It and Are Perhaps Prone To Magnify Grievances.

REPORTS ON NORTHLAND

If Men Had Been Going to War Instead of Returning, They Might Not Have Kicked.

OTTAWA, Jan. 29.—Both officers in charge and the non-commissioned officers and men returning on the steamship Northland come in for adverse criticism in the report of Mr. Justice Hodgins on the voyage of that vessel last month, an investigation into the conditions of which was instituted early in January.

The report, which has just been received by the Government, is a comprehensive one, comprising nearly forty typewritten pages.

The men, particularly the non-commissioned officers, are highly commended for their obedience to the usual military discipline and to perform the duties expected of them in the matter of the cleaning of latrines and eating and sleeping quarters.

Some Complaints Upheld. The complaints regarding the latter, however, are considered as fully justified, while on the question of food, the complaints are, in the main, sympathetically upheld. In the latter respect the lack of proper system of serving and the fact that the ship's galley was situated far remote from the place where the meals were served, are held as primarily responsible.

The report states that there was an adequate supply of food on board to meet all requirements, and that the cooking was, as a whole, good, although the occasional food was badly cooked, but holds that such incidents were exceptions which might happen in any mess or eating-house.

After pointing out that the accommodation on board the Northland, while probably equal to third-class conditions in pre-war times, and of a nature which might be cheerfully accepted by troops on their way to the seat of war, "easier to get at the enemy," the report states that the men were not in the least dissatisfied with the conditions of the ship, and that the Canadian soldiers should be either asked or permitted to put up with when returning to their homes.

Men's Outlook Changed. "The outlook of the men," Judge Hodgins states, "has been completely changed, and they no longer complain of much that in itself is far better than they had to put up with during the war. But it is a matter of national pride to insure that they should have ample sleeping, resting and eating accommodations, and such provisions for ventilation as will enable them to make the voyage in comparative comfort."

With the military officers—both the conducting party and those in charge of the district troops—Mr. Justice Hodgins is less sympathetic. "I find," says Judge Hodgins, "that so one in the conducting staff took personal interest in the men's comfort and discipline, and that there was no one in the galley who was not in the proper scale of rationing, and that the result was confusion and dissatisfaction which might have been remedied if taken in hand at once and in a practical way."

Is It Fair to Officers? In reaching his conclusions, the commissioner states: "I acknowledge the candor and sincerity of the officer commanding troops, who has served for over two and a half years in the front campaigns which included St. Eloi, Regina trench, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele—and also of his staff, and it is a question whether, after the war experience I have referred to, it would be fair to ask any officer to take the position if it is to be other than as he viewed it, and as needing activity and concentration."

The report states, in addition, that owing to the fact that the regular trained parties were all occupied on account of the large number of troops being returned to Canada in December, the one for the Northland had to be hurriedly made up. In consequence, only two of its members had any experience, and that only in clerical and pay department work. Also, as a result of this pressure, the various military district officers had no opportunity to make acquaintance with the personnel of their units before sailing.

Causes of Confusion. To these two causes, the report says, much of the consequent confusion and want of discipline were due. A lack of co-operation and the workings of a faulty system, together with the shifting of responsibilities on the part of the officers, are held as responsible in considerable degree to the discomforts of the voyage.

Some of the sections in which the returning men were quartered were overcrowded, while others had space to spare, involving inadequate feeding facilities and disagreeable living conditions consequent upon the rough weather conditions, which caused sea sickness in the sections where the soldiers were required to both eat and sleep. It is pointed out in the report, however, that the men who might have been corrected had there been forthcoming efficient and sympathetic efforts.

Dealing with the matter of messing, Mr. Justice Hodgins says:

Military to Blame. "So far as the evidence relates to this branch of the subject, I find that no efficient dealing with the situation, either by the non-commissioned officers, or the orderly officers, was displayed. There is not any appreciable contradiction between the statements of the men and that of the officers called as to the frequency of the complaints. One officer said he received 'dozens,' and another that they were 'numinous.' But in the extremely sketchy

DISLIKE FOR FOOD

Every healthy man and woman should have a natural desire for food at meal times. This means that the digestion is in working order and that the blood is in good condition. But if you feel a dislike for food—if the sight and smell of wholesome food repels you—then you may be sure that nature is telling you that all is not well. If after a night's rest you have no appetite for breakfast, your digestion requires attention. If your food is distasteful, or if you feel that it is a trouble to eat, your stomach is revolting. You do not digest properly the food you are taking and are therefore not hungry.

