

The Blood Stained Ruins of Dinant

Giant Hand Seems to Have Plucked Up Homes and Hurling Them Down in Fragments

A medley of blood-stained ruins, of disrupted houses, and ragged, tumble-down walls. Thus stands the little Belgian town of Dinant, grim, silent, cataclysmic.

Some giant hand seems to have plucked up these houses and hurled them down in fragments. Resembling a city of the dead, it yet shelters the living, a starving people, who in spirit are as broken as the ruins they live among.

The poor citizens of this despoiled town move about the stone-strewn, shell-smashed streets like ghosts, flitting in and out of the ruins, hiding at the sight of any of the German garrison, dumb and afraid.

The silence is scarcely ever broken, now and again the wall of a child is heard, and from a corner house in the market square a woman shouts, in the harsh, unmeaning voice of madness.

In places the walls and the stones of the streets are spotted with dark red stains, marking the spot where hundreds of inoffensive citizens, men, women and children, were butchered in cold blood. And not far away are the cemeteries, made in a day, where the poor martyrs were buried.

"The atrocious vision of that stricken town is still before me, with the same intensity of horror," writes a Belgian woman, who, from Dinant, reached the safe refuge of England. "Oh, that pretty valley of the Meuse, now overrun and devastated! Those villages set on fire without any strategic motive! Nothing that has been said or written can give any idea of the reality."

The fate of Dinant is shared by hundreds of towns and villages from end to end of Belgium. The plight of this people is truly indescribable. Words can paint only a shadow of the actual situation.

Seven million people are on the verge of starvation, just barely kept alive by the three slices of bread and a bowl of soup per day, distributed by the Belgian Relief Fund workers.

Even these poor rations must be doled out unless further support is received at once. Will you help to beat back starvation from them, and by feeding the masses them also to fight against tuberculosis, which is quickly spreading in their midst?

Send your utmost contribution to Mrs. J. W. G. Watson, secretary of the Belgian Relief Committee, Brandon, or direct to headquarters of the fund, at 59 St. Peter street, Montreal.

Bird Pact To Take Effect On March 10th

Treaty for Protection of Migratory Birds Long Advocated—Close Seasons Fixed

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—An important new treaty has been recently signed between Canada and the United States looking towards the protection of migratory birds. The new treaty will go into effect next March when corresponding close seasons on migratory birds will be observed in the two countries.

The signing of the treaty is the result of long agitation on the part of bird lovers, game protective associations and other organizations for some uniformity of action to prevent the complete annihilation of many birds which were rapidly disappearing.

The most important clause provides for:

1. A close season on migratory game birds from March 10th to September 1st, with the exception:
2. Of an open season of three and a half months.
3. Of a close season throughout the year on insectivorous birds.

The open season of three and one-half months may be fixed anywhere between September 1st and March 10th to suit the local conditions. The restriction of the open season on wild-fowl to three and one-half months will involve in some Provinces a shortening of the present open season, but in view of the objects of the treaty and the experience that such restriction in the United States is increasing the supply of birds, this change will undoubtedly meet with the support of sportsmen desirous of preventing the continued decrease in the numbers of wild fowl.

The birds included in the treaty are as follows:

1. Migratory Game Birds: (a) Anatidae or waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese and swans. (b) Grouse or cranes, including little brown, sandhill, and whooping cranes.
- (c) Rallidae or rails, including coots, gallinules and sora and other rails.
- (d) Limicolae or shorebirds, including avocets, curlew, dowitchers, god-

wits, knots, oyster catchers, phalaropes, plovers, sand-pipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willets, woodcock, and yellowlegs.

(e) Columbidae or pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.

2. Migratory Insectivorous Birds: Bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, humming birds, kinglets, martins, meadowlarks, nighthawks or bull bats, nut-hatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, swifts, tanagers, titmice, thrushes, vireos, warblers, waxwings, whippoorwills, woodpeckers, and wrens, and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects.
3. Other Migratory Nongame Birds: Auks, auklets, bitterns, fulmars, gannets, grebes, guillemots, gulls, herons, jaegers, loons, murrelets, petrels, puffins, and terns.

