

PREMIERS' CHEERFUL MESSAGE

Provincial Government Leaders Are All Very Optimistic.

"Business As Usual" is Motto All Give Out.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—A note of confidence and optimism and of linked arms with other units of the British Empire, is struck in the annual messages of Canada's provincial premiers...

VOICE FROM QUEBEC

Sir Lomer Gouin states that Quebec province is fortunate in the fact that so large and important an element of its population is dependent alone for its prosperity upon the products of the soil and of the dairy industry...

MANITOBA HEARD

Sir Rodmond Roblin, premier of Manitoba, says that never was so large an acreage prepared for spring time, nor ever was it so thoroughly done as in 1914.

SASKATCHEWAN NOTE

The people of Saskatchewan, says Hon. Walter Scott, premier, have been heart and soul in pocket with the British in the policy and conduct of the terrible war, eager to make all and any sacrifices to help maintain British arms, principles and institutions.

Obvious

Graph—Gertie—I wish you did not stand on trifles. Sing at her feet—No, dear, it's

(Continued on Page 3)

BENGAL LANGERS TEARING A PATH THROUGH LINES OF GERMAN INFANTRY.



In describing this scene, drawn by Christopher Clark, a special artist for this newspaper, the New York Herald and the London Sphere, a writer in the London Daily Telegraph said:—The German plan seemed to be to break the British line at the point where they guessed the British to be most exhausted.

DEFEAT OF AUSTRIANS IN GALICIA IS AN EVENT THAT WILL HELP TO DECIDE WAR

Vienna Reports Confirm Petrograd's Official News --Austrians Are Demoralized--Germans are on Offensive Only Along Pilica River.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A London cable to The Herald says: The most important and probably the most far-reaching event in the recent history of the war is the overwhelming defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and the complete collapse of the military authorities here.

All messages from Petrograd show a confident belief that, with the Austrian defeat and the retirement of the Germans across the Bzura River, west of Warsaw, the turning point has been reached in the battles along the Polish rivers.

ARE DEMORALIZED

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd: "There are sanguine persons who believe this the last time the Austrian army will be able to rebound, as it has already used up all its material for recuperation."

SIX MEN'S BRAVERY RESULTED IN CAPTURE OF ST. GEORGE'S TOWN

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 31.—How the heroic self-sacrifice of six French bluejackets made possible the capture of St. Georges, a town less than two miles from Nieuport, is described by The Matin's war correspondent in Flanders.

The attackers had driven the Germans from the advance trenches, but taking refuge in the houses in the village, the Germans soon placed their assaults in a difficult position. The situation of a force of Belgians isolated on a strip of land surrounded by a flood became critical and the artillery alone was able to effect anything against the enemy.

CASUALTIES COME NEARER HOME

The official casualty list for the Indian army published this morning in the wounded list the name of a distinguished officer of the 48th Sikhs, Major van Someren, a nephew of Mr. A. P. van Someren, 181 St. Paul's Ave.

JAP TROOPS NOT IN RUSSIA, DENIAL MADE

There is Strong Agitation in Favor of Sending Army to Europe

[By Special Wire to the Courier] TOKIO, Dec. 31, 4:30 p.m.—In its denial of reports that Japanese troops had been landed at Vladivostok, or any other place, en route to Europe, the Foreign Office included this statement: "Japan has not been approached by Great Britain or any other country to send an army to Europe."

It is learned from other sources here that France, and probably Russia, are favorable to the project of sending Japanese troops to Europe, but that England hesitates to ask for the matter, it is stated, could be arranged, but the economic and political questions involved are difficult.

Meanwhile frequent meetings are called in Tokio by partisans of the project to awaken public enthusiasm in this direction, and there is an active discussion in the newspapers supporting the plan to despatch volunteers.

Don't blame the war. Look nearer home. A snowstorm of worthless paper and the antics of a German crank do not affect the ultimate possibilities and prospects of a young, energetic country rich in natural resources.

TURKEY HAS FALLEN IN GERMAN TRAP—REASSURES FOR ENTRY INTO THE WAR

Ruin of Country is Predicted and Some Very Hard Thinking is Being Done—Bribery Played Important Part in Negotiations.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Daily Mail publishes the following written by an Englishman, who has returned from Constantinople: "The Turk—and even the German in Turkey—has been made to think, and to think hard by events which culminated in the sinking of a Turkish battleship by our submarine in the Dardanelles. These events have been: "1.—The raking of the Goeben by the Russians, though a week-end Constantinople telegram via Berlin and Amsterdam says it was the Goeben attacked Batu.