All these symptoms of a disordered digestion mean that the blood is not absorbing proper nourishment from the food, for the work of the blood is to collect proper nourishment from food and impart it to the system. The stomach tries to refuse food the nutrient from which the blood cannot absorb, and this causes the lack of appetite. If you force yourself to eat, the undigested food becomes a clog to the system. Nature is warning you. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills alone give the blood the richness and purity that it requires to perform its natural function. That is why Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure the most obstinate cases of indigestion—why they will cure any trouble due to poor blood.

You can get these pills through any medicine dealer or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

daily reports made by orderly officers there is hardly any mention of complaints. My observations, based on many of the incidents, related both by the officers, N. C. O.'s and men, leads to a very definite conclusion that the 'visits' to the mess did not accomplish any results, except in individual cases occurring at the moment.

Canucks Not "Kickers." The report, however, points out: "But the complaints, which I find were frequent and continuous, were in the majority of instances addressed to the non-commissioned officers, or to the ship's stewards and were not by them brought to the notice of the day orderly officer in any effective way. There seems to be a curious but well-defined reluctance on the part of Canadians to take up and adjust any grievance for fear of being regarded as 'kickers,' and these soldiers were in exception to this rule. The root trouble was not one that could be corrected on the spot, when some particular man complaining was short of food or served with badly cooked meat or vegetables. It lay along way off at the galley and the orderly officer on some occasions went there to try and remedy the complaint he had just received."

Complaints Regarding Food. After acknowledging the difficulty of correcting conditions of this kind, the finding proceeds:

"In short, on this head I am compelled to find that there were well-founded complaints, both of temporary shortage of food and of sometimes badly-cooked food, and that there were only spasmodic attempts to find a cure, the effort depending upon the presence of the orderly officer, or the willingness of the ship's steward to assist."

"The real weakness was the total absence of any systematic effort to understand and to cope with the difficulties of distance, restricted space for eating, and short supplies to the pantries and serving tables. Speaking generally, the chief steward's department, the orderly officer in charge of each military district, and his N. C. O.'s and the officer conducting troops, with the conducting staff, would seem to afford sufficient force to tackle these difficulties. None of them managed to do so."

Officer at Fault. The confusion attending the serving is then dealt with, and the report goes on to say:

"In face of all this, there is no trace of any realization, either by the orderly officers in charge of the military district, or by the conducting staff, that anything was wrong."

The failure of the officers responsible for the men's comfort to "go below" to study conditions under which the men were living, also comes in for criticism. In this respect, and in the matter of supply of fresh water complained of—and this is held to have been adequate—closer attention should have been given, and the men advised as to when the water was available, the supply having to be turned off at night owing to the danger of freezing. The refusal early in the voyage to allow the men the use of the promenade deck—a privilege later accorded them—is also dealt with in the report as is the lack of discipline prevailing on the Northland.

An Unfortunate Delay. The report says that no ill-feeling between officers and men existed aboard the Northland, and states that, had it not been for the holding up of the ship by the head officer at Halifax, who suspected a case of smallpox, and the bitter disappointment of the men at being compelled to spend Christmas Day aboard, under trying conditions, little might have been heard of the voyage in the way of complaint.

The report states: "In connection with the voyage, one experience stands out as having a great influence on the recollection and temper of the men. After a rough and unpleasant voyage the ship made Halifax harbor on Christmas morning, and the men were ordered to get out their bedding and mattresses with the dogs, and they were piled on the mess tables in the dining room between 10 and 11 a.m., in the full expectation of being in time to get the good Christmas dinner awaiting them on shore. The quarantine officer arrived on board at 11:50 a.m., and inspected a case believed to be smallpox."

Disagreeable Christmas. He directed the captain to anchor. He then communicated with Ottawa, and the ship remained in sight of the dock during the whole of Christmas Day and until 12:30 the following day, when she received pratique, the case proving to be one of chickenpox. The dock was reached at 2 p.m., and all the troops landed by 7:15 p.m.

"The men were bitterly disappointed on Christmas morning. A hurried dinner was prepared and eaten in great haste, owing to the fact that all the tables were loaded with bedding, etc."

