

## To-Day's Messages.

11.30 A.M.

### HALIFAX ELECTION POSTPONED.

OTTAWA, To-day. The Halifax election has been postponed under authority of the War Measures Act. The date on which polling will be held has not yet been determined, but January 28th is a likely date.

### PROBABLY ALL LIES.

BERLIN, To-day. (Official). In reply to the statement of British Foreign Secretary Balfour in the Commons on Tuesday that Great Britain in September had received through diplomatic channels a communication to the effect that Germany would be glad to get in touch with Great Britain in regard to peace, there was issued today a statement as follows:—At the beginning of September the German Government through the medium of a neutral government received an inquiry relating to Germany's war aims. The communication of the Neutral Government was couched in such form that, according to international usages, it might be supposed with certainty that the neutral inquiry was made with the knowledge and sanction of the British Government. Moreover, the circumstances under which the inquiry was made allowed the conclusion to be drawn with the greatest probability that the British Cabinet has been informed of the step and that it had been sanctioned by at least the most important of its Allies. The German Government was ready in principle to answer the inquiry and to do this two courses were open, an indirect or a direct reply. There was a decided objection against a direct reply through the medium of neutrals, as the medium might constitute a one-sided restriction of German policy without any guarantee in regard to the opponent's attitude, that being so indirect. A verbal reply through the intermediary appeared to be the most opportune course to follow. However, forced the conviction on the German Government that on the part of our opponents nothing was being done to facilitate such a direct reply to the inquiry. Regarding the utterance of Great Britain mentioned by Foreign Secretary Balfour about its readiness to receive any communication from the German Government, the first news of this reached the German Government only in Balfour's statement in the Commons. A further step in this affair was not made on the German side.

### WHY GERMANY IS MAKING AN EFFORT.

LONDON, To-day. Premier Lloyd George, who was speaking at a dinner of the Grey's Inn Benchers, said, "If this is the moment, it is because Russia has stepped out and America is only preparing to come in. Every hour that passes will see the gap formed by the retirement of the Russians filled by the valiant sons of the Great Republic. Germany knows it, hence the desperate effort that they are making to force the issue before America is ready."

### ONLY ARTILLERY BUSY.

PARIS, To-day. Statement issued to-night by the War Office reads: On the Western Front a moderate artillery activity was reported to-day. There was no infantry activity.

### STORMS ISOLATE B. C.

WINNIPEG, To-day. British Columbia is isolated to-day from the outside world so far as land line telegraph communication is concerned. Sleet storms of unusual violence, both in the mountains and between Vancouver and Seattle, brought down many miles of telegraph poles. All the telegraph companies are affected and it may be some days before regular communications are restored.

### LOYD GEORGE SPEAKS TO THE POINT.

LONDON, To-day. "That steady progress towards the desired goal is being made by the Allies despite some untoward occurrences." Because of this fact, the Premier said, he would regard peace overtures to Prussia at the moment that his military spirit was drunk with boastfulness as a betrayal of trust of himself and his colleagues. The Premier's words were, "Because I am firmly convinced that despite untoward events, despite discouraging appearances, we are making steady progress toward the goal, I would regard peace overtures to Prussia at the very moment the Prussian military spirit is drunk with boastfulness as a betrayal of the great trust with which my colleagues and myself have been charged." If Russia persists in her present policy, he pointed out, the withdrawal by the enemy from the east of a third of his troops must release hundreds of thousands of men and masses of material to attack Great Britain, France and Italy. "It would be folly," he added, to underestimate the danger, an equal folly to exaggerate it. The greatest folly of all not to face it. The Russian democracy has decided to abandon the struggle against military autocracy. The American democracy is taking up Germany's victories were emphasized to the world, the Premier said, but her troubles did not appear in the bulletins. Something was known of them, however. The deadly grip of the British Navy was having its effects, and the valor of her troops was making an impression which would tell in the end. He said that those who during the past fortnight were organizing a nervous breakdown in the nation were the same as those who recently were organizing an hysterical shout over the Flanders victories. Lloyd George said he was glad to understand that Lord Lansdowne was in agreement with President Wilson. I also, declared the Premier, agree with the President and do not desire to force a controversy