MUNICIPALITY OF ELTON Council Minutes

Tenth meeting of Elton council, held in the hall at Forrest on Tuesday, December 19th. All members present. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. Communications were received from the following: Messrs. Coldwell, Coleman & Kerr, our solicitors, informing us that in their opinion the council had not the power to lease the portion of Broadway street, Douglas, but it could pass a bylaw declaring that portion of the street closed and could sell it; Baker and Long, inquiring if the municipality wished to dispose of the tax sale certificates held by them.

A deputation from the Forrest Women Grain Growers waited on the council to request to be devoted for comfort to the boys that had gone to the front from the municipality.

C. E. McDougall and D. S. McGregor—That this council form itself into an approval board for the Patriotic fund, and that each councillor, with the reeve and secretary, be a committee to deal with urgent cases in their respective wards.

R. J. Black and F. Brooks—The secretary is hereby instructed to pay over all school levies in full to the trustees.

A. M. Robertson and John Webster—That the financial statement of the secretary-treasurer for November be accepted.

John Webster and C. E. McDougall—That in the interest of the municipality we think it best to hold tax sale; that we instruct our assessor to send C.P.R. Land Certificates Branch their assessment notice on pt. S W ¼ 3-11-17.

John Webster and F. Brooks—That the secretary be instructed to write the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. protesting against said company closing the crossing at Douglas station; and also to act in conjunction with Cornwalls with the closing of the crossing at Chater.

R. J. Black and A. M. Robertson—That this council grant the sum of \$75.00 to the reeve for services, 1916. The reeve vetoed this motion and stated that he appreciated the manner in which this grant was given, but under present conditions he felt he had been rewarded sufficiently, and therefore declared the motion lost.

D. S. McGregor and F. Brooks—That we grant the sum of \$50.00 to the Returned Soldiers' Association.

R. J. Black and John Webster—That the secretary be instructed to write the G.T.P. engineer re crossing between 11-12 and 11-17.

A number of bills were ordered paid, and a motion to adjourn to meet on Tuesday, January 2nd, 1917 at Forrest, was passed.

J. M. ALLAN, Sec. Treas.

PLEASANT FOR U. S.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—Chief of Police Campeau has officially declared that the war has driven the world's greatest criminals to America and many of them to Canada.

Bank By Mail And Save A Trip To Town

FOR the benefit of those who live out of town, we have arranged a plan by which you can do your banking by mail quite as satisfactorily as if you stood here at our counters. Come in and let us explain the plan—or write for the information.

THE
BANK
OF

British North America

79 Years in Business. Capital and Surplus \$7,854,000.

BRANDON BRANCH, J. W. Millar, Manager.

DARWIN'S BOOK MADE HISTORY

Evolution of Modern Thought is Dated from Issue of this Great Work

The questioning spirit, which is abroad in the churches today, and which many people regard with anxiety and disquietude is, according to Rev. A. E. Smith, one of the healthiest signs of the present time, and is evidence of growth and progress.

Speaking on "The Church's relation to the forces of change in the last century," at the Men's Club in First Methodist church on Thursday night, Rev. Mr. Smith bespoke a sympathetic attitude towards those who do not keep abreast with modern thought, and dwell with the various factors that had tended to bring about an entirely new conception of theology, and one of these was "the new and guiding principle that the Bible should be read and interpreted like every other book."

He described Darwin's book as the most epoch-making event in the history of modern thought, and referred to the scathing criticisms that were directed at Darwin's theory when his book was first published, and the great change in the attitude of men of all ranks in the Christian church to those theories at the present time.

MANY MISSIONARIES OFF TO MISSION FIELD

New York, Dec. 26.—The British steamship City of Glasgow, which left here Monday, direct for Capetown, South Africa, carried ninety-eight passengers, the first direct sailing of a South African passenger ship from port for some time.

Most of the passengers are missionaries from various American church organizations. The City of Glasgow will also call at Calcutta, India.

Many Huns are Blown to Atoms

Canadians Did Brilliant Stroke of Work that Surprised the Enemy

With the British Armies in France, Dec. 26.—North of Arras certain Canadian troops have just accomplished a brilliant stroke of work.

British officers in charge of the raid in modern trench warfare, which, however, was much more than a raid, they succeeded in putting out of action, temporarily at least, an entire battalion of German infantry. The took fifty-nine prisoners, including one commissioned officer and estimated that they killed 150 Germans alone, which were blown to atoms after they refused to surrender. The Canadian losses were extremely light.

