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PROBS—FAIR AND COLD

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KING OF BELGIUM IS PROUD OF HIS SOLDIERS

Proud of Their Courage And Fine Fighting Qualities.

GRATEFUL FOR HELP GIVEN BY AMERICA

Ruler of unfortunate Kingdom says his army saved Dunkirk and Calais.

Grand Headquarters of the King of the Belgians in West Flanders, Belgium, Sunday, Dec. 20, via London, Dec. 23.—In the Council Chambers of an ancient Flemish town hall, from which he is directing, under German shell fire, the resistance of his war-worn little army blocking the road to Dunkirk and Calais, King Albert of the Belgians today told the Associated Press of the stand his soldiers are making against the German invaders. The king's headquarters is located on one of the remaining dry areas of that small corner of Belgium left under his rule.

King Albert also requested the Associated Press to convey to the people of the United States his deep gratitude for their efforts to feed his subjects, now under German military rule.

The monarch was alone when the correspondent was admitted to the Council Chambers, not even an aide being present. The king's tall, angular form was clothed in the simple undress uniform of a general of artillery, which was without insignia, beyond braided shoulder straps, to distinguish him from a staff officer.

Physically King Albert looks hardened, but lines of care show in his otherwise youthful face. In manner he is decidedly shy, and he apologized for his English which, however, was very fluent. The light from a smoky oil lamp barely penetrated the recesses of the great-beamed hall, from the walls of which empty picture frames stared down.

His Great Faith in Courage of His Army.

When the king saw the eyes of the correspondent fixed on these blank spaces, where a few months ago invaluable Flemish canvasses hung, he smiled and said he no longer expected the Germans to even be in a position to take the frames.

Modestly he praised the courage of his soldiers, speaking of them with great kindness—as though he were talking about his own children.

"I believe," he said, "my army is courageous. My people, however, are too democratic for the same discipline that prevails in the conscript European armies. You will see something of the bravery of my people when tomorrow you shall have the chance to witness the peasants working in their fields under shell fire, concerned only for the losses of their homes, the destruction of which causes them great grief."

When Edgar Sengear, Belgian attaché to the American commission for the relief of Belgium entered and presented King Albert with a report from the commission, showing that enough food was in sight to feed his people until February 12, the king turned quickly to the correspondent, saying: "Will you be kind enough to convey to the American people my deepest gratitude."

He then wrote in English the following message: "The magnificent generosity of the American people in forwarding immense quantities of gifts of foodstuffs to my suffering people affords me immense satisfaction, and touches me very deeply.

"In this, my country's hour of trial, nothing has supported me more than the sympathy and the superb generosity of those who have assisted in materially lessening the same; and I desire to offer my deepest thanks, and at the same time to convey a message of good will for the New Year."

(Sgd.) ALBERT, "King of the Belgians."

Belgian Army Saved Dunkirk and Calais. King Albert also was anxious to have the American people know, as he put it, the facts of the story of how his troops, demoralized and disorganized by their disheartening retreat almost across the entire limits of their own country, turned at bay along the Yser, and held back the Germans there at frightful cost, in killed and wounded, to their army, and of the almost incalculable loss suffered in the deliberate inundation by its owners of the most valuable agricultural part of the country.

"In one of these terrible nine days in the trenches along the Yser," the King said, "I know that seven hundred of our brave Belgian soldiers were killed outright."

With the modesty and shyness which marks his whole manner, King Albert continued: "I believe I am not claiming too much if I say that our army saved Dunkirk and Calais at the battle of the Yser."

The King spoke with the warmest affection of his soldiers now in the trenches, praising their good spirits. When the correspondent expressed a desire to see the Belgian soldiers actually in the trenches, he said: "You may, but I cannot promise that this will be without risk. Mrs. (Continued on page 7)



TWO NEGROES ON THE STAND AT INQUEST

Both Prisoners Held For Murder of Sydney Woman—An Give Evidence.

NEVER SAW VICTIM, ONE PRISONER CLAIMS

Second suspect gives account of his actions on day of the tragedy.

North Sydney, N. S., Dec. 23.—Six witnesses were examined today when the inquest into the death of Miss K. C. Dunn was resumed before Coroner A. R. Forbes.

The first man on the stand was John West, the colored man whose examination was commenced yesterday afternoon. West's evidence was practically a repetition of what he had given yesterday except that he became somewhat confused regarding the place where he had been when he saw the man coming from Miss Dunn's residence and running down the street towards the power house. He also stated that he had never seen the piece of blood-stained lead pipe nor the axe, both of which were given to him for examination.

Alfred Willis, another colored man who was arrested at Sydney Mines yesterday, was the next witness. Willis who said he belonged to Guyabourgh, told of his movements from the time of his leaving his boarding house opposite the residence of Miss Dunn, until his arrest yesterday at Sydney Mines by Chief McNeil.

After working all day whitewashing and painting at Anthony's brick block at Sydney Mines he left there on the five o'clock car for North Sydney. He left the car at the stop at Regent street and went at once to his boarding house, reaching there about half past five. There was no one in the house at the time but Mrs. Connolly and the children. West and Connolly came in later and all had supper together. No one left the house again until Willis was taken away by the chief of police.

Never Saw Victim. Willis said he had not changed his clothes excepting the removal of his overcoat, which he hung up on entering the house. After supper the time was passed in conversation and the singing of several songs by the witness. He said he did not know of the tragedy until told by John Matheson that Miss Dunn had been murdered. He had never seen Miss Dunn and did not know where she lived as he had been boarding at Connolly's only about a week.

After leaving his boarding house with the chief of police Monday night he went down the street a short distance but was allowed to return later. The following morning (Tuesday), when he left home he told Mrs. Connolly that he could be found at Anthony's brick building, Sydney Mines, in case he was needed and that was where the chief found him when he went to Sydney Mines.

Regards blowing up of warship Messudieh, by British submarine, as severe loss.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—A call for Turkish reservists now living here was issued today by Theodore Froulx, acting Turkish consul general.

"Owing to the general mobilization in the Ottoman Empire," he said, "calling to the colors Turkish subjects who belong to the 1890, 1891, 1892 and 1893 classes of the active army, and those of the reserve and territorial army—classes of 1860-1890—must communicate with this office, so it may be learned upon what condition they may obtain an exoneration from the call to colors and secure their certificate of nationality."

Washington, Dec. 23.—Delayed advice to the United States government from Constantinople say that Turkish officials regarded the loss of the battleship Messudieh, which was blown up by a British submarine recently, as a severe loss. The feat caused consternation in the Turkish capital, because of the fear that more submarines would penetrate the Dardanelles in the future.

NEW NATURALIZATION ACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE JAN. 15

More strict than Old Law — Must be three months notice of desire to become citizens—Those naturalized under Old Act not compelled to go before Courts again to get full measure of British citizenship.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The new naturalization act which comes into force on Jan. 1st, and which gives the rights not only of Canadian but also of Imperial citizenship to aliens who comply with its provisions, is more exacting than the old act. Under the latter certificates of naturalization were issued by the courts. Under the new act three months notice of the desire to be naturalized must be given by an applicant whose application will then be passed upon by a judge who will forward the papers to the department of state. The officials of the state department will take certain steps to check up the records and evidence submitted to the courts and when satisfied that the applicant is entitled to a certificate of naturalization, he same will be issued by the secretary of state. The provision calling for three months' notice will prevent the hurried naturalization of large numbers of aliens immediately prior to an election.

Another important point is that although the present act goes out of force, people who have been naturalized under the act will not be compelled to go before the courts again in order to secure the full measure of British citizenship provided by the new measure. They may send the certificates already granted to the secretary of state who will issue a new certificate but not before the applicant has been a resident of the Dominion for five

or continue in the service of the crown.

Good Character and Knowledge of English or French.

Notices of application for naturalization must be posted by the applicant in the post office nearest to his residence, and in the office of the clerk of the court until considered by the court. It is in the hands of the court to decide whether or not the applicant has an adequate knowledge of English or French. The judge also has it in his power to require evidence to prove that the applicant is of good character, and if necessary can adjourn the hearing to secure the residence of witnesses.

The fee for naturalization will be five dollars, and for renaturalization \$3. There is no further fee to be paid except fifty cents for taking the oath of allegiance.

(Canadian Press.)

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Among the first Canadians to be re-naturalized under the Imperial Naturalization Act which comes into effect on January 1, will be three distinguished men, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Sir William Van Horne and Hon. Geo. H. Parley. They were born in the United States, but have lived here for years, and were naturalized under the Dominion Act. But this act did not have statutory effect in Great Britain, and as a result some discussion has been raised in Imperial conferences.

The new act requires five years residence in the British Empire, the last year of which shall have been spent in the country where the application is made.

SEVENTY HOTELS IN MONTREAL LOSE LIQUOR LICENSES

Montreal, Dec. 23.—Seventy hotel licenses were today cut off under the new provincial license law. The hotelmen affected each receive compensation to the extent of \$5,000. Four hundred hotels remain in Montreal.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST WITH THE RUSSIANS OCCUPYING STRONG POSITIONS, GERMAN REPORTS SAY

Berlin, Dec. 23 (via London).—A report from the German army headquarters in the field states in the eastern war arena, but whether the operations were directed against the Russian rear or main line is not stated. "The situation in Galicia," the report says, "has cleared. The Russians are holding the east bank of the Duna river to Tuchow (a town just south of Tarnow). Another Russian line extends to the southeast of Krosno (on the railroad between Jaslo and Sanck). Heavy fighting is going on at both Tuchow and Krosno."

Russians in Strong Positions. By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—Among the items given out today for publication by the official press bureau were the following: "So far as can be determined, from available reports, the situation has not altered materially on either front in the last 24 hours.

"Unquestionably heavy fighting is proceeding along the Bura river, where one may fairly assume that the

Palace of Lama of Mongals, with rare treasures, is burned

London, Dec. 23.—A despatch received here from Urga, Mongolia, relates that the palace of the Kutuk, or the Delfed Lama of the Mongols, with all its priceless treasures, has been entirely destroyed by fire. The loss entailed is said to be enormous.

TURKEY CALLING FOR RESERVISTS

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NO STANDARD CHRISTMAS DAY. Tomorrow, Christmas Day, The Standard will not be published.