

NEWS TOPICS OF WEEK

Important Events Which Have Occurred During the Week.

The Busy World's Happenings Carefully Compiled and Put Into Handy and Attractive Shape for the Readers of Our Paper — A Solid Hour's Enjoyment.

TUESDAY.

The Germans were driven back on the Russian west front.

Enlistments in Canada to the end of last week totalled 381,438.

The relations between the United States and Turkey are seriously strained.

The London food rules will apply to Canadian troops when in the metropolis.

Barrie Collegiate Institute, valued at \$100,000, was destroyed by fire last night.

Vessels which had been abandoned are bringing good prices owing to the demands of shipping.

The Toronto City Council decided to discontinue heavy expenditures on public works during the war.

Thomas P. Kenny, Toronto, an employee of Canadian Stewart Limited, died from injuries received when he was crushed under a load of pipes.

A move to lessen the business of Montreal and other houses sending liquor into Ontario is expected, as the Ontario License Board has the matter under inquiry.

The Military Hospitals Commission has arranged for the accommodation of 1,600 more invalided soldiers at various centres throughout Canada, besides the 2,615 already there.

The Toronto City Council decided to apply for legislation permitting the city to spend \$150,000 upon institutions for the care of the feeble-minded and also to locate them upon the farm property in York county.

Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, attributes the high cost of butter to the army demand for cheese, and thinks it is not yet time for the Government to fix maximum prices on canned goods or other articles.

Tancred Pagnuelo, late Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 26th Battalion, was cashiered from the Canadian militia and stripped of his long service decoration and sentenced to six months in jail, as a result of the recent court-martial.

WEDNESDAY.

Two more Canadian soldiers have escaped from German prison camps.

Russia has instituted reprisal for starting of her officers in German camps.

The Lewis machine gun was rejected by the United States War Department.

The United States Government has protested to Turkey against the starting of British prisoners.

Toronto teachers passed a resolution against the transfer of medical inspection in the schools to the Department of Public Health.

Hon. Joseph Ryan, Judge of the County Court for the Central Judicial District of Manitoba, retired after a service of more than thirty years.

Stamford Township Council began the year with an overdraft of \$8,840, and closes with a surplus of \$10,353, without seriously curtailing expenditures.

The Toronto Local Council of Women fixed a price of 35 cents for turkey for the Christmas trade, and asked affiliated societies to co-operate in this move.

Waterloo County Council passed the by-law drawn up by the recruiting leagues of the county, providing for dependents of unmarried soldiers who are killed or die through the war.

The Intercolonial Railway's freight and passenger earnings this year show large increases, due partly to war business and partly to good business conditions generally in the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, has taken up the case of a retail grocer to whom a western Ontario retailer is alleged to have refused to sell sugar because the retailer lowered the price.

Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, retired from the Ontario Cabinet and was succeeded by Mr. W. D. McPherson, K.C., M.P.P. Dr. G. C. Creelman of the Guelph Agricultural College was made Commissioner of Agriculture.

THURSDAY.

Russian troops gained a notable success near Stanislaw.

The Austrian artillery was very active against the Italian positions.

The tax on excess profits yielded the British Government \$73,999,000.

Thousands of children of soldiers received gifts at Massey Hall, Toronto.

Turkey is holding several Americans so as to preserve military secrets.

Professor Creelman accepts the post of Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario.

The contributions to the British Red Cross campaign in Ontario now amount to \$1,657,000.

President Wilson made an appeal to the fighting countries to get together and advance terms of peace.

The Red Cross Society at Galt gave a grant of \$10,000 to aid the St. Dunstan Hostel for the Blind in London.

Brantford Council decided for mechanical filtration of the water supply, and created the position of City Auditor.

Shoppers bored through the floor to get at \$200 in the vault of the store of Mr. R. A. Sevigny, tailor, in Toronto.

Three pilots from the Long Branch Aviation School will make a peaceful air raid on Toronto as a demonstration of their ability.

S. A. Armstrong, Assistant Provincial Secretary of Ontario, has been appointed Director of the Military Hospitals Commission.

Hon. W. D. McPherson, K.C., the

new Provincial Secretary, spent a busy day at the Parliament Buildings after taking his office chair for the first time.