"It is unnecessary to discuss this meal, full details of which were in evidence, but it and the night on board, owing to the delay, and the conditions left a feeling of great chagrin and resentment which was fully reflected in the interviews subsequently published. But for this experience, I believe much less publicity would have been given to the recollection of the voyage. The men were related with a bitterness which a pleasant and comfortable reception could have largely prevented."

Regarding the connection of the admiralty with the Northland, Mr. Justice Hodgins states:

"I have heard nothing in the inquiry which in any way reflects upon the British admiralty."

LABOR CONFERENCES AT BERNE AND PARIS IN NO WAY RELATED

George Nicholl Barnes Lays

Emphasis on Distinction.

PARIS, Jan. 29.—There is no connection whatever between the international socialist and labor conference at Berne and the labor conference being held here in connection with the peace conference, according to George Nicholl Barnes, the British labor member of the League of Nations.

Mr. Barnes said today that a misconception has arisen as to the two conferences, because many of the men selected by the parliamentary committee of the trades union congress to advise the British Government on questions of international labor regulations happened also to be delegates to the Berne conference.

COL. CHAS. A. SMART IS

GAZETTED A BRIGADIER

LONDON, Jan. 29.—(Canadian Associated Press.)—Charles A. Smart, who has been commandant at Shearwater Camp for some considerable time, is gazetted a brigadier.

Col. Smart went overseas as officer commanding the 50th Canadian Mounted Rifles in the summer of 1915.

SPARTACAN UPRISING

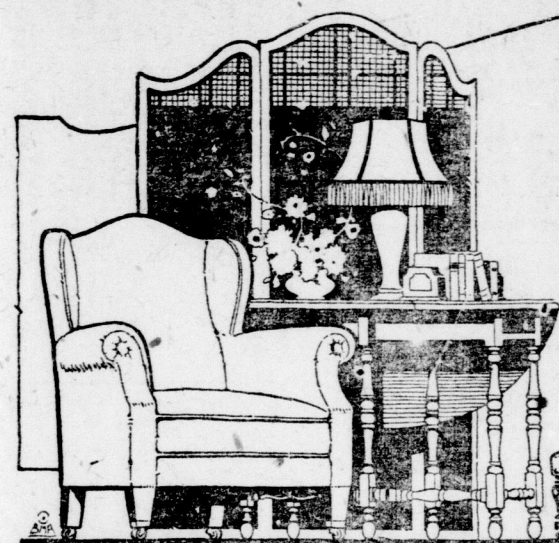
HAS BEEN PUT DOWN

Amsterdam, Jan. 30.—The Spartacan uprising at Wilhelmshaven has been put down, according to Berlin advices to the Hamburg Nachrichten.

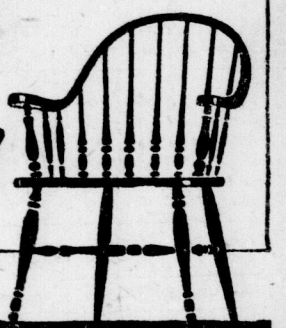
Ypres Will Be Left

As Permanent Show

LONDON, Jan. 29.—(British Wireless.)—The decision of the Belgian Government to maintain Ypres, the scene of several battles between the British and the Germans in its present condition as a permanent memorial is endorsed heartily by British press and public opinion.



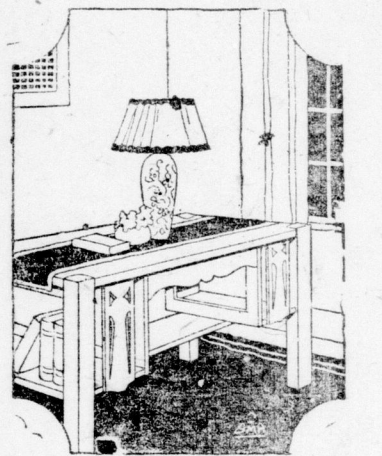
FEBRUARY FURNITURE SALE



Real Opportunities Are Too Rare These Days To Let Them Slip Through Your Fingers

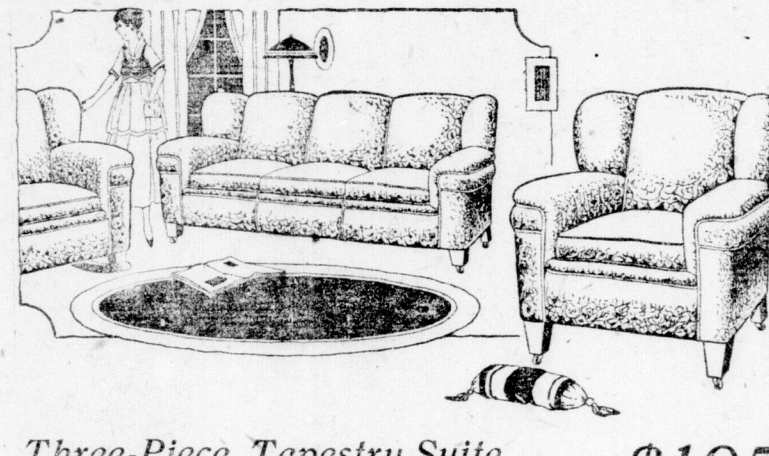
WHEN A SALE of this kind is advertised, you want to be an active participant, not just a bystander. There is every reason why you should enjoy the benefit of having profited in a sale of this kind, offering Furniture of every type at very substantial savings. Neglected opportunities reflect upon your good judgment.

IF YOU HAVE the slightest need of Furniture, you will want to take advantage of this sale, and you should do so at once, not later when the best pieces have been picked over. Every department in this great store is included in this sale. Below are listed a number of articles taken at random, to show what great savings this sale offers you.



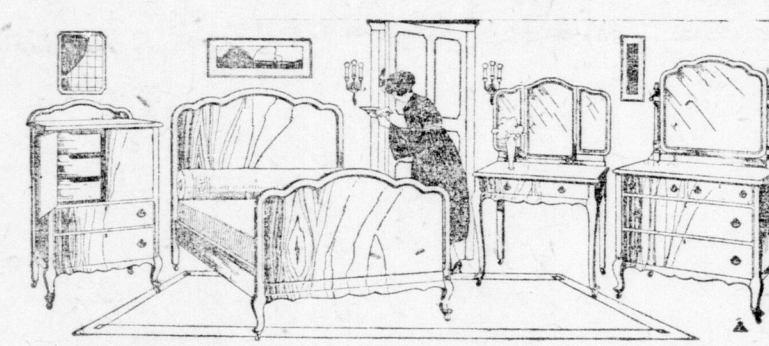
Solid Oak Library Table \$19.50

Splendid Solid Oak Table with shelf at both ends, neatly designed and sturdily built. This table should last a lifetime.



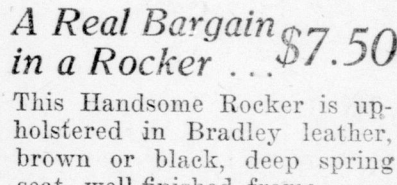
Three-Piece Tapestry Suite, Regular Price, \$250.00 \$195

This suite has been made as fine as upholstered furniture could be made. The Chesterfield is 6½ feet long and the Chairs are very massive and comfortable. The tapestry used is heavy English quality that will wear for years.



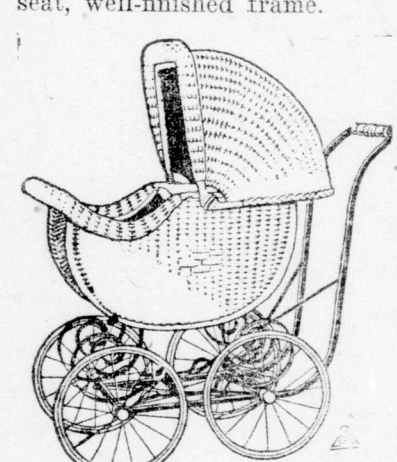
Quality Bedroom Furniture at February Prices

Our entire range of Period Suites in walnut, mahogany or oak is all on sale at large reductions. If you want the biggest selection and the best values, don't fail to see this display. Reductions range from 10 to 35 per cent.



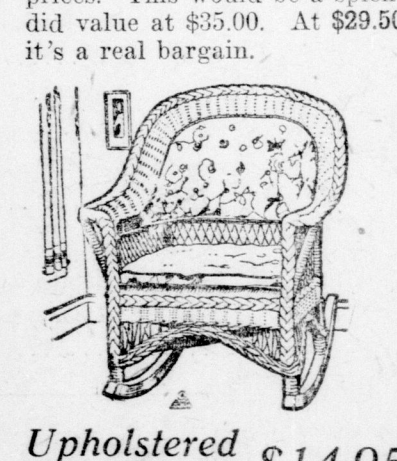
A Real Bargain in a Rocker ... \$7.50

This Handsome Rocker is upholstered in Bradley leather, brown or black, deep spring seat, well-finished frame.



