

## UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA THROWS ITS WEIGHT TO LAURIER

Association Jumps Into the Manitoba Campaign. A CHALLENGE TO CRERAR

Alberta Cabinet Majority Is Working for Liberal Leader.

(Special to The Advertiser.) WINNIPEG, Dec. 2.—The Laurier campaign in Alberta and Manitoba burst in full force Saturday, and a rumor that has been current for some time became an aggressive fact. The United Farmers of Alberta, a strong farmers' organization, entered actively into the campaign in Manitoba, and through its second vice-president, James Weir, stated that the candidature of Hon. T. A. Crerar in Marquette would be opposed by the organization. Mr. Weir and other officers, it was stated, are going into the riding to campaign against the minister.

**Challenge to Crerar.**  
Mr. Weir also challenged Hon. T. A. Crerar to a joint debate in Manitoba in a letter written Saturday, as follows: "Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 1, 1917. "Hon. T. A. Crerar, "Minister of Agriculture, "Neepawa."

"Sir—Several days ago I wired a protest to the editor of the Grain Growers' Guide against a glaring misstatement of fact regarding the leaders in organized farmers of Western Canada. My protest was not published in answer to a letter from the editor, I felt sure that you would see it, of the Alberta farmers. That also has not been published, nor did you refer to it when speaking in Calgary. I have therefore decided to ask you to meet me in joint debate anywhere in Manitoba, preferably in Marquette, on Saturday, at a date and place to be named by you. Please answer at once."

**A Good-Sized Surprise.**  
This campaign is a surprise one, as the Manitoba Grain Growers and the Alberta United Farmers last summer united their forces for trade and commerce purposes.

Premier Mitchell of Alberta is understood to favor Union Government, and so was Director of the United Farmers and H. W. Wood, president, and one time a Dominion cabinet minister, but they have been placed in the back ground by superior numbers of other members of the Alberta cabinet.

Hon. Messrs. Cross, MacKay, Marshall and Boyle are against union and are making an active campaign with Hon. Frank Oliver for Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

A surprise was created in Union ranks when it became known that John Stovel, millionaire printer, owner of the leading and influential Liberals in the West, with his two brothers, decided to support the Laurier campaign.

**Allenby Captures Over 500 Turks in Hot Skirmishes**

Enemy Rushes on British Positions are Disastrous.

Attacks are Continued

Enemy Is Promptly Ejected When Any Advance Is Gained.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—(Saturday.)—Live skirmishing between the British forces campaigning for Jerusalem and the opposing Turkish troops, in which the British captured more than 450 prisoners, is reported in today's official statement on the Palestine operations.

The text reads: "General Allenby reports that on Thursday night the enemy rushed on advanced work on the south bank of the Nahr-el-Bukht, in the vicinity of Bir-El-Janus, establishing himself close to our line. At dawn yesterday a regiment of Australian light infantry surrounded the enemy detachment, capturing two officers, 146 men and four automatic rifles. During the day we also captured eight officers and 238 men holding Beldir, a village, and then withdrew with the prisoners to our old line."

**Attacks Continue.**  
The reinforced Turkish armies in Palestine continue to make attacks on the British position northwest of Jerusalem, but have been repulsed with heavy losses, according to the British official statement issued today.

"At 1 o'clock yesterday morning the Turks attacked our line in the neighborhood of Beit-ur-Tahia and Bir-el-Burt. They gained a footing in our position, but were ejected at daybreak, leaving 300 prisoners in our hands. The enemy's loss apparently has been very heavy during his recent attacks."

"Bombing raids were successfully carried out at Tulkeram, an important junction on the Turkish line of communications. A large number of bombs were dropped on the camp, railway, and anti-aircraft batteries and air-dromes."

**Wang Shi Chen Is Acting Premier in Chinese Ministry**

PEKING, Dec. 2.—A mandate was issued today announcing the appointment of the following cabinet: Minister of Foreign Affairs: Lu Cheng Hsiang. Minister of Interior: Chin Kun-Huan. Minister of Finance: Wang Kuo-Ming. Minister of Navy: Admiral Liu Yang-Han. Minister of Agriculture: Tien Wen-Hue. Minister of Communication: Tiao Chin. Chief of the General Staff: Yin Chang. Acting Premier and War Minister: Wang Shi Chen.