The "raid" took place at three o'clock in the afternoon on a front of 400 yards. The German prisoners admit that they were completely by surprise. The officer captured said he was convinced that something was about to happen but believed that the attack was coming on Christmas Eve. He reported to the higher command but received no support.

The Canadians, mostly stalwart men from the plains of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, had skillfully established themselves well forward so that when the artillery had ceased the preparatory fire they were in the German front line trenches in less than two minutes. The officer in command, who was reporting the raid to the brigade headquarters by telephone, said he had hardly uttered the words, "They're off" before he had to say "They're in."

Consternation reigned among the Germans who scrambled for the saps and dugouts leading to the rear trenches while the Canadians pelted them with hand-grenades. Caught unprepared, many Germans in the front line offered no resistance but threw up their hands with cries of "Kamerad." Others were taken as they fled for the second and third lines, for the Canadians pushed on quickly to the second trenches. About twenty dugouts were destroyed by the Canadians, several with bombs captured from the Germans.

Interference by Wilson Delays Coming of Peace

London, Dec. 26.—President Wilson's note is a blow to the allied nations in general and to Great Britain in particular. It is a staggering blow, writes Hall Caine.

We do not for one moment doubt its sincerity. The total absence of any appeal to our humanity, that nauseating ingredient of the recent note from Germany, the direct warning to our fear of consequence, and above all at the frank confession of a rational America, left the note above all possible suspicion of hypocrisy.

But the very sincerity of the note, coupled with its apparent insensibility of convictions and emotions, which at this moment are as deep as our souls, makes it a surprising, almost a stupefying document.

We do not question the right of America to look at the war from the American point of view. We may perhaps think that the United States may have suffered less and gained more by the war than any of the neutral nations, but we agree that whatever the measure of her material loss she has a right to call it into reckoning as long as she does not count it against our losses in flesh and blood, for that we should not for one moment permit. We also agree that in rational terms of future peace, no more and no other than these, the people and government of the United States, are as vitally and directly interested as the peoples and governments engaged in the war.

Recognizes Laws Too Late

"We wish that President Wilson had recognized these clear laws of international life two and a half years ago. If he had done so then, instead of imposing a neutrality upon his people which he now sees to have been impossible, God knows what would suffering might have been spared."

It is small comfort to us today that he has intervened after millions of lives have been lost, after thousands of millions of money have been spent, after the welfare of the world has been shaken to its foundations, and at the moment when we are being made the victims of an indisguised and indisguisable plot to put us in the wrong before the neutral nations by making us responsible for the continuance of the war. God grant that President Wilson's note, however worthy intended, may not help that plot. We only too plainly see that it does.

Never surely in the history of diplomacy has any such tragically untimely offer been made by the head of one great nation to the governments of others.

But before they had so much as a single day in which to consider the situation, President Wilson leaped in with the suggestion, made in the name of the greatest neutral nation, that the allies should state their terms also.

Put Clock of Peace Back

In doing that he probably arrested the German proposals. He certainly made it impossible for the allies to discuss terms of peace at all without apparently acquiescing in the eyes of the world and of history in the German claim. He put the clock of peace back for many days, perhaps many months and thereby committed, however unwittingly, an error which, so far as we can see, has already had the effect of a crime.

But President Wilson's note is not more astonishing in its tragic untimeliness than it is its apparent insensibility to the moral issues of the war, if we are compelled to conclude (which God forbid we should be) that he believes the objects aimed at by the warring nations are virtually the same; that each side is honestly fighting for the rights of the little nations, for defence of the territory against aggression, and for the general interests of humanity.

EIGHTEEN RURAL SHORT COURSES IN MANITOBA

In addition to the list of short courses at rural centres in Manitoba, as previously announced, a new name has just been added, being that of Woodlands, where the course will run from February 5th to 17th. This makes a total of eighteen rural short courses in Manitoba this season, the total list, in addition to the four courses now completed, standing as follows: Souris, Jan. 8th to 20th; Gilbert Plains, Jan. 8th to 20th; Holland, Jan. 8th to 20th; Deloraine, Plumas and Portage la Prairie, Jan. 22nd to Feb. 3rd; Langruth and Woodlands, Feb. 5th to 17th; Killarney, McCreary and Brandon, Feb. 19th to March 3rd; Boissevain, St. Pierre and Birtle, March 5th to March 17th.

