NEWS OF WORLD TOLD IN BRIEF

Some of Officers in First Contingent Will Return to Take Place in Second

K. OF K. DENIES INTERVIEW

War Secretary Says Irvin Cobb Was Granted No Special Statement.—Field Marshal French Justifies Churchill's Despatch of Naval Brigade.

Arrangements have been made at Salisbury Plains for a body of about two hundred surplus officers to sail for Canada next week, under Colonel Macpherson. It is understood that they will join the second contingent, which apparently has a shortage of officers. An officer of high rank impressed upon me the fact that this step in no way reflects upon the officers who are returning, all being able men

While the surplus Canadian officers were anxiously waiting for official news from Ottawa, they were notified that they could apply for temporary commissions in the British army, without separation allowances or even the Canadian rates of pay, failing which they were to hold themselves in readiness to return to their regiments in Canada at an early date. Some twenty will probably join Kitchener's army, but the rest prefer to return to Canada, provided there is any reasonable prospect of service in suitable appointments with the regiments now being organized.

Col. W. Grant Morden is paying a visit to Sir John French's headquarters in Northern France.

The Press Association announced last night that it had been officially informed with reference to an interview purporting to have been had by Irvin S. Cobb with Lord Kitchener, printed in the United States and cabled to London and published here to-day, "that the language is not that of Lord Kitchener and that His Lordship's official representative expresses surprise that it should have been regarded possible that Lord Kitchener used such expressions."

The Official Press Bureau to-night issued the following statement on the subject. "With reference to a so-called interview with Mr. Cobb, although Lord Kitchener saw Mr. Cobb for a few minutes on October 21, nothing in the nature of a special interview was granted, and the remarks attributed to the Secretary of State for War are imaginary."

Irvin S. Cobb made this statement last night in New York, regarding his interview with Lord Kitchener:

"By arrangement of a third person of prominence in England, I did see Lord Kitchener on October 21 for about 40 minutes. I used no pencil and paper during the conversation, following the custom of interviewers. I afterwards reproduced the conversation with Lord Kitchener as exactly as I could. I did not deliberately or wilfully misrepresent him and I am quite positive that I caught his meaning and as nearly as possible the text of what he said, and I am sure that I quoted him correctly. I have had some experience as an interviewer and I have a fairly good memory."

Field-Marshal Sir John French, in a despatch covering the report of General Archibald Paris, who commanded the British naval brigade at Antwerp, gives further testimony to the good effect the sending of that force to the assistance of the Belgians had on the Allies' campaign generally, and thus further supports the action of Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, who has been criticized for sending it. General French says:

"Although the results did not include the actual saving of the fortress, the action of the force under General Paris certainly delayed the enemy for a considerable time and assisted the Belgian army to be withdrawn in a condition to enable it to re-organize and regain its value as a fighting force."

Telegraphing from Johannesburg, Reuter's correspondent says:

"Pale and haggard, but calmly smoking his pipe, General Christian De Wet, the rebel leader, arrived here yesterday guarded by soldiers with fixed bayonets. He was taken through the streets, which were lined with the excited populace, and placed in the fort a prisoner, pending a probable court-martial.

"Whether he will be hanged as a traitor cannot yet be predicted. That some factions favor this, however, is indicated by the tone of the national press, which urges Government action against 'those beyond the scenes' who stimulated De Wet and other rebels to action. Those co-traitors, it is added, should be brought to the shadow of the gallows."

A despatch to the London Times from Copenhagen says:—

"The latest German casualty list contains the names of 13,721 officers and men killed, wounded and missing. This makes a total of 658,483, not including the previous Wurtemberg, Saxon and Bavarian lists.

"The Bavarians suffered heavily, according to the present list, with over 9,000 casualties out of the total. One regiment of 3,000 lost 1,600 men in Flanders, including three generals.

"An examination shows that the average Austrian and German loss daily during the last four months has been about 30,000 men."

Reports brought to Egypt by travellers from Palestine, make it clear that the Turks, instigated by the Germans, are playing havoc all over the country.

