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JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT GREATLY DEEPEDED DURING THE YEAR

Brandon Nobly Responded to Every Call for Service or Money

ALL APPEALS MET

Men and Women Put Shoulders to Wheel in Many Worthy Ventures

During the last hours of the old year which are already fast flickering away, many Brandonites are in a retrospective mood reviewing the achievements, the failures, successes and disappointments, the sum total of gladness and sorrow of perhaps one of the most momentous years of all time, and trying to glean therefrom, a little of what the future has in store for Brandon and her citizens.

Standing resplendent above all other features of the year, is the community spirit which appears to have pervaded the people as evidenced by the generosity with which every appeal to patriotic or humanitarian cause has been met. Coming fast on the heels of other calls, Brandon went over the top with more than a million dollars for the Victory Loan 1918 Fund. The Patriotic Fund levy alone amounted for the year to \$13,350, and possibly several thousands more, which is another story. Voluntary contributions to the Red Cross hovers near the \$50,000.00 mark, not to mention the immeasurable value of the work of women in knitting socks, providing articles of clothing and making up interminable articles to send away to the boys overseas. Then there were other institutions that were thought to be, financially speaking, on an uncertain footing. There is the Y. M. C. A. It has not only weathered the storm of four dread years of war that by taking the young men away seemed to sap the very source of its being, but it faced conditions without quivering. It not only kept going, but raised funds to send across the seas, and ends the year, standing higher than ever before in public estimation.

Another institution that would naturally be badly hit by the war was the Salvation Army. The Salvationists had sent of their brightest and best overseas to lay down their lives if need be for the common good. It looked as if that was sacrifice enough in all conscience. But not a bit of it. The remnants of the strong organization set to work and actually ran a campaign to send comforts to the lads in the trenches and provide for local needs. They shouldered the responsibility of administering city relief, and were the medium of keeping the pot boiling on Christmas, and remain with faith unshaken and their enthusiasm unimpaired to meet the work of the new year.

Community Spirit

Time was when The Sun modestly advanced the suggestion that a community club should be formed in Brandon. The very spirit of the suggestion took such hold that all Brandon seemed to have been formed into a community club. Hear and there throughout the year were a few pessimists who for ever bewailed like weeping Jeremiahs of the financial straits that the city was leading to. But what happened. Brandon citizens freely and without stint contributed sufficient funds to worthy causes that would wipe out the whole of the civic indebtedness many times over. Not a single church had to be closed for want of funds. On the contrary, there is not a church that did not send money to carry on mission work, in foreign lands; there was not a church wherein the ladies did not organize, and the men did not contribute generously for sending gifts to the soldiers in France. Not only our soldier boys, but the stricken of France, of Serbia, the dependents of the men of the merchant marine, and the needs of many

others were tended to. In the year 1918, no appeal was made to Brandon citizens in vain.

Helped Gather Harvest

The cry went forth that there was danger of farmers losing their crops for want of farm help. What happened. Business men, bankers, lawyers, doctors, storekeepers, clerks, tradesmen, railwaymen and even women, at the end of their ordinary day's work, called forth into the harvest fields and commenced their day's work all over again. Rather than suffer because their boys had gone to fight the Huns, there was hardly a farmer in the Brandon district that did not get his crop in even earlier than in other years.

Increased Production

It was said early in the year, that there would be a shortage of food to send to the Allies and to our own soldier boys. Such a large number of the men had gone away, that it looked as if there would be a difficulty in producing even half of the average crop of food stuffs. What happened. The Production Association took hold and the result was that many unsightly pieces of land in the city were in the early Spring transformed into vegetable gardens, and later produced a more bountiful supply of potatoes and other garden foods than has ever previously been produced here.

With all these activities, citizens did not forget to improve as far as possible their public organizations. The Board of Trade was thoroughly rejuvenated, and when the municipal elections came along, the Progressives made almost a clean sweep of the Council Chamber and duly elected some of the more public spirited business men.

The flu epidemic came along. Again all sections of citizens nobly rallied to the call for volunteers to fight the insidious disease. It was the community spirit all the way through. Meanwhile news came along steadily that Brandon men were being added to the number of the dead in France and Flanders. Can it not be said that Brandon has laid solidly and sound, the foundations for future greatness. All hail to the New Year.