Very often the price of liberty is \$10 or ten days.

Figures may not lie, but estimates are often misleading.

It is the man at the little end of the horn who is either applauded or hooted by the audience.

U.S. DRAWING NEAR TO WAR WANTS TO KNOW WHAT BELLIGERENTS SEEK

"In Order that We May Regulate Our Conduct in Future," Declares Secretary Lansing—Wilson's Note Declared Not to be a Movement for Peace but an Effort to Induce the Nations at War to Define the End for Which They are Fighting.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Danger of the United States itself being drawn into the war by reason of its increasingly critical position as a neutral, was one of the moving considerations in President Wilson's dispatch of notes to all belligerents urging them to discuss terms of peace.

Secretary Lansing today authorized the statement that the material rights of the United States had not been the paramount consideration.

"America's rights," he said, "were being more and more involved by belligerents and as the United States was 'drawing nearer the verge of war' it was entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks 'in order that we may regulate our conduct in future.'"

Secretary Lansing's statement was as follows: "It isn't our material interest we had in mind when the note was sent, but as more and more of our rights are becoming involved by the belligerents on both sides so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical."

"I mean by that, we are drawing nearer the verge of war ourselves and therefore we are entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that we may regulate our conduct in future."

"No nation has been sounded. No consideration of the German overtures or of the speech of Lloyd George was taken into account in the formulation of the document. The only thing the overtures did was to delay it a few days. It was not decided to send it until Monday. Of course, the difficulties that face the President were that it might be construed as a movement toward peace and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denied in the document itself that that was a fact."

"Sending of this note will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war. That possibility ought to serve as a restraining and sobering force safeguarding American rights. It may also serve to force the earlier conclusion of the war. Neither the President nor myself regard this note as a peace note. It is merely an effort to induce the belligerents to define the end for which they are fighting."

At the White House no effort was made to lessen the importance of Secretary Lansing's statement. President Wilson would make no comment.

Third Christmas Belligerents Still Hammering Away

London, Dec. 26.—Big guns boomed out a "Merry Christmas on nearly all fronts yesterday."

The third Christmas of the war, except in Roumania, found the belligerent forces still well entrenched and using their artillery wings as the chief method of warfare.

In Galicia and up in the Carpathian mountains considerable activity still prevails, with the Russians the aggressors. In the Carpathians the Russians have captured several Austro-German positions, and farther south, near the Transylvania-Roumanian frontier, have taken a ridge from them.

The forces of the Teutonic allies in the Dobruja region of Roumania are still hammering hard the Russian and Roumanian lines in the north. The town of Isakische, on the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila, has been captured by the invaders, who also are keeping up their operations in the region of Tutitcha, seeking to make secure the bridgehead for operations against southern Bessarabia. The northern bank of the Danube is being vigorously shelled from the latter sector by the artillery of the central powers.

The Peg Flooded Christmas Booze

Express Companies Fail to Deliver All the Liquor Consigned to Winnipeg

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—There were scores, perhaps hundreds, of Winnipeggers still waiting for that consignment of alcoholic beverage that they ordered last week from Kenora, Christmas morning, despite the fact that express deliveries were worked all day Sunday.

The reason why they didn't receive their liquor is simple. It was because the inflow of that liquid into Winnipeg during the past day or so has been so large that it has swept the express companies off their feet.

Late into Saturday night rigs loaded only with "booze" were to be seen on every second Winnipeg street, to say nothing of Sunday. And yet at noon Monday there were a few odd hundred crates still lying undelivered in the offices of local express companies.

Sunday night Rev. J. S. Watson, secretary of the Lord's Day alliance, stated that those responsible for the delivery of liquor on Sunday would be prosecuted.

EXECUTIONS IN MEXICO

Juarez, Mexico, Dec. 21.—Buadeho Uribe, a follower of Villa, who is said to have instituted the practice of cutting off the ears of Carranza prisoners, and seventeen of his band were executed by "home guards," and many Villa troops were killed in a battle southwest of Chihuahua City, a member of the "home guards" reported.

VIRIDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Boy Scout News

The Boy Scouts and Religion.

It has been said and is still believed by some that there is no religion back of the Boy Scouts movement. "True it is that the association does not ally itself with any particular faith or denomination, but it has and has had since its inception a very clear and definite religious aim underlying its whole program."