Their wrath seems to be particularly directed against the Russians, and Russian consuls in various towns are held as prisoners of war. The Russian dragoman at Beirut is also in prison, and those of the other allied nations are under strict supervision and not allowed to leave. The British and French in Jaffa and other places have, however, been permitted to depart.

The Turks have robbed two banks in Jerusalem, and the seizure of buildings belonging to the Allied nations continues.

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THE WOOD PILE.

By Peter McArthur.

Ekfrid, December 2nd.—Now that all kinds of farm work are at a standstill except the chores, the wood-pile takes the centre of the stage. But that is hardly exact. It is the need of a wood-pile that becomes important. Do my best, I can't get a permanent wood-pile. I have been trying for five years to get a wood-pile that could be pointed to with pride, but thus far without success. At one time I got up the energy to get enough timber together to give a day's work to a buzz-saw and a gang of men and for almost a year there was a respectable wood-pile in a wood-lot three-quarters of a mile away. But we never had anything but dribs and drabs of wood at the house. Whenever we ran short, I would haul home a jag, but though I made many plans I never found time to fetch home the whole lot and make a respectable pile. And in time that source of supply gave out and I was back to the job of hauling home pole and chopping them—or hiring someone else to chop them. I can get hay stacked ahead, and corn-stalks and grain in the granary, but the wood seems to beat me. The ravenous, insatiable all-consuming kitchen stove eats up my wood as fast as I can provide it. It never seems to be satisfied. It is as tireless as the interest on a mortgage. It uses wood at all seasons and at all hours of the day and night. I have made several brave attempts to get a pile of wood ahead, but the result could always be described by parodying Omar:

The pile of wood you set your heart upon
Turns ashes ere it seasons—and anon
Like snow upon the desert's dusty face,
Lighting a little hour or two, was gone.

As might be expected, Shakespeare did not overlook the dramatic possibilities of a wood-pile. Catch him missing anything so humanly important as that. You will remember that in the Tempest the harsh parent of the bride set the shipwrecked lover at work on the wood-pile—presumably to pay for his meals while he was about the cave. Andrew Long, in one of his essays comments on the cold island on which this great play was located and based his argument on the amount of wood that had to be carried by the afflicted characters. But I do not think his argument is sound. There are passages in the play in which the balminess of the island is extolled. In my opinion Shakespeare introduced the wood-pile incidents because he knew their exasperating nature. Mrs. Shakespeare had no doubt called his attention to the emptiness of the wood-box and the need of fetching an armful until his great soul had rebelled. Anyway, he knew all about wood-piles and the anguish of spirit they can cause. With what feeling have I quoted the words of the unhappy Ferdinand:

"I must remove,
Some thousands of these logs, and pile them up,
Upon a sore injunction."

There is more that might be apropriate, but it is so mixed up with sentimental gush that I do not care to quote more than I have. But Ferdinand's case had compensations that mine lacks. Miranda never comes around to me and says with a languishing accent,

"Alas, now, pray you,
Work not so hard I would the lightning had
Burnt up those logs that you are enjoined to pile."

That was all very charming for Ferdinand, but when I am at the wood-pile wrestling with a knot that makes me wonder whether I should use an old-fashioned maul and wedge, blasting powder, or bad language, to tear it apart, I am much more likely to hear a voice enquiring.

"Aren't you ever coming with that armful of wood?"

Like another character in Shakespeare,

"I am inland bred and love a great fire." One of the delights that lured me back to the land was the prospect of having old fashioned wood fires. I was raised before an open fire-place and most of my childish dreams were dreamed while gazing at the dancing flame sof the dying coals. But when I got back to the country the fire-places were gone and the wood mostly gone and the big strong men who used to chop wood for a dollar a day were all gone. Instead of the romantic open fire-place I found the prosaic kitchen stove, which has all the appetite of the fire-place without its charm. And I had to hunt up wood myself, and haul it myself, and chop it myself. I am afraid that the open fire-place of my youthful reveries can never be revived. Moreover, there is a movement on foot for the conservation of what remains of our forests. Those wood fires of pioneer days were really part of the scheme of clearing the land and the more wood they consumed the better pleased people were. But now we have a different point of view. Instead of clearing land we are beginning the work of re-forestation. Now that I have had considerable experience with a wood-pile I am for conservation. I feel that it is a sin and a shame to destroy the noble forest trees for such base utilitarian purposes as feeding a thankless kitchen stove. I think I shall use coal in future. Coal may be mussy, but you don't have to split it, and it goes farther.