SOLDIERS COMING HOME AT RATE OF 20,000 MONTHLY

London, Dec. 31.—Sir Edward Kemp, Minister for the Overseas Military Forces of Canada, says that by the end of January 55,000 soldiers will have returned to Canada. These are made up of 15,000 in November, 20,000 in December and 20,000 in January. These officers and men have been drawn from the various branches of the service in France and the British Isles. Of the 20,000 to be returned in January, 17,500 will come from France. After February 1st, the rate of return to Canada will reach approximately 30,000 per month. It is understood that the British War Office has agreed to the demobilization of two divisions of Canadian corps at an early date.

GRAPE GROWERS ASK REMOVAL OF BAN ON NATIVE WINE

Ottawa, Dec. 31.—Wine manufacturers from the vineyards of Western Ontario are waiting upon the Government to ask for the removal of the ban on their product which becomes effective at New Year's. When the prohibition legislation was adopted last Spring its essential purpose was to supplement provincial enactments and make them effective by preventing the manufacture and importation of, and interprovincial traffic in liquors. Manufacturing of native wine was permitted till the end of the year. Niagara is the only district where it is made. As the product is not shipped out of Ontario and as the Ontario Temperance Act specifically permits the business to

GERMANY AND ALSACE-LORRAINE

Order Issued at Beginning of September in a Refusal of German Contention

The Germans are never tired of declaring to the world that the people of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine have but one object before them, namely, to remain subjects of the German Empire. Without a doubt, they have had plenty of time to make up their minds upon this subject. Forty-seven years ago Germany took over these two provinces; for nearly half a century she has had the opportunity of endeavoring herself to the inhabitants of making them loyal to her cause. It could have been done; Great Britain has achieved such results in one-fifth of the time so far as the Boers are concerned.

However possible this might have been in theory, the facts alone have to be faced. A copy of an interesting and significant order issued by the German military authorities to the postal censors in Alsace-Lorraine has been received in Switzerland. This document, which was issued at the beginning of September, runs as follows:

"Strictly Secret. It has been established by specimens of postal correspondence leaving Alsace-Lorraine... that the contents of the immense majority (eighty per cent) of the letters are either unfavorable to the cause of Germany or bitterly anti-German. It is therefore necessary to supervise more closely the letters sent by Alsacians and Lorrainers, even at the risk of giving offense to the infinitely small minority of the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine who are well disposed towards Germany."

This official document is probably the most effective comment upon Germany's forty-seven years' rule over Alsace-Lorraine that has ever been published. No greater condemnation could have come from France herself. The wretched inhabitants of the conquered provinces may have been cowed into a semblance of deference to German authority, but they have never forgotten their wrongs. The result is that only "an infinitely small minority of the inhabitants are well disposed towards Germany," while quite eighty per cent of the letters leaving the provinces "are either unfavorable to the cause of Germany or bitterly anti-German." In the face of these facts it is useless for the German authorities to try to pretend that the people of Alsace-Lorraine desire to remain subjects of the German Empire.

FRANCE NEEDS HELP TO PLACE NATION ON FIRMER BASIS

Baltimore, Dec. 30.—With 2,500,000 of her youngest, ablest and most spirited men killed or maimed, and half of her industry and shipping destroyed by the war, France's appeal to her Allies during the period of rehabilitation will be for help in rebuilding the factories and farms which the Germans wrecked and for assistance in constructing and purchasing ships, Edward De Billy, Deputy High Commissioner of the French Republic declared.

Nothing but a surgical operation will bring out the best there is in some men.

He stated that 26,000 factories in the French districts occupied by the Germans were destroyed or stripped of their machinery; almost 12,000,000 head of cattle were seized; thousands of miles of farm land were devastated by shells and made unfit for cultivation; the net loss in ship tonnage, through sinkings and enforced curtailment in production was 670,000 tons, and that the money cost of the conflict, in appropriations and public debt aggregate 158,000,000,000 francs.

go ahead, subject to provincial license supervision, the wine people maintain that what satisfies Ontario should be satisfactory as well to the Dominion Government.