"2.—The complete defeat and surrender of the Turks in the Taurus. "3.—The refusal of the Persians to abandon neutrality. "4.—The failure of the Arabs, who have rebelled against the Porte so often, to rise against the English. "5.—Embroidery of Italy by the holy war preaching in Tripoli. "6.—The sinking of a battleship in the Turkish straits, where their losses will come from the safe waters of the Dardanelles. And even the German general Liman von Sanders admits that Egypt is a hard nut to crack. "Why then did Turkey go to war? "The writer of the following favors an important official position and knows Turkish affairs intimately. "Turkey is really surprised to find herself in her present position. The Sultan frequently asserted that he would never sign a declaration of war against France or England, but he and his ministers yielded to force majeure; in other words, to the ever ready pistol of Enver Pasha, minister of war. The latter has been in company with General Liman von Sanders, virtually dictator of Turkey for some months past. Djemal Pasha, minister of marine, furious at the loss of the Sultan Osman and the Reichadieh, and perhaps not unnaturally so, threw in his lot with them. Djavid, minister of finance, followed suit when he found that Germany was ready to support him with a few millions of pounds. Talaat, minister of the interior, joined in because he did not see how he could stay out, and the rest of the backboneless ministry followed in his train. "Turkey believes that she will regain Egypt, and once for all free herself from the Russian menace. At the same time, her more intelligent men do not understand a quarrel with France and England, and they wonder where their loans will come from in the near future, and, in the event of defeat, who will intervene in their favor."

OFFICIAL FRENCH NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 31.—The official statement given out by the French war office this afternoon follows: "From the sea as far as the Aisne yesterday passed with relative calm. There were artillery exchanges on some points of the front. In Champagne, to the west of the Alger farm, which is north of Silery, in the sector of Rheims, the enemy during the night blew up two of our trenches and then delivered against these positions an attack which our men repulsed. "To the north of Meaulx-Les-Hurlus, we occupied certain positions on the enemy's second line of defence. In this same region, at a point to the north of the farm of Beausjors, we also occupied some trenches. The enemy delivered a counter attack, but he was driven back. We then resumed the offensive and we were successful in gaining some more new ground. "In this same zone and further to

the east, certain German forces which were advancing to deliver a counter attack against us, were brought under the fire of our artillery and dispersed. "In the Argonne, in the vicinity of Fontaine Madame, we exploded a mine and occupied the resultant excavation; this gave us a slight advance. "Between the Meuse and Moselle, in the region of the forest of Mrotmart, about 150 yards of German trenches fell into our hands. "In Upper Alsace, French troops have entered the village of Steinbach and have occupied with houses to house fighting, one half of the community. "A BRITISH PRISONER SENTENCED TO DEATH COPENHAGEN, Dec. 31.—A Berlin private cable says that the German Supreme War Tribunal has sentenced a British war prisoner, Londale, to death for assaulting, it is stated, a German officer at the Dobritz concentration camp. Londale, in the first instance was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, but the military authorities' appeal for a sentence of capital punishment has been successful. Londale, it is admitted, did not hurt the officer, and the prison guard beat him off.

It is Not Thought That Allies Will Continue Their Advance.

Too Costly Now When all the Results Are Considered.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 31.—12:30 p.m.—There are increasing indications, in the opinion of British observers, of events on the continent that a serious allied offensive movement against the whole German line in the western arena of the war will be postponed until such time as larger contingents of Lord Kitchener's new army take the field.

THE GERMAN LINE

The turn of events in the eastern theatre of hostilities, where Russia appears to be more than holding her own, necessitates nevertheless continued hard pressure against the German lines in the west on present lines from moving any more of their troops to the eastern front. "In the west the town of La Bassée, still held by the Germans, is proving to be a very laborious subject for allied forces here to capture. The invaders have thrown up exceptionally strong earthworks around La Bassée and they have two army corps quartered in the city. To be in this stronghold by direct assault, would mean a terrible loss of life, but its taking is essential any concerted move forward in order to afford protection to the communications of the allies. "All the news reaching London from the eastern field tends to confirm the rout of the forces of Austria, which now appear to be endeavoring to make their way laboriously back over the Carpathians. There are indications in London that the entire continental political situation, which involves Greece, Italy, Roumania and Portugal, is developing day by day. Even the participation in the war of at least some of these states soon will become a reality. This is the view of certain of the British commentators on the situation. Among the factors contributing to this situation is Italy's occupation of Avlona and the reported racial unrest in Austria-Hungary, where the Rumanian subjects of Emperor Francis Joseph are said to be on the point of rebellion, as well as Germany's continued aggressions in Angola, the Portuguese possession in Western Africa. "The German air raid on the channel port of Dunkirk, in France, gives basis for the belief that visits of this kind will be more frequent from now on. It would appear that the British raid on Cuxhaven aroused in the Germans a spirit of retaliation. England, judging from the expressions appearing in the newspapers, is just as anxious to deliver blow for blow in this respect.

Hot Election at Grand View

A really rousing old time meeting was held in the Grand View School room last night when T. W. Wedd was returned as Lieutenant Colonel Muir presided before a well packed hall and enthusiasm which was at loose, knew no bounds. The popularity of Tom Wood was fully testified. It was easily seen that his opponent, William Eastcott, the late representative, would stand little chance against him. The feeling was general and so great was the publication when his return was announced, that figures were forgotten. Cheer after cheer rent the air in honor of the successful candidate, and the scenes will not be paralleled in the school house for many a day. A lengthy discussion took place on the question of a Catholic teacher employed at the Grand View School and opinion was very evenly divided. The teacher, to some extent, was favored because of her excellent qualifications, while others felt that she should not be teaching at Protestant school. It is said to be likely that she will resign at the end of the term, which will commence on Monday next. The meeting closed after this discussion.