Thomas White, an old man of 63, was arrested charged with stealing money from the Christmas mails in Toronto. He was a trusted post-office mechanic.

Wholesalers stated that the boycott of turkey at more than 25 cents a pound ordered by the Local Council of Women should have come before the farmers got their money.

Ald. Geo. D. Kerby, of Sarnia, 69 years of age, died suddenly while decorating his home for Christmas; he is the fifth member of Sarnia Council to pass away suddenly during the year.

The Hydro-radial question was vigorously discussed at St. Catharines before a large audience by a number of opponents and by Mayor Burgoyne, Engineer F. A. Gaby, and Sir Adam Beck for the project.

Fire caused by an oil lamp in a canvas-covered sleigh in which fifteen persons were driving in 40-below-zero weather near Emerson, Man., caused the death of one child and probably fatal injuries to three others.

The Cunard Line announce the appointment of Mr. William Phillips as their Canadian representative in the office of the Robert Rorford Company, Montreal, general agents for Canada. Mr. Phillips was born in Toronto January 31, 1870, and has had an extensive experience in railway and steamship business.

FRIDAY.

Reports are received of a strong anti-war agitation in Austria.

The Toronto Street Railway Company raised the wages of all employees for a Christmas present.

Over \$2,500,000 was raised at a mass meeting in New York city for the Jewish war sufferers.

Baron Hubert Julius de Reuter was killed in action while serving as a private in the Black Watch.

Herbert Godfrey, convicted of theft in Toronto, preferred prison to joining the army when the choice was offered to him.

Miss Isabella Macdonnell, a member of one of Ontario's leading Roman Catholic families, died in Toronto after a lingering illness.

A new note from the Allies to the Greek Government orders the release of the Venizelists and the surrender of the national telegraphs.

A new branch of the Maple Leaf Club for the accommodation of Canadian soldiers on leave in London was opened by the Duke of Connaught.

Cecil Caldwell of Toronto took a diamond ring from the home of an intimate friend. He called the act a joke, but the magistrate sent him to jail for four days.

Mr. Edward Gillis, who played a prominent part in the organization of the Toronto Home Guard two years ago, died yesterday after an illness of five days.

To meet the requirements of the winter campaign the London War Contingent Association has already despatched 81,000 pairs of socks to Canadians at the front.

General von Bissing, German Governor-General of Belgium, is reported dangerously ill of pneumonia. He has been temporarily replaced at Brussels as Governor-General pending his recovery.

The engagement of Miss Elizabeth Asquith, youngest daughter of the former Premier of Great Britain, to Hugh Gibson, First Secretary of the American Embassy in London, will shortly be announced.

Claude Grahame White, one of England's first aviators, has married Ethel Levy, divorced wife of George M. Cohan, the American actor, dramatist, and theatrical producer. Grahame White is now in the Royal Flying Corps.

The bill sanctioning the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States, passed the Landthing today, the minority being a part of the Conservative party, which displayed great bitterness over the Government policy.

A Syria special dated the 20th says the situation at Athens is very obscure. The city is stagnant and the population is worried, and uncertain and bellicose by turns. The allied Ministers are still afloat at the Piræus, and the blockade is beginning to have its effect, but is not very visible.

In order to supply additional power to three of Kitchener's largest industries next year the Light Commission has given instructions for the purchase of three 500 kilowatt transformers for early delivery. Peak load for November was reported to be a record-breaker, having reached 3,476 horse-power.

SATURDAY.

Mayor Church of Toronto was re-elected by acclamation.

The British Parliament was prorogued until February 7.

British troops captured the town of El Arish, sixty miles east of the Suez Canal.

Whitchurch township and Mimico village councils were returned by acclamation.

Guelph Radial Railway Board declared an annual dividend of 4½ per cent., amounting to \$7,680.39.

Petrolia Town Council pledged co-operation in national service registration, but called for compulsion.

Leslie Reed, a young C. P. R. engineer, fell out of the cab of his engine near Poplar Point and was killed.

New military hospitals are to be opened in the North Toronto Salvation Army training school and in the new Whitby asylum.

Canadian homesteads in the west will hereafter be available only for British subjects and citizens of allied or neutral countries.

Retail coal dealers wired to Sir Harry Drayton asking for immediate relief for the coal congestion at the border or for the appointment of a commission to operate the Ontario lines of the G. T. R.