But in spite of all this grumbling, we are more likely to have a real wood-pile this year than at any time in the past five years. The big winds of a year ago and of last spring blew down some of the biggest maples in the wood-lot. As an examination showed that these trees were too shaky and dozy to be worth making into lumber I decided to cut them into stove-wood. While fired by this great purpose I bought a new axe handle, a departmental store cross-cut saw, a saw set, file, whet stone, and everything necessary to keep the tools in good shape. For one disillusioning day I worked on the end of that cross-cut saw. Then I went back to poles and tops and the buck saw. This fall, however, I managed to let the job of cutting these big trees into eighteen-inch wood. Already the piles are growing beautifully, and there should be at least thirty cords of it. I have highly resolved that when the first sleighing comes I shall snake it up to the house and then we shall have the wood-pile of our dreams. Of course, it will still have to be split fine, but not too fine. I have noticed that small wood gives the kitchen stove an undue advantage, and it gulps down the sticks whole without stopping to chew on them. But oh, but oh, I am hoping for a day when the children grow up when I can proclaim my freedom and like Caliban, refuse to

"Fetch in firing
At requiring."

A Breakfast in Ceylon
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CITIZENS FIRE INSURANCE

New York, December 5.—A letter to the stockholders of the Citizens Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore outlines the terms on which the stock of the insurance company may be exchanged for that of the New Citizens Company, incorporated. Each share of stock of the insurance company will receive 6½ shares of preferred and three shares of common in the new company. The old stock had a par of $50.

This was placed at $85 January 1913, when the capital was increased to $3,000,000. By this change there will be taken up $1,300,000 of the preferred stock and $600,000 of the common stock of the Citizens Company, leaving $200,000 preferred and $900,000 common stock not to be used at this time, but which will be held in the treasury.

NIPISSING SURPLUS INCREASES.

Nipissing Mining Co., operating the Nipissing silver property at Cobalt, will have increased its surplus this year by between $300,000 and $400,000, according to present indications. This is after the payment of 20 per cent. dividends.

It is estimated uniforms of German, French, English, Austrian and Belgian armies will require 567,000,000 pounds of wool in grease per annum. Including overcoats total would be 100,000,000 pounds larger.

COST OF LIVING IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER DECREASED FROM HIGH POINT OF SEPTEMBER

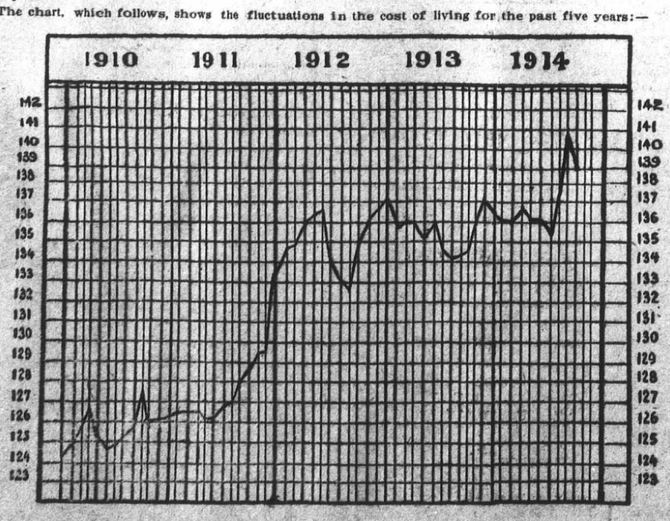
Housewives who have been driven to distraction by the steadily mounting cost of commodities will derive some satisfaction from the chart which appears below. This diagram shows that wholesale prices for October decreased 1.7 points from the high record of September. The level attained in September, which was 140.7, is the highest point ever reached in the history of the country.