A Scout promises to do his duty to God at the very outset, and Sir Robert Baden-Powell in his "Scouting for Boys" says: "The study of God's

work is a fit subject for Sunday instruction. Scoutmasters must have a full appreciation of the religious and moral aim underlying the practical instruction all through the scheme of scouting." The religious policy of the movement states: "It is expected that every Scout belong to some religious denomination and attend its services."

Many successful troops of Boy Scouts are connected with churches and religious institutions. Surely, then the Boy Scouts Association is a religious organization with a program broad enough to embrace all denominations of the Christian faith. Charles Stelzle, in his "Boys of the Streets and How to Win Them" says: "Sometimes we are so much concerned about there being enough religion in our plans for the boy, that we forget to leave enough boy in the plans."

Boy Scouts in the Far North

The rigors of the frozen north have no terrors for Boy Scouts. As far north as Dawson City, Yukon Territory, the Scout is almost as familiar a figure as he is in the East and the West. Adorned in the regulation Scout uniform, with his broad rimmed hat, his shorts, khaki shirt, etc., he goes about the streets of Dawson City wearing the same broad smile, doing the same kind acts, "doing his duty to God and King" just as his fellow Scouts are doing in the cities, towns and villages of the East, the West and the South. His daily program is the same as that of Scouts throughout the Dominion. In Dawson City there is a well trained troop of twenty-five boys and a Scoutmaster. Considering the locality and the fact that Dawson City only boasts a population of about eight thousand people, the strength of the troop is no mean total. In a recent letter the Honorary Secretary writes as follows:

"You will, I feel sure, be interested in knowing that our troop here is in a flourishing condition. It consists of twenty-five members, all keen on their work. They have passed their tenderfoot tests, and will soon be able to pass as Second Class Scouts. They are fully uniformed in the regulation Scout uniform. We have had two summer camps, and are now preparing for our third spell 'under canvas.'"

Not Enough Scoutmasters.

Recently we heard murmurs from the West to the effect that the war was making great inroads into the supply of Scoutmasters. Now the cry is taken up in the West. The Commissioner for Alberta, Mr. Justice W. L. Walsh, writing to the Honorary Dominion Secretary, says:

"We are doing what we can to further the movement in this province, but the war has made such demands upon the young men available for the

position of Scoutmaster that we are finding it very difficult to keep the troops alive in the smaller places. The Secretary placed before us yesterday a list of nearly a dozen villages in which there are good troops, but positively not a man in the place to take charge of them. A considerable number of new troops have been formed, however, throughout the province, and considering everything, we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress which we are making."

In some parts of Canada there are so few Scoutmasters that three and our troops are being run by the one Scoutmaster. This, applies pretty much to almost every part of the

Veterans Angry At Socialists

Declare Belief that Right-Minded Men of Labor Party are Now in the Trenches

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—After carefully studying the attitude of the present Trades and Labor Council, which, coupled with the Social-Democratic Party, the Socialist Party of Canada, the Single Tax League, and Rev. Horace Westwood is opposing National Service, at their meeting, Sunday afternoon, passed the following resolution:

"That the Great War Veterans' Association of the City of Winnipeg expresses indignation at the stand taken by the Trades and Labor Council in regard to registration; and we believe that the right-minded men of that body are now fighting in the trenches, sharing the honors of true British subjects; and that all returned soldier members have no confidence in the men who are the cause of this trouble; and that we as an association think it a most regrettable occurrence and not in keeping with the true standard of a British subject whose first duty is to his King and country and his flag, instead of causing internal disruption; and that these men now opposing National Service should turn their attention to the assistance of those who made, and are making, it possible for them to be free men."

LOYD-GEORGE DID NOT CLOSE DOOR ON PEACE PROPOSALS, BUT

Only Terms Will be Complete Restitution, Full Reparation, Effectual Guarantee

London, Dec. 21.—The Daily Mail, which is close to Premier Lloyd George, this morning gave prominence to the following: "Germanic and neutral press views on Mr. Lloyd George's refusal of the German peace offer, largely takes the standpoint that he did not close the door to peace. The actual fact, however, is that he entirely declined peace on anything except the Allies' terms and the door obviously remains open only if Germany is willing to accept those terms, which are complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantee."