

## THINGS LOOK BRIGHT FOR THE NEXT YEAR REPORTS SASKATOON

Writing to The Western Standard about conditions in Saskatoon during the year just closed and the prospects for the coming year, the commissioner of the Board of Trade of that city says:

As to progress here during the past few months, I fancy that our experience has been somewhat similar to that of every western point. In some lines, business is quiet, while in others it is fairly active. On the whole, things are just as good as could be expected under present conditions to meet which, people have restricted their expenditures to necessities and moderate comforts. Luxuries are largely absent. And, when luxuries are eliminated from western life, the domestic budget experiences a tremendous diminution, and, strange to say, no one is a jot the worse. The sole embarrassment is mental and emotional in a shocked realization of the hundreds and the thousands that, during the hysterical era, we squandered upon that form of vanity and vexation which we were wont to term "life." These times are not hurting, they are helping. We are getting down to normal and doing so with less tribulation than we certainly deserve. This latter remark applies to the West as a whole, and not merely to this city. I am respectfully convinced that Saskatoon, like every other commercial city, has a safer, sounder and more solid basis now than ever in the past, and more especially, than during that period of easy money prosperity which since the earliest days of commercial life, has always heralded a crisis.

Now, such crises have been frequent during the past fifty years. There have been seven or eight of them. Therefore, they are old in the experience of the world. The present one is not the first, nor will it be the last. You would think to hear some people speak as you travel around this West, that only now for the first time in the world's history have conditions such as the present prevailed. How childish, how utterly fatuous! Probably the explanation rests with a spirit of resentment against the passing of the easy-money epoch; the death of the day of the drone; the birth of the better days when the worker holds the field and when men must do something for their community ere they can hope to earn a permanent and really righteous livelihood.

Crisis such as the present are always divided into the following four phases: Prosperity, decline, depression, improvement.

We are now due for the improvement. What are the factors conspiring to this improvement? Simply the ones that have always operated in the case of past crises.

In the first place, we have a public reversion to common sense and reasonable thrift and an abandonment of crass extravagance. Then, we have an elimination of indiscriminate and promiscuous credit, and the sudden formation of very decided opinions on the part of financial institutions as to what are and what are not legitimate business enterprises. We also have the sudden disillusionment of the fond idea that cities and countries could be substantially established either on real estate or oil booms. Still another feature is the general awakening to the fact that absolutely no market in industrial development could have been looked for during a boom period when real prices had been forced unduly up by speculation, so that the consequent high cost of living rendered it impossible for manufacturers to establish West and pay wages which would enable their people to live West. Why this basic fact should have escaped us hitherto is beyond explanation.

Yet another realization of highest importance is that if we look to the country, the cities can well be left to take care of themselves. In the past, we focused our energies upon our

cities and forgot the country—the one main, vital matter. "Production" is now the cry. It constitutes a new slogan embracing the solution of our every economic problem. The day of the drone is dead.

I have merely touched upon a few prominent features of the great and truly splendid change born of these quieter days, and have done so with a view to showing up in a very inadequate way, a strong, strong stride toward the adjacent goal of a substantial economic life for this wonderful West.

To revert to the more local consideration of this city, I can only say that we never were fuller of courage, nor have we ever had so great a reason for such substantial hope. We are conscious of no semblance of doubt or misgiving. As the outcome of a logical contemplation of every circumstance, we already distinguish the first cheering glimmer of a truer, fuller prosperity than we have ever known or could ever have known but for the corrective medium of these quieter and more thoughtful days. As a humble student of Western economics I have never in the past been emboldened to such pronouncement and inspiring hope and confidence as is now mine. We are just crossing the threshold to approach and grasp our magnificent and inevitable destiny as the greatest of all great lands, the world's veritable fountain of food.

### C. P. R.'S FOURTH

**VESSEL ON CLYDE**  
The Metagama, sister ship of the Misanable, was successfully launched Friday and christened by Lady Biles, wife of Sir John Harvard Biles, LL.D., designer for the British Admiralty, in the yards of Barclay, Currie and Co. at Glasgow. When the Metagama went down the ways she created a record which bids fair to remain unbroken by any shipbuilding company engaged in Canadian or American business. She is the fourth vessel launched by the Canadian Pacific on the Clyde this year. In the light of present conditions this is a glowing commentary on the substantial condition of her owners exchequer.

The Metagama's sister ship, the Misanable, reached Montreal recently on her second voyage out of Liverpool, and went back again Friday morning. They are of the "one-class" type, with passenger accommodation for 520 second, and 1200 third class. Each has a length of 520 feet and a beam of 64 feet, while the breadth of the passenger decks are 41 feet. Each vessel has a dead weight capacity of 7,950 tons, with an approximate cargo capacity of 6,600 tons. The famous cruiser stern which is also the feature of the new boats placed on the Pacific, is introduced by these boats on the Atlantic. The new ships have six complete steel decks. In order to ensure safety the hulls are sub-divided; by watertight doors and bulk heads, so as to be capable of floating when three compartments are open to the sea. These watertight bulkheads and doors are automatically controlled from the bridge. The speed of each vessel is 15½ knots with a draught of 27½ feet. As for the interior of the vessels, each cabin stateroom is fitted with a wardrobe and chest of drawers, folding lavatory with mirror, and other conveniences. The public rooms are dining saloon, smoking room, lounge and drawing room. The domestic refrigerator plant is capable of making 500 lbs. of ice per eight hours. The vessels are heated and ventilated on the thermo-tank and Crittal system, changing air eight times each hour. There is also a printing plant on board each vessel. They are fitted with Murray's patent nested lifeboats as well as motor lifeboats. They are the first steamers to have Babcock and Wilcox patent davits, which enable the boats to be launched from either side of the ship even when at a considerable list.

### The Bully Time Coming

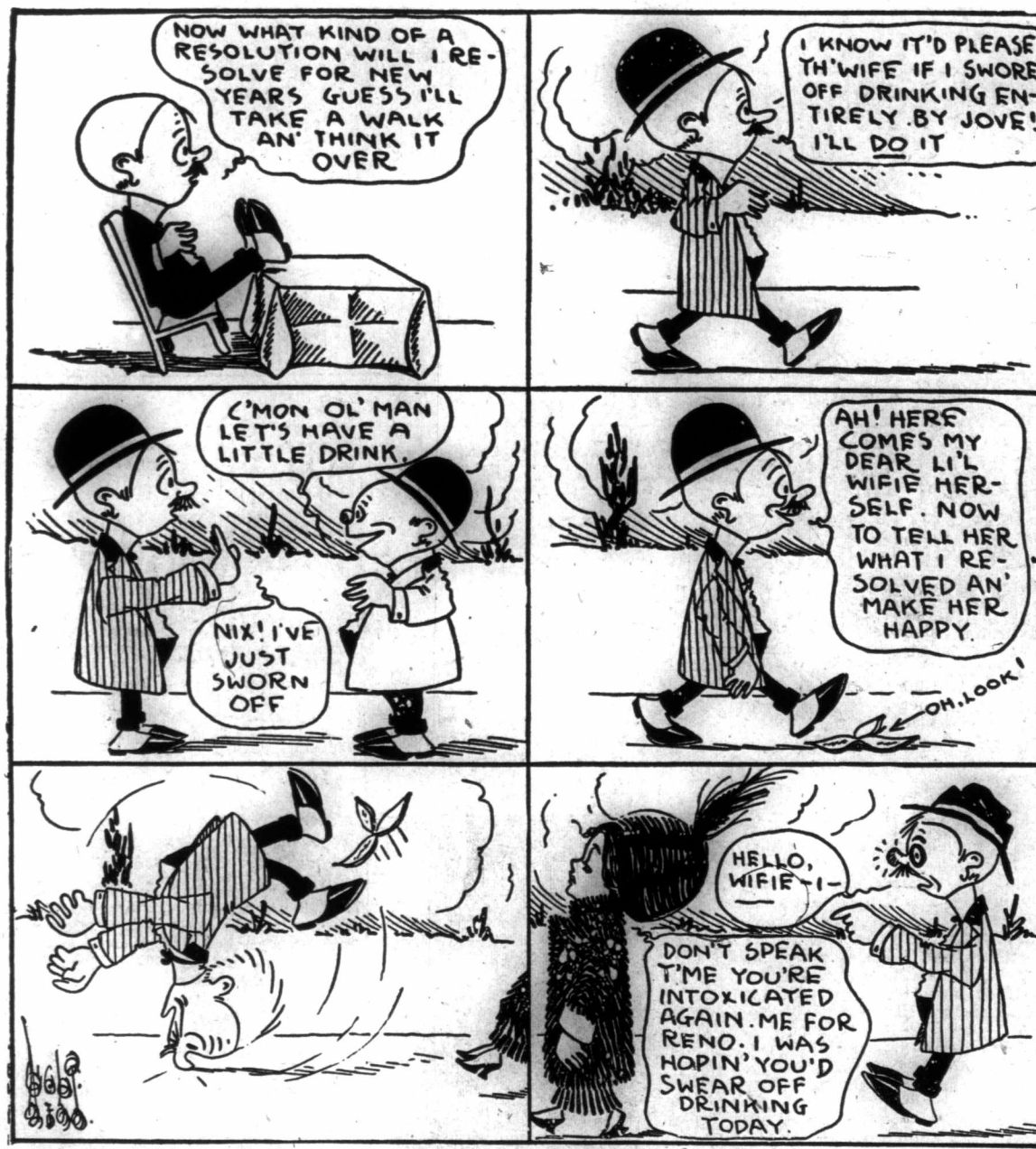
**R**ING out, glad bells for the glad New Year—  
Toot, toot the horns for one and for all—  
Old one and two has made his skip,  
And landed on the other shore.  
Let bells ring out and clang and chime,  
Let hollers holler loud and long;  
Let's make it older every time,  
Let's greet the stranger with a song.  
The cost of butter is a drop—  
The price of 'taters will come down;  
The price of beef it will downwards hop,  
And sausage free to all the town.



REWARDED.

Gran'pa: "That's nice, Willie, to resolve not to torment your poor old dog this year! Here's a nickel for you."  
Willie: "Thanks! You see old Fido, he died last week."