where none exists. I warn the nation to watch the men who think there is a halfway house between victory and defeat, the Premier admonished. These are the men who think you can end the war now by some sort of what they call peace, by setting up a league of nations. That is the right policy after victory, without victory it would be a farce. Continuing his discussion of a league of nations, Lloyd George said it could not be had as a negotiated peace at this time. It is idle to talk of security to be won by such feeble means. He asserted, there is no security in any land without the certainty of punishment. There is no protection in a state where the criminal is more powerful than the law. To end the war entered upon, to enforce a treaty without preparation for the infringement of that treaty, merely by entering into a new and more sweeping and comprehensive treaty would be a farce in a setting of tragedy. Victory, declared the Premier, would be a question of tonnage. Germany was gambling upon America's failure to transport her army to Europe. The future of the world depended upon the efforts which Great Britain and America made to increase their output of ships next year, he declared. Food imports next year, he said, in this connection must be reduced by three million tons by increased home production and economy. Premier Lloyd George said that a call must be made on the nation for great sacrifices and more fighting men will be needed until the American forces arrive to offset the burden that has been cast on the Allies by the defection of Russia and the reverses of Italy. The Allies now must defend all the fronts against the enemy and have a reliable army for any point of emergency. The Premier added that the Allies had a superiority in man power.

### FALSE STORY OF EXECUTION OF WOMAN SPY.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The persistent repetition of a story that a woman spy had been executed in the United States has caused the State Department to send an official denial to American Consuls and Legation Chiefs in European and neutral countries. The story originated in Germany. Its widespread use is regarded as another instance of her propaganda. The name of the woman was given as Anna Britains. Ordinarily no attention would have been paid to a story so false, but in this case credence appeared to have been given to it in neutral countries.

### BLIZZARD STOPS COAL MINING.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., To-day. Fifteen thousand miners in Shamokin Anthracite District were idle to-day and not a pound of coal will be shipped, as a result of a blizzard. Railroad sidings into the collieries are blocked with snow drifts.

### LARGE ATTACKS MAKE TRIFLING GAIN.

ROME, To-day. Attacking all day on the line between the Brenta and Piave the enemy was only able to make insignificant gain yesterday at one point and this at an immense sacrifice, the war office announced to-day. The almost negligible ground was gained by the enemy north of the line of Monte Colarolo and at the head of the Calcin Valley.

### PRINCE OF WALES SENDS SYMPATHY.

OTTAWA, To-day. His Excellency the Governor General received the following cablegram from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for the Mayor and people of Halifax: "With the British Army in Italy: My thoughts are with you in the overwhelming disaster which has befallen your city, and I sympathize deeply with all sufferers. (Sgd.) Edward."

### SUNK IN COLLISION.

LONDON, To-day. The steamer Kurland has been sunk in a collision, according to an announcement made by Lloyds. According to available shipping records there are three steamers named Kurland, one a Belgian and two Russians. The steamer Kurland, 1,964 tons, arrived in an American port on Nov. 10th. The Russian steamers named Kurland are of 886 and 612 tons respectively.

### N. S. MEN NOT YET TO BE CALLED UP.

OTTAWA, To-day. It is announced by Sir Robert Borden that the Military Service Council has acquiesced in his suggestion that, in view of the Halifax disaster and the distress and confusion resulting therefrom, the calling up under the Military Service Act of men from the towns of Nova Scotia should be temporarily postponed. Men of that province will therefore not be included when the first draft is ordered to report on the third of January, 1918. The men still to be called up shortly thereafter, whether independently or as part of the second draft.

### CUBA AT WAR WITH AUSTRIA.

HAVANA, To-day. The Senate this afternoon unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that a state of war between Cuba and Austria-Hungary exists. The resolution was the same as that passed by the House on Wednesday.

### GERMANS MAKE SMALL GAINS ON YPRES FRONT.

LONDON, To-day. The Germans succeeded in entering the British first line trenches on a front of about 300 yards at one point on the Ypres front in Flanders, to-night's official statement said. The enemy's infantry attacks were repulsed elsewhere on that sector. On the Cambrai front, hostile artillery developed great activity east of Bullecourt. The text of the communication follows: There was local fighting this morning southeast of Polyzon Wood, where shortly after dawn the enemy attacked our positions in the neighborhood of Forderhook Chateau. The attack was repulsed, except at one point where the enemy succeeded in entering our front line trench on a

front of about 300 yards. Hostile artillery developed great activity this afternoon east of Bullecourt. There also has been considerable artillery activity on both sides during the day between the Scarpe Valley and Gavrelle.

