

The Evening Times Star

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ST. JOHN N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1916

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

QUEEN OF SWEDEN SERIOUSLY ILL

London, Dec. 18.—(New York World)—A Stockholm despatch to the Morning Post dated Saturday reads: "An official announcement states that the condition of Queen Victoria has grown worse during the week. Her Majesty's temperature has risen slightly and there is increased catarrh in lungs. Sweden's queen is the sister of the Grand Duke of Baden. She is fifty-four years old and the mother of three sons.

Declare King Constantine Has Forfeited Right to Throne

Paris, Dec. 17.—The inhabitants of the Greek islands of Lemnos have issued a proclamation declaring King Constantine to have forfeited his right to the throne, according to a despatch from Saloniki to the Havas Agency. A committee of prominent citizens have been appointed, the despatch adds, to convey the decision of the Lemnos population to the provisional government at Saloniki.

FIRE ON BOARD FREIGHTER NOW LOADING HERE

Caught in Wrappings of Beef Cargo on S. S. Merulung

WAS SOON EXTINGUISHED

Captain Aurey Has Had Thrilling Experiences in Transport Service—Has Sighted German Submarines

A slight fire started on board the steamer Merulung, lying at Long Wharf, on Thursday. The Merulung is of the La Plata line and is loading a cargo of beef. It is thought that the fire started by the careless dropping of a cigarette stub but, happily, it was caught before serious damage followed. As it was the wrapping on several pieces of beef was burned off but the fire did not get an opportunity to consume any of the cargo. The beef bearing the damaged wrappings was removed from No. 1 hold. When the fire was discovered, and after an exhaustive examination it was found that the fire had been totally extinguished and the work of loading the cargo was resumed. Captain Aurey who is in command of the Merulung is a grizzled old sea-dog who has proven his worth since the beginning of the war. For some months after hostilities began he was master of the transport Archimedes which carried many thousands of troops from England to France and in this service he had many thrilling experiences. "Yes, I have seen the German submarines," he said when interviewed by The Times, "but thank God they never got near enough to torpedo my ship," he added. Captain Aurey is very proud of the Merulung, which is a comparatively new ship of the latest type with a great freight carrying capacity and fitted up with the most modern equipment. "I have never met a submarine since I took over this ship," said Captain Aurey, "but we are, of course, always anxious to a certain extent." Captain Aurey is the type of man who has made Great Britain's splendid merchant marine the pride of the world and which has fought grimly and effectively against all the obstacles which an unscrupulous enemy has placed in the beaten paths of commerce on the high seas and has fed one million who are at present making war in Europe upon the German.

NEW MOTOR TRUCK FOR WATER DEPARTMENT

The largest two-ton motor truck, which was purchased by Commissioner Wigmore for the water and sewerage department arrived in the city on Saturday. A body will be built to attach to the chassis by William Akerley, after which the truck will be used to haul material for the department. The truck has a forty horse power engine and Commissioner Wigmore feels that it will be a valuable addition to his department. Men of the water and sewerage department are today engaged filling in the trench at the corner of Gilbert's Lane and City Road where the break occurred last Friday night. The pipe which will be installed in Lancaster is expected in the city any day. Commissioner Wigmore is considering having it placed on a siding in the rear of Lancaster avenue. Through the kindness of J. A. Gregory, he will be able to place the pipes on his property and this will save the expense of double hauling.

ONTARIO MINISTERS FORM ASSOCIATION

Deeply Stirred By War Situation and Want to Render Aid

Beverton, Dec. 18.—That they might stimulate interest in every phase of activity that will strengthen the forces at the front, the ministers of all religions in the northern part of Ontario county met here yesterday and organized a Clerical Patriotic Association. The discussion showed that the clergymen are deeply stirred by the critical situation at the present time. In the ranks of the 182nd Battalion now there are three ministers from this district serving as privates, and others express their willingness to give their services on the farms or in business in order to release younger men for the ranks.

HUNTING SEASON COSTS TWELVE LIVES

Augusta, Me., Dec. 18.—Twelve persons lost their lives while hunting in the woods of Maine during the big game season, which began on Nov. 1, and closed an hour after sunset Friday, according to an official statement issued Friday at the state department. In addition it is known that ten lives were lost during the year before the season opened. Of the twelve fatal accidents during the season, four were mistaken for deer, and one for a bear, three were shot accidentally by companions, three shot themselves and one became lost and died from exposure.

LT.-COL. McAVITY RETURNS. Lieut.-Colonel J. L. McAvity, C. R. O. for the province of New Brunswick, arrived in the city today at noon. Lieut. Colonel McAvity, while in Ottawa was in conference with the militia department in regard to matters connected with his department and reports matters in a satisfactory state.

"GOOD-BYE AND GOD BLESS YOU"



The photograph shows Pte. George Magee, who has spent nineteen months in the trenches in France, bidding farewell to his baby, who for nine months has been a patient in the East London Hospital for Children at Staxwell. The father is returning to duty after a short furlough in England.—S.N.S.

NEW PREMIER'S STATEMENT ASSURED FOR TOMORROW

London, Dec. 18.—Premier Lloyd George was much better this morning and his secretary said that he would certainly make the promised statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN

No Thought of Peace Under Present Conditions

NEW YORK PAPERS' COMMENT

General Nivele's Victory an Eloquent Answer to German Chancellor's Claim of Success of Central Powers

New York, Dec. 18.—Arthur S. Dreyfus, in a cablegram to the Tribune, says: "London, Dec. 17.—It has now become certain that sooner than Germany in her present position, with ability to consummate her 'unmittelbar' idea, and also to threaten India, Britain will fight to the last man. Under present conditions there can be no thought of peace. It is safe to say that except for the most extreme peace there is no idea of peace at the present moment. The British people has made up its mind to fight on and not to accept any peace except one completely satisfactory to themselves. The Telegraph says.—It comes at the right moment as a pledge and earnest of allied success. We can imagine no more eloquent answer to Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg than that furnished by General Nivele's victory." The Post, recalling German claims to victory in the war, says that France has given a most damning refutation at Verdun and, referring to the peace offer, asserts that all allies are resolved not to accept but to dictate terms of peace.

The Daily News says.—"The value of the victory at Verdun is to be measured by the prisoners and guns taken or the ground reconquered. Its real significance lies in the effect it must have on the morale of both sides. There is no doubt that on both sides the campaign in Roumania has exercised an influence quite disproportionate to its importance. The serious threat to Germany, both east and west, is in no way reduced by her Roumanian adventure. In fact it is an additional argument, as far as the allies are concerned, not for an arrogant refusal even to consider the question of peace, but for cautious willingness to listen to terms which the sobering influence of the war is inducing Germany to offer."

NEW FOOD RULES IN THE LONDON HOTELS

Restrictions Went Into Force Today With Little Inconvenience—Meatless Days More of a Problem

London, Dec. 18.—The first food restriction went into force in England today. Hotels and restaurants are now forbidden to serve more than two courses for dinner or luncheon and three courses for breakfast. Little inconvenience was experienced in connection with the two first meals. The Englishman's usual breakfast consists of a cereal and bacon and eggs or fish and in the more expensive places a luncheon of two courses is the rule. It was in arranging for a dinner of three courses that the caterers experienced the greatest difficulties, but then in this case few are likely to go hungry as hors d'oeuvres and soup count only half a course and for the two other courses dinner has the choice of fish, entrees or roasts with vegetables and deserts. Cheese with bread and butter or crackers is not counted as a course. The meatless day which is expected to follow shortly will prove more difficult problem for restaurants which make a specialty of roasts.

SIX LIVES LOST IN HOTEL FIRE

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 18.—Roy A. White of Bayles, Calif., his wife and four children lost their lives today in a fire that destroyed the Intersean Hotel here. The bodies of Mrs. White and two sons were found in the ruins. A nine-month-old baby, rescued by firemen, died from burns. Firemen searched and smoldering ruins for the body of the fourth child. White was electrocuted when he fell among wires after leaping from the third floor.

NO LIGHT FOR THE EMPRESS

There were no lights in the Empress Theatre on Saturday and those who visited the picture house were disappointed. This is the first time in five years that the show has not been given. The light supply had been unsatisfactory in the afternoon and failed entirely in the evening. The cause of the trouble was located outside the building.

THE ROTARY CLUB

At the Rotary Club luncheon today, Rotarian James MacMurray, general manager of the Eastern Securities Co., Ltd., gave a very interesting address on investment. He described the various classes of investments, referred to the work of the investment bankers, and gave much valuable information. His reference to provincial boards of municipal finance was further discussed by W. F. Burditt, who presided, and who pointed out the advantages such a board in New Brunswick would be to the municipalities. The club adjourned over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

A SYMPHONIC FROST



Joe Page Arranges For Visit By Cleveland Club TO HELP PATRIOTIC FUND

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 16.—The real meeting of the American League resolved in favor of the magnates. They certainly had one time. After their strenuous session of what was probably not only the greatest but the shortest meeting that was ever held by the American League, the delegates were in conference with an executive session at the Fisher building at 12 o'clock, the meeting extraordinary was then transferred to the annex. The delegates were in continuous session from 1.30 to 6.30. Adjournment was then made until 8.30 and at 10.30 the annual meet of the American League was a thing of the past. Poor old National league. They are still at it at this writing. They should take a leaf from the American League log book.

