

ESTAB.

PLAN TO SETTLE IRISH QUESTION INCLUDES A CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL STATESMEN

Germans Again Assail Dead Man's Hill—Twenty Thousand Turks Withdraw from Kut-el-Amara to Help Resist Russian Advance—German Losses at Verdun Said to Have Reached Total of 300,000—White Star Line Enjoys War-Time Prosperity.

COLONIAL PREMIERS ON IRISH SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.

LONDON, May 17.—It is stated that plans for a commission to settle Irish affairs may include Premiers Borden of Canada, Hughes of Australia and Botha of South Africa.

PROTESTS AGAINST ALIENS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, May 17.—Strong protests are voiced here against allowing two hundred thousand aliens to remain in England and escape military service.

ATTACK ON DEAD MAN'S HILL REFUSED.

PARIS, May 17.—The War Office reports that Germans attacked Dead Man's Hill last night with strong forces using grenades; the effort failed.

There was continuous cannonading on both sides of the Meuse particularly at Kaudranont and Vaux.

TURKS WITHDRAW TO MEET RUSSIANS.

PETROGRAD, May 17.—Twenty thousand Turks reported have been withdrawn from the British front east of Kut-el-Amara to meet the Russian advance on Bagdad.

PREMIER HEARST REACHES NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, May 17.—Hon. W. H. Hearst, Premier of Ontario arrived here today on the British steamer Parima from Barbadoes.

300,000 GERMAN LOSSES AT VERDUN.

LONDON, May 17.—Three hundred thousand German soldiers have been killed or put out of action at Verdun, the Paris correspondent of the Daily Chronicle reported today.

The German losses have been so severe as to preclude any idea of a German offensive against Biga in which region German sea and land forces are said to be concentrating.

TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PRESERVE SEAL LIFE.

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., May 17.—A direct result of one of the most successful seal hunting seasons on record, the Newfoundland legislature has enacted restrictions designed to prevent the extermination of the animals in the waters about the island.

RUSSIANS MAKE PROGRESS IN DIRECTION OF MOSUL.

PETROGRAD, May 16.—The Russian official statement issued today reads:

"Caucasus front—In the direction of Mamakhatun our reconnoissances produced successful results. In the direction of Diarbekr we repulsed a Kurdish offensive.

"In the direction of Mosul our troops entered the town of Rivandouza and seized ammunition depots. The enemy beat a precipitate retreat, abandoning convoys and war materials. Our cavalry are in close pursuit."

WHITE STAR ENJOYS WAR-TIME PROSPERITY.

LONDON, May 17.—The White Star Line whose profits slumped in 1914 owing to the war from a dividend of 65 per cent. to 35 per cent. The dividend is again 65 per cent. with a surplus of \$9,841,425.

CHANGE OF COURTESIES

Correspondence Between Mayor Ketcheson and Lt.-Col. Ketcheson of the 80th.

The following correspondence between Mayor Ketcheson and Lt.-Col. W. G. Ketcheson voices the kindest feelings existing between Belleville and the 80th Battalion. The first is a letter from the Mayor to the general O.C. of the 80th and the second is the reply:

Belleville, May 10, 1916. Lt.-Col. W. G. Ketcheson, O. C. 80th Battalion, C.E.F., Belleville, Ont.

Dear Col. Ketcheson:

I desire on behalf of the citizens of Belleville to convey to you and through you to your officers and men the very high esteem in which you are all held by our citizens. Your Battalion has been living among us for many months and the conduct of all connected therewith has been most exemplary. No body of men could have behaved better and great credit is due to you as commanding officer for the splendid discipline maintained. You command a battalion of soldiers and gentlemen and we regret to lose you from our city, but know you are anxious to get overseas and to take your place with the other gallant Canadians, who are fighting for King and Country and all the principles of right and liberty that we as British people hold dear. We know you will do our duty. Our good wishes and our prayers go with you and we trust when victory crowns our banners, to welcome you back to our city.

Yours respectfully, (Sgd.) H. F. Ketcheson, Mayor of the City of Belleville.

Belleville, May 11, '16. From the Officer Commanding, 80th Overseas Battalion To the Mayor, City of Belleville, Warshipal Sir—

Permit me to take this opportunity on behalf of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 80th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., of thanking you as Mayor of the City of Belleville and all citizens for the many expressions of kindness extended towards our Battalion during our stay in Belleville.

It has been a source of extreme pleasure to me as commanding officer of the 80th to note the many kind expressions and considerations that have been extended towards all of those serving under me. We are glad to feel that we have endeared ourselves to the citizens of Belleville while we have been in your midst.