1.00 P. M.

### GREAT SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM.

NEW YORK, To-day. Contracts have been let by the Federal Shipping Board for 4,000 ships with a net dead weight carrying capacity weight of a million tons. Raymond P. Stevens, Vice-Chairman of the Board, told the members of the Academy of Political Science at the opening of their 38th annual meeting here to-day. He thought that at least six million tons would be available next year.

### NEWFOUNDLANDERS IN HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, To-day. Scores of Newfoundland people who suffered in the recent disaster called upon Hon. J. R. Bennett to-night at the emergency shelter hospital. He will be there again to-morrow night. During the day he visited the hospitals and other places of refuge and found many Newfoundland people. Bennett is sending to their relatives in Newfoundland telegrams regarding those in whom they are interested.

### FEW FOOD SHIPS LOST.

LONDON, To-day. The percentage of ships carrying wheat to this country that were lost during the two months of September and October was two per cent, Sir Leo G. Chiozza Money, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, announced to-day in reply to a Parliamentary inquiry. Of the cargoes homeward bound during the same two months to the United Kingdom, whether British or other vessels, the percentage lost was three, and of this loss only one per cent was represented by food. Only about one-eighth of the British tonnage actually sunk in September and October consisted of ships carrying food. More than one-third of the ships carried coal, the remainder being laden with miscellaneous commodities or sailing from home ports in ballast.

### SUPREME NAVAL COUNCIL.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The creation of an Allied Naval Council to co-ordinate the naval operations of all the nations at war with the Central Powers was announced to-night in a cablegram to the Navy Department from Admiral Benett at Paris. The members of the Council, established in accordance with the plans of the inter-Allied Conference, will report to their respective Governments with recommendations for action. The Council will be composed of the Minister of Marine and the Chief of Naval Staff of each country. In the case of the United States, Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson. As the meetings must be held in Europe, the officers designated by the Governments will represent the members from both the United States and Japan.

### Assault Case.

Don't Use Your Boot When Fighting. A man named Dave, of Upper Gerties, was summoned to court to-day by a man named Morgan, charged with seriously assaulting him. Morgan claimed he was kicked in a vital portion of the body necessitating his removal to hospital from which he was discharged only a few days ago. Dave pleaded not guilty. It appears that on November 23rd last Morgan visited Dave's house, as both were life-long friends and never bore any animus to one another. Dave was in his cellar when Morgan introduced the question of farming abilities and earning powers. A heated argument followed and Morgan said, which was not disclosed in evidence, that aroused the ire of Dave, who remarked "that contrariness" and told his neighbor to get out. The altercation ended in a fight. Morgan, a man of robust physique, delivered a terrific blow in the face to Dave, who, a weakling and asthmatic, was soon overpowered, and catching hold of his fence at the same time put out the sole of his boot to keep off his opponent. On summing up the evidence of a number of witnesses, Judge Morris intimated that he felt certain Dave did not deliberately kick with intent to do grievous bodily harm, but rather held out his foot in self defence. However, as a warning to others not to use their boot when fighting, he imposed a fine of \$10 on the defendant and costs, which were heavy.

### N. I. W. A.

A general meeting of workers under the auspices of the N.I.W.A. was held last night in the J.S.P.U. Hall. The first matter taken up was the strike of the express-drivers of the N.I.W.A. Express Co. These men handle valuable packages and money, and are expected to be honest on forty-five dollars a month. The spokesman, an official of the Association, it was claimed, was dismissed in an insulting manner. The Executive will take up the matter with the President of the R. N. Co. Volunteers responded to the call for men to take around petitions. Every Tuesday night the petition committee will meet the Executive. It is believed that a monster petition will result. The petition deals with an eight hour day, a minimum wage for all classes of wage earners, child labour law, a labor department and that public franchises be kept for the public where the same would be to the advantage of the people.

REV. (CAPT.) NANGLE WIVES. — Rt. Rev. Mons. McDermott received a message last evening from Rev. (Capt.) Nangle, C.F., expressing sympathy with the parents of Lieut. John Edens, fearing that the gallant young officer and soldier had been wounded fatally. However, hope is still entertained that he is alive and definite news concerning him is now anxiously awaited.

# XMAS GIFTS for MEN!

This Season's Display is the Most Attractive and Distinctive Ever Shown by

## SMYTH'S

We are especially catering to the PRACTICAL and CRITICAL YOUNG MAN with an ECONOMIC TURN OF MIND. Not economical as regards price, mark you! But forget the price—think of the values. Our policy is to supply goods of undoubted smartness at the lowest possible margin of profit. Here is what we offer:—



### NECKWEAR.

The kind of Ties that you will only see displayed in first-class Continental and American stores. These were designed by experts in the world's best silk looms. The silk is weighty and colouring regarding Prices: 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50.



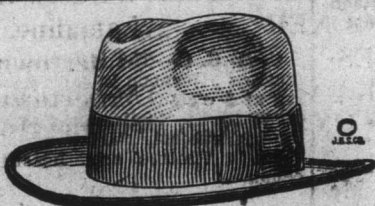
### MUFFERS.

Silk Muffers, White or Coloured, Plain and Striped, hanging from \$2.50 to \$12.50. In fact, any good Tie or Muffer you may have set your heart upon, we have it.



### GLOVES.

Our Glove department is absolutely complete. Here are a few of the lines we handle, all in the very best makes: We have Silk Gloves in Grey and Tan; Chamis washable, unlined; Brown and Grey Suede, lined and unlined; and real Beaver gloves, which are next to impossible to obtain in any shops in the world—but yet, we have them. We also have a complete range of all-wool gloves in the celebrated Jaeger and Den's makes.



### HATS.

A good Hat is always a welcome Xmas gift. Why not give him an order on us for one? We stock only Christy's, Stetson's and other high class brands.



### PIJAMAS.

Or then, again, if you come to us we might suggest Pijamas. We have them in Cotton, Mercerised Ceylon, Flannel, and all-wool Jaeger brand. Sizes, viz. 36 to 48.



### CAPS.

Our Winter Caps are just a little different from these sold elsewhere, and are a very necessary adjunct to a man's wardrobe. Here, again, we score in being able to fit any size from 6 1/2 to 7 1/2.



### SHIRTS.

Our Shirts are rich, modish and of the highest quality. Here you have shirtcraft that defies rivalry in appearance and wear. They are the embodiment of the highest art in shirt production. Our size range is complete, viz. 14 to 18.



### HOSTERY.

Quality Hosiery attracts quality buyers. We stock the Jaeger all-wool and Holeproof. We also have a line of Ladies' Silk Hosiery in all shades. Don't forget this, boys!



He may be a curlier. If so, a Jaeger Fancy Vest or Sweater Coat will surely please him.



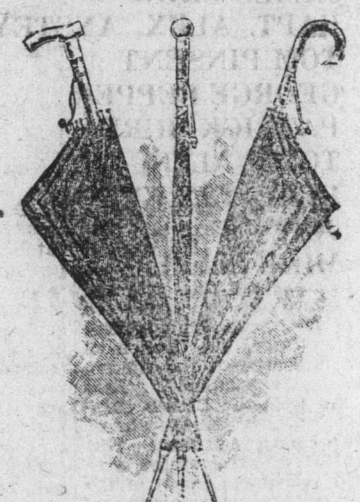
Or, if he is a stay-at-home, we have just the ideal gift for him: A pair of Jaeger Slippers, the most comfortable in the world for at home wear.



### JAEGER



A Smoking Jacket or a Lounging Robe of silk or wool. We have both kinds.



Silk Umbrellas are difficult to obtain just now, but we are showing a very attractive line.



A half-dozen of his favourite Collars in one of our Novelty Collar Boxes of genuine leather would be top-hole as a Xmas gift.

Linen or Silk Handkerchiefs are most useful at all times. We box them nicely for you.

And to close, we have all accessories for evening dress wear. In fact, to sum it all up,

WE ARE ST. JOHN'S HEADQUARTERS FOR STYLE AND QUALITY

# Smyth's

ESTABLISHED 1875