**Allied Conference Learns That Ship Problem Is Solved**

PARIS, Dec. 2.—The problem of shipping has been solved by the Allies. The American Shipping Board at the inter-allied conference, said today.

The solution is found in the enormous shipbuilding program of the United States.

**LOSES SECOND SON.**  
EXETER, Dec. 2.—James Gardner, of Kirkton, has received official notice that his son, Pte. Edward Gardner, who enlisted in Winnipeg, has been killed in action. This is their second son. Pte. Earl Gardner, having been killed a few months ago.

## MURDER CHARGE IS LAID AGAINST CHARLES GIRBIG

Kitchener Man Denies That He Killed His Wife.

BLOOD-STAINED RAZOR Accused Gave It to Police When Asked About Crime.

KITCHENER, Dec. 2.—A formal charge of murder has been laid against Charles Girbig, of 18 Simcoe street, a result of his wife's body being found on the cellar stairs of the house, with her throat cut from ear to ear. The affair was discovered at noon yesterday, when W. H. Knechtel, a friend entered the house at the request of neighbors who had seen no one about and feared that something must be wrong. Girbig was found in bed in a pool of blood with a deep gash in his throat, which it is believed was self-inflicted.

A blood-stained razor with a few strands of woman's hair adhering to the blade was found in the bathroom. Girbig is 38 years old and his wife 35. He has been out of the hospital a few days after undergoing treatment for a nervous breakdown.

**Brutally Beaten.**  
Investigations made today show that Mrs. Girbig was killed while unconscious. Her throat was cut after she had been beaten into unconsciousness. After the dead body had been removed to the morgue her body was found to be covered with bruises, believed to be the result of rough treatment at the hands of her assailant.

Following the convening of a coroner's jury a charge of murder was made against Girbig by the crown. The inquest was adjourned until Friday, December 14, when it is expected that Girbig will have recovered sufficiently to attend.

**Denies Killing.**  
The alleged murderer is at present in the hospital, where he is continually asked to make any statement further than to deny that he killed his wife.

It is generally believed that the tragedy occurred some time Friday night. An alarm clock which was standing on the table in which the body was found, stopped at five minutes past seven.

It is thought the two were about to retire Friday evening when a fracas occurred. Mrs. Girbig was brutally beaten and her feet were partially dressed when found. From the footprints in the cellar it is believed the assailant chased the frightened woman into the cellar, where he beat her until she was unable to break away, and got as far as the landing at the top of the cellar stairs. She was evidently trying to get out when caught and dealt a blow which rendered her unconscious. She fell on the landing, where she was later found with her throat cut.

The fact that there was no blood on the front of the woman's dress indicates that her throat was cut after she had fallen or had been turned on her side. Girbig when taken to the hospital was found to have two deep cuts in his throat. The cuts were on either side, and the blood had clotted, thus preventing further bleeding. This saved Girbig's life.

When asked by P. C. Steiner, while still lying on the bed on which he was found, regarding the weapon with which the deed was accomplished, Girbig reached under his pillow and took out a blood-stained razor and handed it to the policeman. Adhering to the blade were clotted strands of Mrs. Girbig's hair.

It was learned from Coroner Honsberger this afternoon that Girbig is making a fair recovery at the hospital, where he had a number of stitches put in both wounds in his neck. The coroner states that Girbig showed signs of considerable nervousness, but declared that he could not say the man is insane.

**Was Wife Afraid?**  
The statement is credited to two young women here that Mr. Girbig had been fearing his wife ever since the early part of last week, when he came home from the hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for a nervous breakdown. The two girls went to the house of Mrs. Girbig to have some dressmaking done, and at that time they heard that she was afraid of him. The girls called at the house again Friday, but were unable to get in. Mrs. Girbig before her marriage was a Miss Falk of Tavistock, where she is said to be well known. The funeral of the murdered woman will take place on Monday afternoon. Interment will be made at Mount Hope Cemetery here.

**Men Against Union Are Not Traitors, Says Hero's Father**

Henry Pineo, Whose Son Was Wounded, Strong for Laurier.

STRAFFORDVILLE, Dec. 1.—The hall here was not big enough to accommodate the crowd which turned out tonight to hear J. C. Charlton, Liberal candidate in East Elgin, discuss the big issues now before the electorate. Mr. Charlton, who was chairman, gave an address on the iniquitous franchise act.

He then introduced Henry Pineo, who in a stirring address, combated the Tory cry that all who were against the Union Government were traitors and traitors.

Mr. Pineo has a son at the front, who has been wounded, and the audience was with him to a man when he declared that neither he or his son were traitors or yellow.

Mr. Charlton exposed the black record of the Borden administration in such clear and logical language that he carried the audience with him from the start. His exposure of the political sham of the conscription act and the iniquities of the franchise act and the Borden principles upon which the so-called Union Government was formed brought round after round of applause. He did not mince words, but spoke the plain truth, and the feeling of political dissatisfaction that is stirring Canada is manifest in Bayham, and dozens of Conservatives are openly expressing disgust of the Borden Government and are lining up with the Liberals.

He was voting for Laurier and Charlton, but for what Laurier and Charlton stand for.

**LIBERAL ORATOR SPEAKS AT RAINVILLE'S MEETING**

MONTREAL, Dec. 2.—J. H. Rainville, Unionist candidate in Chambly-Vaudreuil Friday night, but when he arose to address the electors present, L. A. David, K. C., M. L. A. for Terrebonne stepped on the platform and began an address without asking permission from any person. He was attempting for Archambault, the Liberal who is opposing Mr. Rainville, and got a good hearing.

## ONLY AGGRESSION ON ITALIAN FRONT IS OFFICIAL'S DOING

Two Attempts Made by Diaz to Take Height.

BOTH ARE REPULSED

Allied Guns Are Playing Hob With Enemy Movements.

ROME, Dec. 2.—Violent artillery fighting is reported by the war office today, but there has been no important infantry fighting. The communication follows:

"From the Asiago plateau to the lower Piave the intensity of the artillery fire continues. Enemy troops reported marching on the road from Monte Cimone to the Masi Valley were shelled by our batteries, and dispersed. Large enemy groups which attempted to approach our positions at Maletta were promptly put to flight."

"In the Monte Pertica region one of our parties in a surprise attack reached Hill 1454 held by the enemy, but was not able to recapture this position owing to its being exposed to violent concentrations of fire."

**Guns Disperse Enemy.**  
The official report from general headquarters Saturday says:

"There was no infantry fighting yesterday. The artillery fire continued with marked intensity along the whole front. The enemy fire being particularly violent from Monte Stimol to Monte Castelgomerto on the Asiago plateau. Our batteries dispersed assemblies of troops here and there, and effectively shelled enemy movements between the Piave and Piave-Valecia."

"Our armaments were very active. Enemy encampments in the valley of Arten were bombed. Three enemy machines were brought down in aerial duels. One captive balloon was set alight and another forced to land."

**ITALIAN ATTACK FAILS.**  
BERLIN, Dec. 2.—Via London.—Italian forces on the front between the Piave and the Brenta attacked Monte Pertica Friday. Army headquarters in Saturday's statement announced that the Italian effort failed. The text of the communication reads:

"Italian front attacks by the Italians against Monte Pertica failed. There is nothing new to report on the Italian front," says today's official communication.

**SECOND ITALIAN FAILURE.**  
VIENNA, via London, Dec. 2.—The Austrian official statement issued today says:

"On Monte Pertica another Italian attack has been repulsed. Otherwise there is nothing to report from Venezia."

**CHICKEN SHOW IS BEST IN HISTORY OF GUELPH FAIR**

Billy McNeil Says So, and He Certainly Knows.

GUELPH, Dec. 2.—"This is the greatest chicken show in America," said Billy McNeil, of London, today in connection with the splendid entries for the winter fair. There are over 6,000 birds on show here, and London men are well represented and heavy winners in the prizes. The horse show is another big feature, and includes 321 entries. Beef cattle are about the same as last year.

Many famous owners are represented such as Joe Brown and Sons, Galt, Barber, Guelph, John Garthouse and Sons, Weston, Geo. Ames and Sons, Moffat, J. A. Watt, Flora, Kyle Bros., Dugan, W. R. Elliott and Sons, Guelph, E. Reynolds, Elora, Lorne, Elora, James Bowman, Guelph; W. Headhead, Milton; Robt. McEwen, Elora; James Leask and Sons, Sea-grave and many others, all of whom have won honors in other years.

The dairy test was completed at 9 o'clock last night and some excellent results were made. Many of those who have been watching things pretty closely are predicting that the honors this year will go to the Ayrshires, but the results will not become known until some time on Monday afternoon.

**RETURNED SOLDIERS MAKE IT EXCITING FOR B. C. UNIONISTS**

VANCOUVER, Dec. 2.—There was plenty of excitement at a meeting held in the Vancouver Horse Show building last night to hear three returned soldiers, who are candidates for the House of Commons on the Liberal ticket, deliver addresses.

Maxwell of West Kootenay and Major Ramsay of New Westminster. Prior to the meeting about seventy returned soldiers, led by David Louchman, president of the Great War Veterans Association, took possession of the platform in the Horse Show building, and passed a resolution endorsing the three local Unionist candidates.

The speakers were interrupted freely and noisily, and some of them were unable to conclude their remarks. W. B. McInnes candidate in Vancouver Centre, was called to make very little headway. Leitch, who possessed the excitement reached a climax when someone grabbed the speaker by the leg as he approached the edge of the platform.

**McInnes Upsets Chairman.**  
Mr. McInnes, in endeavoring to keep his balance, upset the chairman's table and almost knocked over S. S. Taylor, the chairman. Soon afterward the meeting concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

Tonight A. Leitch, provincial president of the Great War Veterans' Association and W. Drinnan, president of the Vancouver branch, issued a statement to the effect that the demonstration was in no sense organized, and that a spontaneous outburst of indignation on the part of returned soldiers and other workers who have been turned out of actual fighting in France were against conscription.

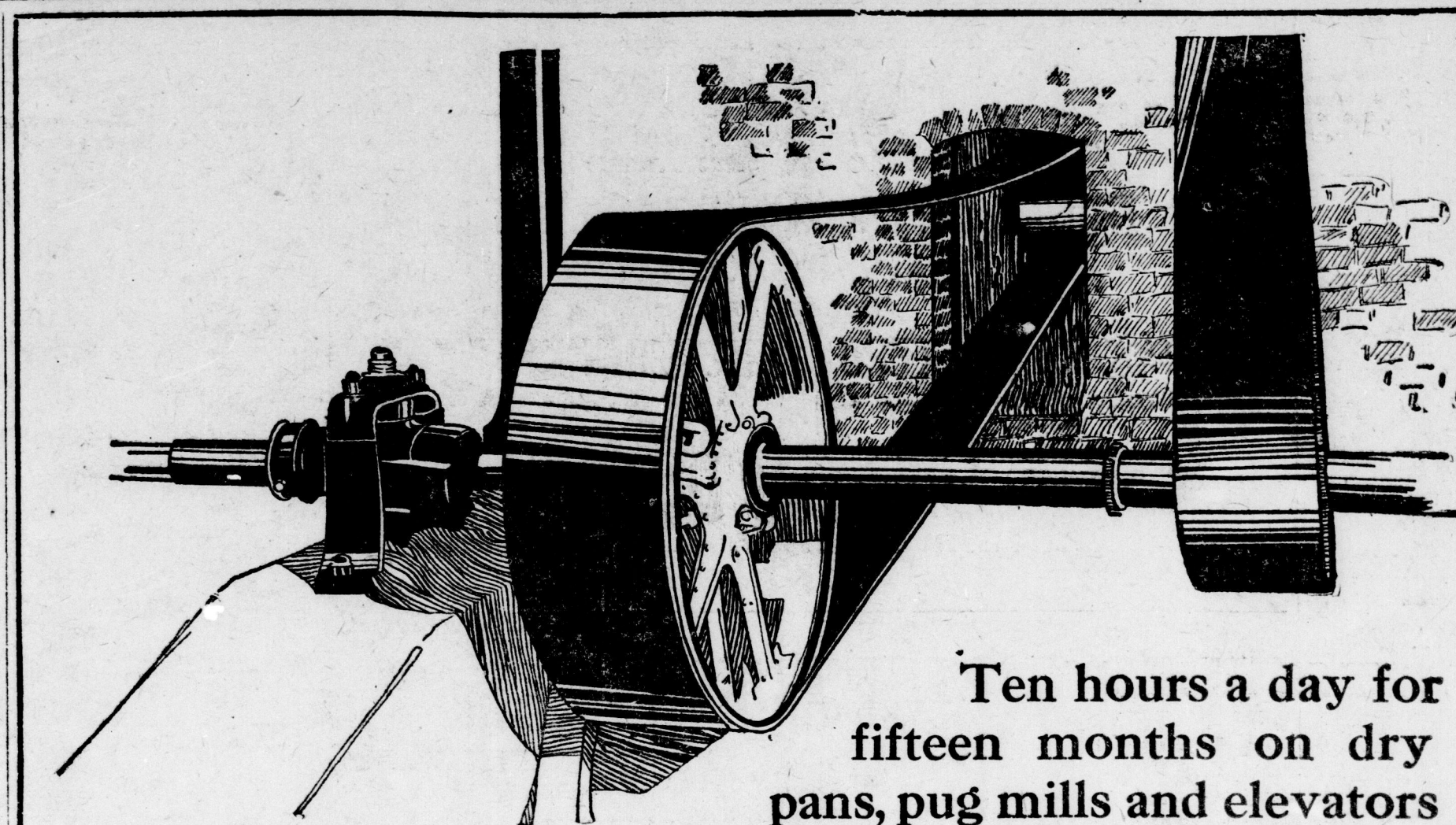
**BULGARIANS TRYING TO FRATERNIZE WITH FRENCH**

PARIS, Dec. 2.—The official statement from Macedonia reads:

"Eastern theatre, Nov. 30.—Our artillery has been active since Monday; that of the enemy along the Vardar and in the region of Mont Agneuse. British aviators bombed the region of Rupel and the railroad between Drama and Serrae. On the Russian front attempts at fraternization by the Bulgarians were repulsed by rifle fire."

**ARTILLERY FIRE REVIVED.**  
BERLIN, via London, Dec. 2.—The German official statement says:

"On the Macedonian front, between Ochrida and Prespa Lakes, and in the Corna bend, the artillery firing was revived. West of Ochrida Lake and on the Vardar we engaged in successful patrol encounters."



Ten hours a day for fifteen months on dry pans, pug mills and elevators

## Without Stretch

There is hardly a line of industry in Canada where Extra Power Belting is not used by somebody. Desire for speedy, steady production is bringing shrewd men to its economical efficiency. In the work-a-day world it has a sterling reputation for sticking to the job in hand and seeing it through.

Extra Power is the choice of a large number of belt users for every kind of drive. But it "won its spurs" on the extraordinary drives—on the hard drives—before it was recognized as a better belt for all-round work.

The Sun Brick Company of Toronto made the "hard-drive" test. Where canvas stitched belting failed them, Extra Power "has given entire satisfaction." Under varying loads and conditions it has never stretched, shrunk, separated in the plies or ripped at the fasteners. Read what they say in their letter.

SUN BRICK COMPANY, LIMITED  
TORONTO

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd.,  
Gentlemen:

On February 10, 1916, we replaced the North Motor belt drive of canvas stitched belting (which has caused a great deal of annoyance through stretching in dry weather, shrinking in damp, plies pulling apart and ripping at the fasteners) with an eight ply, fourteen inch Goodyear Extra Power rubber belt.

Since installing this belt we have never had to take it up through stretching or shrinking. It is wearing splendidly and has been in operation ten hours of every working day since the installation.

The belt is subject to the varying loads of our Dry pans and pug mill also the varying loads of elevators and has given entire satisfaction up to date.

Very truly yours,  
G. A. German,  
Managing Director.

The same features that have won for Extra Power the premier place in the Sun Brick Company's plant, will give you longer service, lower belt cost, greater economy of power.

# EXTRA POWER BELTING

(FRICTION SURFACE)

**YOUNG GIRL SAVES BOY'S LIFE AFTER WONDERFUL EFFORT**

Companion of Rescued Youth Drowned at Kingston.

KINGSTON, Dec. 2.—While skating at Tichenborne Friday night, Clifford Knapp was drowned and his companion, Daniel McEwen, was rescued through the persistent efforts of 15-year-old Louisa Badour, who, in answer to his calls for help, hurried half a mile over the ice to the rescue. McEwen had been broken through the ice several times, and was too exhausted to seize the girl, who, on his reappearing, thrust it through his clothing and twisted it around, securing a hold and hauling him onto the solid ice.

**BOLSHEVIKI FACTION HAS CARRIED PETROGRAD**

PETROGRAD, Thursday, Nov. 22.—Incomplete returns from the election for the constituent assembly indicate that the Bolsheviks have carried Petrograd, receiving 272,000 votes against 211,000 for the Constitutional Democrats and 88,000 for the Social Revolutionaries.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN LANDSOWNE'S LETTER**

Secretary to Food Ministry Advises Consideration.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—John Robert Clynes, parliamentary secretary to the food ministry, in speaking at Oldham last night referred to the Marquis of Landsowne's peace letter, and said it was clear that the war aims of the Allies were being grossly misrepresented in the enemy countries.

The Secretary Clynes said that he should like the parliamentary Labor party seriously to consider the important statements in Landsowne's letter. A collective statement of the Allies' war aims now would, in the secretary's judgment, help to strengthen the people at home, and probably would tend to weaken their foes in the foreign countries.

**ONLY ONE GERMAN COLUMN IS LEFT IN GERMAN E. AFRICA**

British Forces Preparing to Clean Up the Job.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—The British forces in German East Africa are preparing to make their final drive at the single remaining German force in that colony, which is estimated to number about two thousand rifles.

For this purpose, says Saturday's official statement of the East African operations, which summarizes the North African campaign, Gen. Northey's troops are concentrating to the west of the Moheli valley. They will co-operate in the measures being taken in dealing with this last remaining German column.

**HON. OLIVER WILCOX, M. P., NORTH ESSEX, DIES AT HIS HOME**

Recently Underwent an Operation in Harper's Hospital at Detroit.

ESSEX, Dec. 2.—Hon. Oliver J. Wilcox, who has represented the north riding of Essex County for the last eight years, died at his home here at noon today after a long illness. Mr. Wilcox was operated on some time ago in Harper Hospital, Detroit, where it was found he was suffering from cancer of the stomach. Since that time he improved somewhat, and for a time was able to be out, but two weeks ago he was again confined to his bed. The funeral services will be held at his home on Wednesday, and burial will be made at Woodlee Cemetery.

Mr. Wilcox, who was born in Woodlee, was a member of the House of Commons for North Essex, and was a member of the House of Commons for North Essex, and was a member of the House of Commons for North Essex.

**Close Factories as Protest Against Insult to Premier**

Almost Every Plant in Kitchener Is Shut Down Today.

KITCHENER, Dec. 2.—Almost every industry in Kitchener will be closed tomorrow, as a protest against the city council's action in refusing to express its regret to Premier Borden on behalf of the city for the insult he received here a week ago. The proposal met with general approval yesterday when it was submitted to the employees by manufacturers. Mass meetings of working people will be held during the afternoon at local theatres, and in the evening a monster meeting will be held on Market Square, at which strong protests will be made against the action of the majority members of the city council.