We are anxious to get across the ocean that we may take our place with the gallant Canadians and at the same time endeavor to uphold the traditions of Canada by following the example of those who have gone before us.

"We shall always remember you and the citizens of Belleville with the kindest feelings and trust that the end may come when some of us at least if not all, may return to your beloved city.

Believe me, Yours very sincerely, (Sgd.) W. G. Ketcheson, Lt.-Col., O. C. 80th O. S. Batt., C.E.F.

Big Drive Is On To Make Successful 24th

The energetic members of the 155th Battalion are using every endeavor to make a smashing success of Victoria Day, May 24th, in Belleville. The program will allow no breathing space from morning until night. One continual round of amusement and pleasure. In past celebrations the morning has been entirely neglected but not so in 1916. Off our beautiful Victoria Island Park aquatic sports of all kinds will be held. Exciting motor boat races and good old sailing contests etc. bringing memories of the past. During all this program a band concert will be held and no admission of any kind will be charged. At one o'clock the grand military and industrial parade will start from the market square headed by our Bay of Quinte regiment and followed by elaborate floats and decorated automobiles, etc. and after parading Front street, going to the Driving Park where the afternoon program will be run off. The events provided for this part of the entertainment will please the most fastidious. An excellent ball game for the baseball fans between the famous Ontarios, of Belleville and the 155th Battalion, which will make the Ontarios extend themselves to beat them. Automobile races, motor cycle races and fast know you will do our duty. Our good wishes and our prayers go with you and we trust when victory crowns our banners, to welcome you back to our city.

Yours respectfully, (Sgd.) H. F. Ketcheson, Mayor of the City of Belleville.

GR. T. YATEMAN REACHES QUEBEC

Wounded Belleville Boy Will Arrive Home Thursday Afternoon.

Gunner Thomas Yateman who was wounded at Ypres, April 27th, 1915, arrived at Quebec yesterday on the S. S. Scandinavian in charge of a medical officer and will reach Belleville by C. P. R. tomorrow at 2.15 p.m. and be taken to the Belleville General Hospital. The military are arranging for a reception at the C.P.R. depot. It is expected that a large number of citizens will take part in the welcome home to one of Belleville's heroes.

Gunner Yateman was wounded in the famous battle of Langemarck with a piece of shrapnel in the neck which caused paralysis. He has been given the best treatment in British hospitals and has recovered somewhat.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, Deseronto, Ont., announce the engagement of their daughter Agnes Julia to Frank J. McAlpine of Belleville, son of Patrick and Mrs. McAlpine, Marysville, Ont. The wedding will take place quietly in June.

GRATITUDE OF CLUB MEMBERS

Now Serving at Front For Smokes Sent By B.R.A.

More messages of appreciation from the boys at the front have been received by Mr. H. Sneyd, president of the Belleville Rifle Club, for gifts of tobacco and so forth on the first is from Capt. Ed. O'Flynn:

April 22nd, 1916. "Your kind gift came safely to hand, express my sincere thanks and best wishes to the members of the club.

(Signed) E. D. O'Flynn. The other is from J. Gilbey, the first member of the club to enlist.

April 23rd. "I am just writing a few lines to thank you for your welcome letter. I was so glad to hear from you. To know that we are not forgotten by our old friends is very nice and I think a letter from anyone like the one you sent me is really the best treat we get out here, and I am sure it's the finest tonic we can get. The smokes haven't come along yet, but they would take longer to come over than the letter and I thank all the members for sending them to me.

"Yes sir! I think it is a great credit to the Belleville Rifle Club to have so many members enlisted for overseas service and out of them I believe I can claim first place for the first to enlist. We little thought when we were spending the pleasant evenings in the winter of 1914 that we should be called upon so early to fight the Huns, but thank goodness they didn't catch us quite so unready as they thought. I hope it will be soon be all over now and that we shall all be spared to meet again in good old Belleville. I must have a try then to capture Mr. Corby's prize, the Ross rifle. I think I was making pretty good running with Art Stewart when I left and I heard he captured it later. I have been away from the battalion now since the New Year and before then I had been with the Machine Guns for some time.

"Well I think this is all the news this time, wishing the club every success and hoping they will keep going strong. Please give my very best regards to all the boys and accept the same yourself. Again thanking you all.

I am Yours sincerely, J. Gilbey. No. 8209, is Brigade Machine Gun 1st Canadian Contingent.

INFANTS' ESTATES

Messrs. Northrup & Ponton have been appointed representatives of the Official Guardian of Ontario in this County to deal with all matters relating to the funds and estates of infants.

CHARGE WITHDRAWN.