The decrease in October was made despite the fact that further advances took place in dairy products and in drugs and chemicals. On the other hand, the pronounced declines took place in grains and fodder, animals and meats, fruits and vegetables and miscellaneous groceries.

As compared with October, 1913, there is a marked advance of 4.4 points, there being gains in the following:— Grains and fodder, animals and meats, fish, miscellaneous groceries, woollens, flax products, hides, leathers, boots and shoes, crockery, table cutlery, drugs and chemicals, and decreases in the following:—Fruits and vegetables, cottons, silks, jutes, metals, fuel, building materials, furs and sundries.

In making up the compilation, 272 articles were selected to represent Canadian production and consumption.

The chart, which follows, shows the fluctuations in the cost of living for the past five years:—



GLEANED FROM MANY SOURCES

Baltimore Stock Exchange re-opens to-day.

Offensive movement of the Allies is working from Ypres, northeastward toward Roulers.

It is unofficially stated that the battle of Lodz has ended in a victory for the Russians.

Berlin does not admit any Russian success in Poland.

Bradstreet's reports 448 failures in United States this week against 389 previous week.

National City Bank has reduced its renewal rate for call money from 6 to 5 per cent.

The American navy will adopt a torpedo having a net-cutter attachment.

The Earl of Erne, grand master of the Orangemen in Ireland, died in London.

King Haakon, of Norway, will inspect the fortifications along the Norwegian coast.

Many London hotels have signs reading: "No Alien Enemies Are Employed or Served."

The French Parliament has been called to meet in extraordinary session at Paris, December 22.

Julius Scharmann, a wealthy brewer of Brooklyn, committed suicide by shooting himself at his home.

The H. C. Frick Company, of Pittsburgh, has laid off salaried employes for two weeks without yay.

The plant of the Chesapeake Shell Company at Canton, Md., was destroyed by fire at a loss of $100,000.

Dr. Steven C. Pettitt, of Brooklyn, died at his home of blood poisoning contracted while operating on a patient.

Berlin claims that all attacks in Flanders have been repulsed. French are also developing an offensive in Alsace.

It is reported that Italy will be ready to enter the war on December 16th. Russian lines are within three miles of Cracow.

Committee of Five completes plans for resumption of trading in stocks on New York Exchange next week. Governors meet Monday to fix opening day.

Presidents' annual message will urge necessity for exercise of strictest economy in administration of the government.

Sir William Van Horne of Canadian Pacific says that business in this country is improving and that good times are coming soon.

Noteable expansion in exports and rapid re-habilitation of financial marekts continue to be distinctive features of business situation.

Conferences begin in London looking toward re-opening of London Stock Exchange for trading in stocks.

The Hartley Silk Manufacturing Co., which operates six mills in New York State, has gone into bankruptcy.

A Moslem cemetery will be established at Woking, England, for burial of Indian soldiers killed on the Continent.

Dr. A. E. Ortmann, scientist at Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, predicted that in 1,000 years Niagara Falls will be dry.

The blizzard, which threatened to destroy Nome, Alaska, has subsided, the Arctic ice pack keeping down the surf.

Miss Nell Kenny, an Australian swimmer, was arrested as she was about to jump off the Brooklyn Bridge for the movies.

Three officers of the Italian army arrived at New York, commissioned to buy 12,000 horses for the Italian cavalry and artillery.

Harry Kaufman, proprietor of a silk dyeing establishment at Paterson, N.J., was arrested, charged with improper use of the mails.

The Amoskeag Manufacturing Co.'s mills at Manchester, N.H., employing 16,000 persons, will resume operations immediately on full time.

A mad dog created a panic in the West Side, Manhattan, biting two men and tearing to pieces another dog, finally being shot down by a policeman.

John B. Van Schaick, a New York stock broker, will sail for France to become an ambulance driver. His wife will accompany him as a Red Cross nurse.