MIRACLE OF THE AIR

War is the apotheosis of the unexpected.

The first, and is seemed likely to be, the great surprise of this war, was the terrific power of modern artillery and the fact that no fortress could withstand it. But we were partially prepared for this.

But artillery has not ruled unchallenged. Steadily the power of the airplane increased throughout the war till, toward the end, the air forces were making a strong bid for position as a ruling factor.

Air power is the pre-eminent discovery of this war, and that air-power could ever exert a really decisive influence on the fortunes of any war was, from the general 1914 point of view, unlikely.

Because air-power had to grow up with the war and because we have watched its growth, the fact of its importance falls to come home to us with the staggering surprise it would have effected at the beginning of the war.

Air warfare figured in no histories. Nothing had anticipated it and nothing in the practice of using it was known to us before the war had prepared us for the development of airplanes into fighting machines of such amazing power.

A miracle happened, and its wonder was lost in the thousand and one miracles of the war. Yet it was the greatest miracle of all. To say that an

NATIONAL POLICE

Sir John S. Willison: Now and again there have been proposals to disband the Northwest Mounted Police. They have failed, however, to command any considerable support even in the older Provinces, while in the West the force has always been regarded as one of the most valuable and cherished of its institutions. The history of the force constitutes one of the most romantic and inspiring chapters in the life of Canada. If the Canadian West has been distinguished for law and order in comparison with some of the Western States the credit belongs to this fine body of National Police. It has been a protective as well as a punitive agency. It has never sought to intimidate or terrorize. If it has been relentless in pursuit of offenders it has also been a refuge for innocents and law-abiding people. Over and over again its officers and men have crossed wide leagues of prairie, penetrated remote wildernesses, voyaged up and down unknown rivers, braved the stern inclemency of Arctic Winters, displayed unquenchable endurance and suffered incredible hardships to bring murderers and outlaws to justice and establish and vindicate British authority.

In pioneer days the force administered justice in the new communities with sympathetic consideration for settlers and a great ardor to give relief and support to those in difficult circumstances. It was as much a humanitarian agency as a police force, never officious or arrogant but always vigilant and always competent. It made the whole West its friend and through changing circumstances and conditions has maintained its traditions, and held the affection and confidence of those among whom its work has been done with such remarkable courage, wisdom, devotion and efficiency.

SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE OCEAN FREIGHT RATES

Chairman Hurley, of the United States Shipping Board, has ordered a 25 per cent reduction in ocean freight rates between United States ports and Great Britain, it was learned today. A radical cut has been made also in ocean rates between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The rates are being reduced practically one-half.

CHILDREN'S STORIES HAVE QUEER ORIGIN

Some Have Incidents For a Background While Others are Simple Fiction

The famous Mother Goose melodies were written by Mary Goose, of Boston, and originally intended only for the pleasure of her little grandson, but later published by her son-in-law, Thomas Fleet, first printer of her rhymes and melodies. "Mother Goose and her grandson are both buried in Boston in the old Granary Cemetery opposite Tremont Temple.

The popular "Bluebeard" tale is of French origin. Chevalier Raoul, or "Bluebeard," represents the historic original of Gilles de Laval, Lord of Rais, a chieftain of France in 1429. He fought bravely for his country when invaded by the English, but his barbarous cruelty over-shadows all his bravery.

Bluebeard's Home He is said to have taken delight in every bloody atrocity from which the principal features of "Bluebeard" have greatly grown. About 13 miles from Hertfordshire, near Walton Cross, is the crumbling mass of an old castle, "Bluebeard's home," now the personal property of a former lord mayor of London. It is nearly all a bare ruin except the tower and the hall, the latter of which are decorated with trophies of bygone days, flags, guns, swords, etc.

Underneath the hall are great dungeons where Bluebeard tortured his captives. Also the chapel where he went to confession, in which stands an organ he frequently played on. An old cabinet is pointed out to the traveler which contains the curtains of the bed canopy used by Bluebeard, and many other of his personal belongings. Here are also the thumbcrews with which he tortured his victims.