Well, let's get down to the real meeting, which started at 11 a.m. at the Fisher building with John Y. Burns as secretary to Bancroft Johnson. Those present were Ban Johnson, Chas. A. Comiskey, Jim Dunn, Phil Ball, Frank Ward, and the new owners of the Boston league club, Clark Griffith, besides Messrs. McInerney, Thos. J. Wald, representing the Canadian Pacific Railway, Irving Learner, Jim Orsenberry and the writer of St. John, N.B., and the hunting country about the latter place was the chief topic of conversation. Baseball was only a side issue. While the conversation was waxing hot and everybody was agreed to look New Brunswick into the corner. As a result Jim Dunn was politely informed that New Brunswick boys would certainly like to see his ball club with Tom Daly going to catch up in St. John on any open date that they might be in Boston. The press here had it on Sunday that it was agreed that any open date either at New York or Boston the Cleveland Club with Boston or New York would make the trip, and what do you think it was for? It was for patriotic purposes and that we would guarantee him the club's expenses. Mr. Dunn said: "I am not going to let my club play any exhibition games next year, but for patriotic purposes as you suggest. My team will go up to New Brunswick only on one condition, that is that the patriotic fund shall take the entire proceeds."

VERY HIGH PRAISE FOR ONTARIO PROHIBITION

A tribute to the benefits of prohibition in Ontario was paid at the Rotary Club luncheon today by Mr. Sanderson, a manufacturer from Brantford, who declared that Ontario had never had a day like it. After the law was put in force manufacturers found all their men back at work on Monday morning, which was never the case under license. This was good for the firm, good for the men, but best of all it was good for the men's families. It was the greatest thing that ever happened in Ontario, and men who would not have voted for it a year ago would now hold up both hands for it.

GENERAL STRIKE IN MADRID AS PROTEST AGAINST LIVING COST

Madrid, Dec. 18.—Via Paris—A twenty-four-hour general strike called by the labor organizations as a protest against the increased cost of food takes place tomorrow throughout Spain. Factories, stores and many offices will be closed, and no newspapers published. The authorities have posted notices appealing to the good sense of the public to maintain order and announcing that any disturbances will be vigorously dealt with.

WEATHER REPORT

Phelz and Pherdinand. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, chief director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—The disturbance which was over Nova Scotia on Sunday today stationary and another is centred over Georgia. Snow has occurred in the maritime provinces and in some sections of Ontario. Cold weather prevails from Manitoba eastward.

Fair and Cold. Maritime—Strong northwest and west winds, light local snow, but mostly fair and cold, and on Tuesday, cold at first followed by increasing east winds and snow.

New England forecasts—Snow to-night and Tuesday, probably heavy north and partial rain.

ROUMANIAN ARMY SAVED FROM ANNIHILATION BY RUSSIANS

German Interests in United States Believe That at End of Ninety Days Allies Will Be Prepared to Listen to Terms of Peace; Peace Note of Central Powers Handed to British Government Today.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The Roumanian army is now safe, according to news received in Paris last night, says the Petit Parisien. The paper says that the survivors are now beyond the Sereth River at Jassy and in Bessarabia, where they are being regrouped and refitted in view of further operations. The entire Roumanian front is now stated to be held by the Russians alone.

After the Bucharest-Ploesti line was lost, the story says, the Russians sent divisions and forces of cavalry to support the retreat of the Roumanian army. King Ferdinand fell back as rapidly as possible. Assured of the possibility of reforming behind the shelter of the Russians, he continued the withdrawal without halting until the Sereth was crossed. The Russians offered strong resistance to the Germans in the region of Buzau so as to permit the engineers to reconstruct a defensive front between Rimnik Sarat and the Danube marshes on which front, it is said, the Russians intend to stop the advance of the invaders.

11,387 Prisoners. Paris, Dec. 28.—French forces have taken a total of 11,387 German prisoners on the Verdun front since the 18th of December, according to the announcement made by the French war office this afternoon.

A violent German counter-attack on the Meuse has resulted in German forces securing a footing at the Chambeletts Farm. Germany Reports Inactivity. Berlin, Dec. 18, via Sayville—Aside from minor activities in the Somme and Meuse there were no important happenings on the western front, army headquarters announced today.

Thinks Peace at Hand. New York, Dec. 18.—Leopold Zimmerman, head of the firm of Zimmermann & Foshay, personal representative in this country of German governmental financial institutions, issued a statement yesterday saying in part— "The most delicate phase of the movement to end the war has been passed. The ice has been broken, and it but remains for the excitement of the situation to wear off so that the conservative element may prevail. It may be stated reliably that among the rulers and diplomats abroad, the end of the war is regarded as a realization, dependent only upon terms of adjustment which can and will be agreed upon. In well informed circles, in places of highest authority, commercial activities are being encouraged with this view in mind.