Fire destroyed shoes valued at $300,000 in the Lackawanna railroad transfer sheds at Binghamton, N.Y. The shoes were destined for export abroad for the French army.

RICH STRIKE REPORTED ON HOLLINGER.

Private advices from Porcupine tell of a rich strike made on the Hollinger.

While a "station" was being cut at the 800 foot level a vein was discovered about four and one-half feet in width and running $31 per ton.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED.

New York, December 5.—The business of the firm of Edward Sweet and Co., the oldest Stock Exchange firm in New York, having been founded in 1854, is to be transferred to Chandler Brothers & Company, of Philadelphia.

DON'T FEAR BEEF TRUST IN AUSTRALIA.

London, December 5.—Reuter's correspondent at Melbourne telegraphs that the report of the Royal Commission "discounts the alarmist statements regarding the alleged operations of the American beef trust in Australia."

THE IMPERIAL FURNACE

HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Long Football Season Will Close To-day With Argo-Varsity Meeting in Toronto

OARSMEN HANDICAPED

Three Games in Week May Prove Too Much Even For This Husky Aggregation—Amateur Hockey Has Chance for Its Life Once More.

A football season which will be memorable in the annals of the game will close to-day with the Argo-Varsity contest. Ties in both the Interprovincial and Intercollegiate prolonged the season to a date when the game becomes a menace for the players, and anything but an amusement for the spectators. At least this would be the case ordinarily. Fortunately, however, the weather has been mild and natural conditions in the Queen City this afternoon should be well nigh perfect. There is a feeling that Argos will not be at their best for this final struggle owing to the heavy programme they have been compelled to follow. Three games in a week are too many for a team even as strong as the Oarsmen. It is by reason of this handicap that 'Varsity rules the favorite, in spite of the equalizing fact that the game will be under inter-provincial rules.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association was successfully organized at a meeting held in Ottawa yesterday afternoon. It was unanimously decided to adopt the Allan Cup as the championship emblem and to entrench from coast to coast with a view to furthering the interests of the national winter game. Dr. W. F. Taylor, of Winnipeg, president of the Manitoba Hockey Association, was elected president, and Mr. Claude Robinson, of Winnipeg, honorary secretary-treasurer. The first honorary president is John Ross Robertson, of the Ontario Hockey Association. It was decided that the executive committee should consist of the president, secretary and the chairman of each of the provincial branches. The latter will be elected by their respective associations and automatically attached to the new Canadian governing body. Meanwhile a delegate from each of the associations represented will serve on the Board. They are as follows:

E. H. Jupp, Toronto, Intercollegiate Union; J. H. Ward, Calgary, Alberta Association; P. Shand, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Association; Francis Nelson, Toronto, Ontario Hockey Association; Rev. E. F. Vergt, British Columbia, and Norman Mowatt, Montreal, Quebec Hockey Association.

It is to be hoped that the alliance with the West will give the amateur game here an impetus, which will place it in the position which it occupied before the pros. edged it off the stage. This, however, can never be confidently expected until the amateurs have ice for themselves. Naturally the Arena Company being a business organization, gives preference to the pros. because the pros. do the business, but there is no denying that it was this attitude on the part of the Arena management that contributed largely to the retrogression of the amateur game here in Montreal.

The centre of baseball interest this coming season is liable to be the court of law rather than the diamond. Walter Johnson's contract with the Feds is "to be fought to the end of the earth," to quote Griffith, while Rube Marquard's reported derelection will give rise to litigation which will earn enough for the lawyers to enable the latter to see a game or two in the World's Series next fall.

The McGill Boxing Club are still without an instructor. They are trying to secure the services of Frankie Fleming. It is to be hoped they succeed, for they could hardly get a better man, if Fleming can teach as well as he can box.