"Babes in the Wood" was an actual crime committed in Norfolk, near Wayland Wood, in the fifteenth century. An old manor in the neighborhood contains a mantelpiece on which is carved the entire history of the cruel deed.

Mary's Lamb Mary's Little Lamb" is not of so distant origin, however, as the real Mary died in 1889. The heroine as a little girl named Mary Sawyer, lived in the village of Sterling, Mass. One day her father brought home a little lamb which was almost dead and gave it into Mary's care. She cared for it tenderly until it was well and strong and the lamb of course became very much attached to her.

One day as the little girl went to school the lamb followed her and walked into the room back of her, much to her embarrassment. But as the lamb refused to leave her she let it lie down under her desk and covered it with her shawl. But to her great distress, what was her horror when it came time to be called up in front of the teacher's desk to recite to have the lamb come bleating up after her. The children were in uproars of laughter, of course, and the teacher shut the lamb up in an adjoining woodshed until the dismissal of school.

A young man named John Rollstone chanced to be a visitor at the district school that day, and a few days after he wrote the verses of the new, well known rhyme. The lamb lived to a good old age and was finally killed by an enraged cow. Of course Mary felt very badly over the loss of her pet and to comfort her her mother knitted her a pair of stockings from the lamb's fleece.

Other Tales Mary married a Mr. Tyler and went as a bride to live in Lowellville, a suburb of Boston. The stockings were carefully preserved by her and when talk arose of tearing down the historic Old South Church in Boston a large fair was held to raise money to save it. Mary, who was then an old lady, revealed the stockings, cutting the yarn into small pieces and

fastened each piece to a card on which she wrote her autograph. These sold very rapidly at the bazaar and a large sum of money was thus obtained to aid the "Old South Church."

"Humpty Dumpty" was a bold, wicked baron who lived in the days of King John and was tumbled from power. His history was put into a riddle, the meaning of which is an egg. "Three Blind Mice" is a music book of 1609. "Boys and Girls Come Out To Play" dates from the reign of Charles II., as does also "Lucy Locket Lost Her Pocket," "Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, Where Have You Been?" dates from the reign of Queen Elizabeth.—New York Sun.

THE STARVING POLES MAY IN DESPERATION JOIN THE BOLSHEVIKI

Allies Should Forward Food Supplies as a Means of Averting Disaster

Paris, Dec. 30.—Unless Poland receives food supplies and clothing from the Allies immediately there is a grave danger that the population, which is facing starvation, will join the Bolshevik movement and thereby menace the stability of the new government, according to Lieut. Stanislaus Hengst, a German officer who has been in the hands of the Polish army since the fall of the Russian

employed by Mr. R. L. L.

CANADIAN CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY TOTAL MILLIONS

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—Damage claims against enemy countries, arising out of the war, are coming into the state department in great number. Classified under five general heads they are of an infinite variety, some of them involving nice points of international law. Co-related with these claims are questions as to money owed to German firms by Canadians and stocks, securities and property owned in Canada by people of enemy countries. The claims aggregate thousands in number and millions in the money total. They are being passed on by a board of which Hon. Martin Burrell is chairman. The claims include claims for loss of life by torpedoing of ships and for damages to property and loss of life by bombing at Folkestone and other places.

WON PROMOTION ON FIELD

The late Sgt. George Stronach, who went overseas with the 45th Battalion and succumbed to wounds, August 21st, 1917, won his promotion from Private on the field. Sgt. Stronach went overseas with a draft from Can. Hughes in August, 1915, and wounded June 21st, but returned to the front.

SENIOR HOCKEY ARENA

Argos, WINNIPEG v.s. BRANDON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

Box Seats 75c
General Admission 50c

Tickets on sale up to 6 p.m. Saturday, at the Prince Edward Hotel. War Tax tickets sold at the Arena.

Greetings

On the threshold of a New Year, brimful of expectations, and having passed the period of turmoil and sacrifice, we wish our patrons everywhere the accomplishment of all their desires for health and prosperity.

For ourselves we crave the further opportunity to serve you in a still more efficient manner — and to more completely advance the trust imposed on us as it makes for the development of Manitoba.

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES

GEO. A. WATSON, Commissioner.