**MEWBURN AND ROWELL ARE GOING OVERSEAS**

"After Election" Will Confer With Sir Edward Kemp.

OTTAWA, Dec. 2.—Shortly after the elections Major-General Mewburn, minister of militia and defence, and Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the Privy Council, will proceed to England for the purpose of conferring with the minister of overseas service.

**DOHERTY SAYS U. S. STABILITY DEPENDS ON BORDEN'S RETURN**

(Special to The Advertiser.) MONTREAL, Dec. 2.—Minister of justice, Hon. J. C. Doherty, addressing a meeting of electors here declared that a sweeping victory for the Borden Government was absolutely vital to the peace of the United States.

**CROTHERS IS BETTER.**  
ST. THOMAS, Dec. 2.—Hon. T. W. Crotthers, who has been confined to the house with grippe for a week, expects to be able to resume his campaign on Monday. Hon. E. G. MacDonnell, minister of public works in the Ontario Assembly, spoke in the interests of Mr. Crotthers at Tatolville Saturday.

**MOONLIGHT ATTACK NEAR PASSCHENDAELE NETS BRITISH GAIN**

Penetration of 300 to 400 Yards Is Recorded by Canadians.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Dec. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British a little before 2 o'clock this morning made a local attack in the moonlight on the German positions north and northeast of Passchendaele. The attack about Goeben, in the west of Goeben. These attacks appear to have gone well, as a whole. The British were held up in the centre along the ridge for a time, but for the most part were reported to have reached their objectives and to have penetrated from 300 to 400 yards at numerous points. The attack about Goeben involved two strong German fortifications.

If the gain to the north along the ridge is confirmed, it will mean that the British have won a tactical success. The extent of their observation in this region.

**LANDSOWNE NOTE RIGHT THING AT WRONG TIME**

Ex-President Makes Allusion to Incident.

NEWTON, Mass., Dec. 2.—Lord Landsowne's letter, urging upon the Entente Allies a restatement in general terms of their war aims was termed "the right thing at the wrong time" by William Howard Taft, speaking last night on "The Great War" before the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Lord Landsowne's letter, as published," he said, "states the case almost as President Wilson did a short while ago. Some men have the faculty of saying the right thing at the wrong time. This was the right thing at the wrong time. Lord Landsowne should have realized that his idea would be misconstrued this time."

**AMERICAN PIONEERS GRAB UP GUNS AND FIGHT LIKE TIGERS**

Drop Shovels and Join British Comrades in Repelling the Huns.

PARIS, Dec. 2.—The HAVAS Agency correspondent at the British front, describing the formidable German attacks before Cambria on Friday, in which he asserts eleven, or perhaps twelve, enemy divisions tried to encircle the British, only failing because of the vigor of the counter-attacks, says:

"The courageous conduct of a number of American soldiers attracted much attention. They were pioneers and specialists, engaged in construction, and working on field roads. When the enemy appeared Friday morning they exchanged their shovels for rifles and cartridges and fought alongside the Tommies. Several fell gloriously with arms in their hands, facing the foe. No man who saw them at work but praised God for the reinforcements, pluck and courage of these improvised fighters."

**MARTIN BLEHRE DEAD; 33RD DEGREE MASON**

BUFFALO, Dec. 2.—Martin H. Blehre, one of the oldest Masons in the southern jurisdiction, died at his home here last night. He was at the time of his death a 33rd Degree Master Mason, Buffalo Consistory. He had been elected to the 33rd Degree in 1882, and was a member of the Buffalo Consistory, Buffalo, N. Y., and of the Buffalo Consistory, Buffalo, N. Y., and of the Buffalo Consistory, Buffalo, N. Y.

**CANCELLED CONTRACT COSTS FIRM \$14,000**

TORONTO, Dec. 1.—Judgment was given at Osgoode Hall today for \$14,000 against the McKinnon-Dash Company of St. Catharines in relation to the cancellation of a certain contract. Three thousand dollars of this amount is for damages for cancellation of contract, and \$11,000 for estimated probable profits.