The Scottish delegates who attended the conference of the four international football associaitons, held this week to discuss the continuance or otherwise of the game during the crisis, feel the resolutions passed did not go far enough to meet the wishes of the War Office and public opinion. Yesterday they saw Under-Secretary Tennant, of the War Office, who told them that in his talk with Chairman Clegg, of the International Conference, he expressed himself that both the international matches and cup ties should cease. He welcomed the Scottish footballers' attitude, who had always been prepared to accept the War Office view.

The Football Association council meets on Monday. A resolution has alredy been drafted to drop cup matches.

Freddie Welsh says he has been boxing too much, and has gone stale. His fight with Shugrue showed that there was something radically wrong with the Welshman. Freddie's reputation may suffer in consequence of his poor form, but his bank account will keep on distending.

Manager Rooney, of the Montreal Sporting Club, received word yesterday afternoon that Billie Myers, who was to fight Doyle here on Monday night, is suffering from a broken hand, and will be unable to come. Jack Hayes, who fought Myers in New York on Thursday night, will substitute for him against Doyle, and the bout should be a fast one. Doyle is one of the best featherweights around New York, and has met and defeated such men as Frankie Callahan, Young O'Leary, Knockout Eggers, Kid Sullivan, Kid Goodman, Willie Jackson and Jimmy Taylor.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.

Chicago, Ill., December 5.—Jed W. Pearson made application for membership on the Board of Trade, while Evans R. Dick posted a membership for transfer.

"Johnny," said the minister, "can you name the three graces?" "Sure," replied the little fellow, "breakfats, dinner and supper."

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Vol. XXIX. No. 181

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GERMANS MAKE GAINS

Berlin, by wireless, December 7.—The 2 p.m statement follows:—

"Headquarters reports that the Germans ar session of Lodz, the Germans have gained in successes in Northern Poland. They have foug battles with strong Russian forces around Lod town is now in full possession of our forces.

"We are unable to give details of the battle owing of the extent of the battle field, but losses were undoubtedly great.

"The Austro-German activity to the south Piotrokow, prevented the Russians coming to sistance of the threatened Russian armies in ern Poland.

"Headquarters reports that no special repor been received from the western theatre of from the region east of the Mazurian Lake Prussia)."

BOND OPENING QUIET.

New York, December 7.—The bond marke ing was exceedingly quiet, but the market's to good. There was an inclination even on the investors to await the President's message t gress which will be published Tuesday, and cision of Inter-State Commerce Commission Eastern Rate Case which may come down near future.

BANK MERCHANT LINER OFF COAST OF

Santiago, December 7.—The German tr Prinz Eitel to-day sank the Merchant's liner C off the Chilian coast 80 miles north of Valparai

MUTUALIZATION PLAN VOTED ON

New York, December 7.—The Prudential Ins Company of America voted to-day to mutualiz meeting of policyholders when 940,797 votes we in favor of mutualization and 208 against.

BANK CLEARINGS.

Boston clearings, $17,557,706; decrease, $1,425 956.

New York clearings, $235,993,014; increase, $2

Philadelphia clearings, $19,448,895; decrease, $ 656.

STRIKE IN COAL MINE CALLED OFF

Denver, December 7.—Announcement was ma an official of the Western Federation of Miners the strike in the coal fields had been declared

NO RECEIVERSHIP ASKED FOR.

New Orleans, December 7.—The Civil District c denied a motion for a receiver for American S Refining Company, made by the State of Loui in its fight to oust the company from the State. State will appeal the case.

A CAUSE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

The war is costing us hundreds of millions a and how much it will cost before the end who can We stand to gain nothing by it. I should have sorry to come here to-night to ask a nice, cle honest, upright lad to risk his life merely for the g of gain. I would not do it. My two boys are go and two as nice boys as any of you have got. I am devoted to them. Do you think I would those boys to risk their lives for low greed? I sh be ashamed of myself. But to go there and f for good will among nations, to fight to put an to the intolerable oppression of militarism—they glad to go, and they have my blessing, too.—Rt. H David Lloyd George.

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A Clock f
If there is one thing other in regulating the trustworthy clock.
We have a very lar sort.
Clocks for the parlor, room, or kitchen—all r exceptionally strong a clocks chosen with du dependability.
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