Genuine Reed Carriage \$29.50

We have a few of these Rigs left over from last year. These were purchased at the old prices. This would be a splendid value at \$35.00. At \$29.50 it's a real bargain.



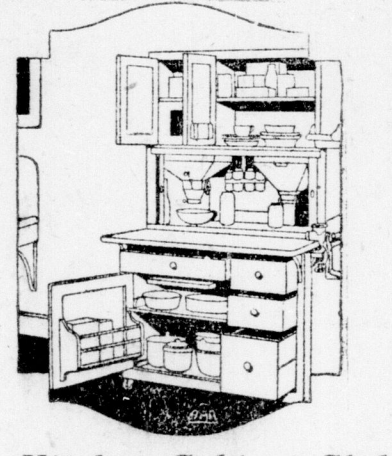
Upholstered Reed Rocker \$14.95

Brown Reed Rockers, upholstered in cretonnes, soft cushion seats. Only nine to clear at this very special price.



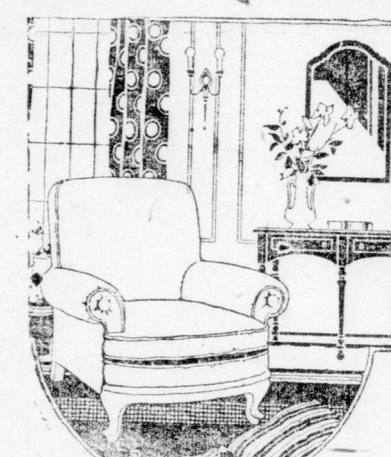
Our "Apollo" Felt Mattress \$12.95

This Mattress is genuine cotton felt all through, covered in art ticking, stitched rolled edge, handles on the side. Worth \$16.00.



Kitchen Cabinet Club

During our February sale all Cabinets are especially reduced, and in addition we are offering the Special Club Terms of \$1.00 Cash and \$1.00 Weekly.



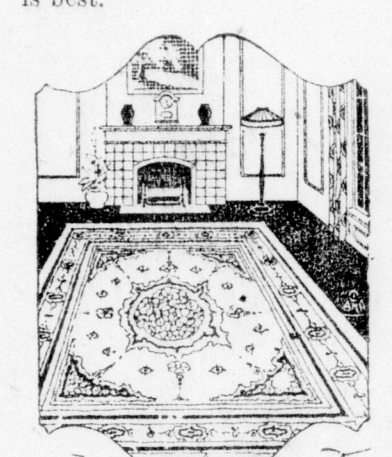
Slashing Reductions On Slusher Chairs and Rockers

Reductions of 20 to 35 Per Cent. Chairs and Rockers, \$15 to \$85. Chesterfields from . \$75 to \$175



1-3 Off Comforters

Every Comforter in stock is reduced one-third. They range in price from \$3.50 to \$25.00. Come early while the selection is best.



Save Money On Rugs Now

Every Rug in our stock without exception is included in this sale at reductions of from 10 to 25 per cent. Now is the time to put a new rug in your home, for the rug market is so uncertain that we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to offer such a large selection.

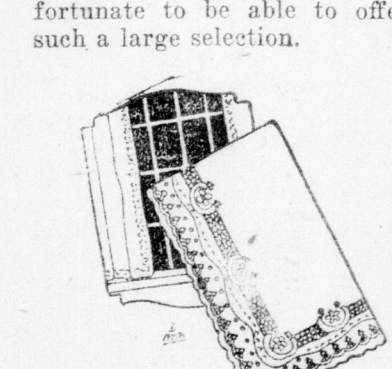
Folding Davenport

Buying one of these Davenports is just like adding an extra bedroom to your house. A beautiful davenport by day—a bed by night. Get yours during our February sale.

WHITE Sewing Machines

Special Prices and Terms for February.

If you need a machine, come in and let us show you the latest models and quote you our February sale prices and explain our club terms.



25 Per Cent Off Draperies

Everything in this department has been slashed. All Curtains, Draperies, etc., without exception, have been placed on sale. If you intend buying anything new in this department next spring, it will pay you to buy now instead.

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