Peace Note Presented to British. London, Dec. 18.—The peace note of the Central Powers was handed to the British government today by United States Ambassador Page, who called at the foreign office early in the day. In the presence of A. J. Balfour, the foreign secretary, he presented the note to Lord Robert Cecil, under-secretary for foreign affairs.

Norwegian Steamer Seized. Berlin, Via Wireless to Sayville, Dec. 18.—The Norwegian steamer Birgit, bound for London with contraband, has been brought into a German port by German warships, according to information given out for publication today by the Overseas News Agency.

Polish Council Meets Soon. Berlin, Dec. 17.—(Via wireless via Sayville)—The first meeting of the Polish national council will be held before Christmas, according to the Overseas News Agency. The initial meeting of the Polish national assembly will occur in February, the agency adds.

SERIOUS CASES ARE COMING HOME

Arrangements For Care of 1,500 "Bed Cases" THE HOSPITAL TRAINS

Every Effort Being Made for Comfortable Transportation of Badly Wounded—In Addition to Convalescent

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The Canadian authorities overseas have advised the Military Hospital Commission to prepare for the reception in Canada of several thousand soldiers still needing active surgical and medical treatment. The Commission is actively engaged in this preparation, and has already arranged for the care of 1,500 such men. They will be sent over in instalments, beginning at once.

Hospital Train Arrangements. A hospital train is being constructed for the safe and comfortable carriage of these "bed cases" from the Atlantic ports to their destinations inland. The Commission has arranged with the Railway Department of the government for the conversion of ten ordinary sleeping cars into hospital cars. These cars will have five cots on one side, the present berths being left on the other side for men who can sit up by day. A door will be opened in each side of this car so that patients can be carried in on stretchers. The nurses will be accommodated in the former "drawing room," and there will be a diet kitchen. The other car of the pair will contain twelve cots and no ordinary berths.

The hospital train will run as far as Winnipeg, distributing patients to Montreal, Kingston and Toronto on its way. Men going farther west will be rested in Winnipeg, and will then be taken on to their destination by the Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific in hospital cars provided by these companies or by the Railway Department.

The Commission has arranged for 1,600 hospital beds at various centres for the sick soldiers, and has enlisted the best surgical and medical talent in the Dominion for their treatment.

In Addition to Convalescents. These men, it will be understood, will be in addition to the convalescents, who may be expected to continue arriving at the present rate of several hundred per week. The "bed cases" will not be placed in the same institutions as the convalescents.

Among the buildings secured for the new class of patients are the Strathcona Hospital at Edmonton, a part of Queen's University at Kingston, and a wing of the Grey University at Montreal.

Approximately ten thousand more Canadian soldiers now in British hospitals will be brought to Canada within the next three or four months.

THE ADVANCE ON KUT-EL-AMARA

Ultimate Object of Expedition Still in Obscure

COULD CAPTURE IT AT ANY TIME

Not Necessarily of Great Consequence Except as Part of Definite Plan—Effect on The Turks

London, Dec. 18.—The renewal of British activity in Mesopotamia after seven months quiescence is attracting attention. Nothing is known of the new movement except what is contained in the official communication. The near approach of the British forces to Kut-el-Amara is not regarded as necessarily of great consequence, except so far as it may be part of a definite plan, because it is believed here that General Maude, who now commands the expedition, has been in a position to take Kut-el-Amara at any time during the last three months if he had so desired. It is remarked by The Times that, as is possible, the British now enter Kut-el-Amara, the Turks will be compelled to evacuate Sannayyat without having the satisfaction of resisting another frontal attack, and adds that the Mesopotamian expedition is in a much happier position than it occupied at the beginning of the year. Two light railways are being built and have reached an advanced stage, the river flotilla has been strengthened, spacious wharfage accommodation has been provided at the base at Neusa, ample supplies have been accumulated and the medical and hospital organizations are now believed to be sufficient for the largest possible demands. The early blunders in Mesopotamia, to a large extent, have been rectified. The ultimate object of the expedition, however, is still obscure.

CANADIAN BANK MAN ARRESTED IN MEXICO

Laredo, Texas, Dec. 17.—William Mitchell, a British subject, said to be a Canadian and manager of the Bank of London and Mexico, together with several members of the board of directors of that bank are under arrest in the city of Mexico, according to newspapers received tonight.

No cause for the arrests is given beyond the statement that the men declined to obey an order of General Carranza.

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