The charge against a well known and highly respected Thurlow farmer of interfering with a recruiting sergeant who insisted upon seeing a boy aged sixteen for whom the yeoman is guardian, has been dropped.

BIG MILITARY CARNIVAL IN BELLEVILLE MAY 24th 1916

Victoria Day, 1916 is to be fittingly celebrated in Belleville. The 155th Battalion presenting the first big Military Carnival ever held in the City of the Bay. Excursions will be from the North, South, East and West, and without a doubt the capacity of the Driving Park will be strained to contain the crowd. The fine program in the morning consisting of spectacular Motor Boat Races, Sailing and Canoe Races and other aquatic sports as well as a big band concert on Victoria Island Park, will make the best morning program attempted yet. Next, the Grand Military and Industrial Street Parade at 1 o'clock will be a feature worth travelling miles to see. The Parade will be headed by our own 155th Bay Battalion and will be the last opportunity of seeing them on parade in our district. Following our boys in khaki will be a Trades and Automobile procession, etc. At the grounds an unrivalled afternoon of amusement has been prepared, thrilling automobile and motor-cycle races, Baseball game between the Ontarios of Belleville and the 155th Battalion ball team, Field Sports of all kinds and high class horse races, there will be two classes, 2.15 and 2.30 class as well as a one mile running race. The running race has already eight entries, and promises to furnish the most exciting racing event ever given in this city. Each event of this big day is easily worth coming miles to see, but the last Grand Military Reviewing miles to see. The Parade will make everyone happy to have spent the Victoria Day in Belleville.

TURKISH ARMY IS CUT OFF.

LONDON, May 17.—The Russian official statement on the campaign in Armenia and in Mesopotamia, issued yesterday, says that the Russian advance continues in the direction of Mosul and that in the direction of Diarbekr the Russians repulsed with their fire a Turkish attempt at an offensive.

The Russian official statement announcing that the advance on Mosul continues probably veils important news. The Russian communications are generally a day or two late in announcing the actual attainments and it is considered not unlikely that the Bagdad railway, which runs along the left bank of the Tigris and has been for a couple of days within cavalry ride of the Russian advance, is already cut.

Germany has hurriedly despatched forces, it is believed to the Turkish centre at Erzinjan, to try to stem the Russian advance. But apparently these efforts have come too late.

A Petrograd despatch says: "With the advance of Russian forces southward from the Urumih region toward Mosul, in Syria, on the Tigris, which resulted recently in the occupation of Rivandouza, the Russians are now bringing fresh pressure of the most powerful sort upon the rear of the Turkish armies in Mesopotamia. The development of this new line of attack has greatly enhanced the chances of success of the Russian campaign in Mesopotamia, which holds forth the hope now entertained in Petrograd of bringing not only Bagdad, the holy city of the Caliphs, but the entire historic country lying between the Tigris and the Euphrates, under Russian domination.

Of the two groups of Russian armies which are now threatening Mesopotamia, the one already mentioned has crossed the Mesopotamian border and is marching rapidly toward Mosul. The only serious obstacle to it and this goal it the ancient fortified city of Jezreh Ibn-Omar, on an island in the Tigris, 130 miles southeast of Diarbekr. It is reported that this city with its antiquated defences, will not be able long to delay the Russian advance.

The progress of these forces already has broken the backbone of the Turkish communications between Diarbekr and Mosul and the Turkish armies covering these points are now separated except for a circuitous road, too far in the rear to be of much service.

Some 2800 miles southward the other group of Russian forces, drawn up on the Persian-Turkish border before Khanikin, is prepared to strike through to Bagdad.

The combined pressure from these two directions upon the Turkish rear has placed the entire Turkish army in Mesopotamia, estimated at between six and seven divisions, in great jeopardy. According to the latest despatches, the Turks have been forced to relax to a great extent, their resistance to the British expeditionary army and rush troops northward. Thus it is thought the successes which have been won by the Russians will soon have an effect on the fortunes of the British campaign.

Don't Miss the Grand Military Carnival

AT BELLEVILLE MAY 24TH UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE 155TH OVERSEAS BATTALION

Horse Races, 2.15 class, purse \$125; 2.30 class, purse \$100; 1 mile Running Race; Baseball, Ontarios vs. 155th Battalion.

Thrilling Automobile and Motor Cycle Races, Fast Motor Boat Races, Sailing and Canoe Races, Band Concert and Water Carnival off Victoria Island Park in the Morning Free!

GRAND FAREWELL REVIEW OF 155TH BATT--BIG MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL STREET PARADE

President, Lieut.-Col. Adams. Chairman of Committees, Capt. B. L. Hyman. Secretary, Capt. P. H. Willis. Address all communications and entries to the Secretary.