The western Provinces have been asked to relieve the Royal Northwest Mounted Police of Provincial police duties, so that the force may be free to enforce Federal ordinances and do war duty.

LEAPS IN THE DARK.

Why the Broncho Jumped in His Wild Race at Midnight.

A former herdsman relates a thrilling personal experience connected with a stampede of cattle. He was taking a herd of 400 steers to Leadville and had camped for the night on Bear river, near its junction with the Little Snake.

At midnight, when he went on guard, all was quiet, but in an hour or so, for some unexplained reason, the cattle were up and off like a flash. Something had stampeded them.

He was riding an old blue colored, fine backed California broncho, just the beast for the work. He had often ridden him a hundred miles a day. The night was dark and cloudy, and he had to rely on the animal's sure footedness as he strove to stay on the flanks of the steers and turn them until their scare should cease.

It was a wild race. Four or five times the broncho gave tremendous jumps, but landed right and went on in good shape. In the course of an hour or so the man had the beesves quieted.

When daylight came, being curious to learn what obstacles had occasioned these tremendous jumps of the broncho, the man set forth to look over the ground. Leaving the bottom land, the steers had ascended a gentle acclivity, and on the plateau at the top he had kept circling them.

The plateau was intersected by a canyon about four miles long and from 1,500 to 2,000 feet deep. Its walls inclined toward each other at the top, and the distance across was fifteen or twenty feet.

During the chase the broncho had jumped that frightful chasm four times. His hoof marks were plainly visible, and down in the debris, hundreds of feet below, were a dozen mangled steers that had been crowded off.

WHALING DAYS ARE OVER.

A Once Thriving Industry That Has Nearly Vanished.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution and for a period of seventy-five years following the conclusion of that struggle whaling was the most important branch of the American fisheries. From 500 to 700 vessels sought whales in all the oceans and seas of the world, and in one year New Bedford alone sent out 300 vessels, whose cargoes of bone and oil were the basis of the industrial life of the city.

The pursuit of sperm whales reached its climax in 1857, when oil valued at nearly \$4,500,000 was brought in, mostly from the south Pacific. The height of the industry was in 1846, when 70,000 persons derived their support from whales and 720 vessels, valued at \$21,000,000, were engaged.

For more than fifty years the fishery has been declining, and in numerous ports that once derived most of their wealth from the industry there have for a long time existed only memories of former greatness. For a number of years the sperm, right and bow head whales that supported the fishery in early years have been very scarce and their pursuit has been unprofitable, and the present importance of the whale fishery, amounting in value to less than 2 per cent of the American fisheries, depends on the taking from shore stations of species of whales that formerly were for the most part neglected.

The glory of the whale fishery has departed forever, and the commercial if not the biological extinction of all kinds of whales is proceeding rapidly, undeterred and unhampered by the principal maritime powers.—Hugh M. Smith in National Geographic Magazine.

Braided Rivers.

A river not confined to a single channel, but broken up into a number of channels, which in turn branch and unite in a complex and confusing manner, is called a braided stream. It is caused by the slight fall of the stream, which prevents it from carrying away all the sediment swept into it by its numerous tributaries.

This material chokes the stream and forces it to spread into many shallow and shifting channels, resembling the strands of a braid. A good example of this is Jefferson river, in Montana.

What Did He Say?

Oliver Wendell Holmes once told Professor Poulton he would never repeat to any one what Tennyson said to him when he entered his house. William James pressed him to do so with the assurance, "There are no reporters here." But Dr. Holmes replied, with emphasis: "I have said that I will never tell any one. It was not a thing that I should have supposed any man would say to a guest he had invited to his house."

Automobiles Break Windows.

When a heavy automobile runs over pebbles no larger than a pea a pebble may be caught just right by the edge of the wheel and shot with such a high velocity that a broken window is the result. One firm in New York has had three windows broken, all in the same frame.

Unfeeling.

"Oh, dear," exclaimed Mrs. Van Style, "I've simply got to have a new gown; and I can't decide what material to make it of."

"Why worry over a mere trifle like that?" asked her husband unfeelingly.

Between Girls.

"She says she wishes she could see herself as others see her."

"That's just an excuse for spending a lot of time in front of a mirror."—Kansas City Journal.

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