## It Happened New Year's Day



### INVENTED LIFE PRESERVER

James Scarlett, of Seattle, Wash., has patented a life-preserving garment which can be drawn over ordinary street clothes in a few minutes and is buoyant enough to keep three hundred pounds afloat for a week. Scarlett astonished sightseers along the waterfront of Seattle by dressing on a ferry boat and leaping overboard into Puget Sound. The suit brought him to the top and he paddled around for an hour or more to the wonderment of the onlookers.

The suit is made of heavy khaki, waterproofed by a patented process. It is large and baggy with a hood which can be gathered at the top so as to be waterproof. A celluloid window before the face enables the wearer to look out over the water. Small cone-shaped trumpets lead into the hood just in front of the ears and provide ventilation. There are several watertight pockets in which a water bottle and food for a week may be carried. When floating in the water the body is held in a comfortable, half-sitting, half-reclining posture.

The inventor says that his suit can be manufactured to sell cheaply.

### OLD WORLD BARBERS

Their Prices Are Low and Methods in Some Cases Are Crude

The barber shops of the United States and Canada are the finest in the world and charge the highest prices. Comparatively few cities of Europe use American chairs, and many of these run their barber shops in connection with men's furnishing stores.

In most European cities a hair cut and a shampoo cost 6 cents, and in parts of London a shave costs 4 cents. In some Italian cities 1 cent is charged for a shave and 2 cents for a hair cut, and in Turkey barbers take their entire pay in tips.

Many German barbers make wigs and wigs while waiting for customers, and many French barbers do ladies' hairdressing. Austrian barbers are compelled to serve apprenticeship of four years on pay beginning at 41 cents a week and ending at \$1.02 a week before they can own their shops. Syrian barbers seat their customers in straight backed chairs before tiny wall mirrors and fix queer shaped

panels about their throats. Then they rub on with their fingers lather made from cheap soap.

In India your barber calls at your house and shaves you every morning for \$2 a month.

In China the barbers carry stools, small tubs, razors and scissors about the streets, stopping on the sidewalks to perform their work, just as scissors grinders do in America.

### ORIGIN OF SMOKING

The origin of the custom of smoking is veiled in mystery. The Chinese are thought to have had the habit at a very early date, and this is not surprising, judging today from the Chinese man's fondness for the pipe. When Columbus discovered America he found smoking indulged in by all the tribes of Indians, but the practice had a religious association to them. From Santo Domingo tobacco was introduced into Spain and Portugal in 1559, but it was then used in the shape of snuff. Sir Walter Raleigh, however, is the first man of note to make smoking a fashionable habit.

### SISTER OF EVANGELINE

When Canada was yet in its infancy the part of Nova Scotia then known as Acadia, was the home of the simple and honest farmers who, like the Puritans, lived in harmony while the rest of the new world was at war.

Later, when England took Canada it was decreed that each citizen of the colony should take the oath of allegiance to King George. Because many refused to do so, the inhabitants of several villages were banished. The paths surrounding their removal is touchingly related in the beautiful and well-known poem "Evangeline," which tells the story from the Acadian's point of view only. Therefore, those who have read "Evangeline" will enjoy a "Sister to Evangeline," telling us both sides of the question with a view to settling forth the underlying reasons justifying to a certain extent the action taken by the British.

The hero is a Frenchman, Paul Grande, who, on leave of absence from the French army in Quebec, turned his steps to the fragrant Acadian colony, where he had spent the happiest of his childhood days, and from whence he had carried in his heart the image of one of the fairest maidens of Grand Pre, Yvonne de Lamourie.

He was rather staggered when, upon his arrival, he was presented to her fiancé, George Anderson, whom he at once thoroughly liked, and before parting that evening told him frankly his love for Yvonne, and his intention to win her, if even at that late day it were by fair means possible.

His arrival was very opportune, for during the evening the Black Abbot came and threatened to burn Gilles de Lamourie's buildings because of his friendship with the English. Fortunately Paul's connection with the governor at Quebec had the power to deter the Black Abbot from his dangerously

ardly deed.

Yvonne's father later explained to Paul the menace the Abbot and his band of ruffians were to the colony. He voiced his fears that the English might take steps that would be disastrous to many of the villagers if the oath of allegiance were not taken, while the Abbot, on the other hand, made it impossible to their safety to take it, by destroying their homes and plundering them.

Then there is the story of the burning of Gilles de Lamourie's home during the absence of Paul, and upon his arrival, Yvonne accused him of absenting himself on purpose.

To prove his loyalty he rushes to save her lover, Anderson, from the same fate, and while he and Anderson were escaping from the Abbot's band Paul was seriously hurt. He was nursed back to health by a very curious character, who dwelt in a very old house.

When Paul returned to Grand Pre the sweet smelling apple blossoms no longer decked the trees, and in the village too, great changes had been wrought. The English had grown impatient and suspicious of the delay evinced by the Acadians to take the oath, and had imprisoned all the men in the church, previous to their preparations to exile the colony. Paul was also taken by the soldiers while holding a secret meeting with Yvonne in the woods.

Then follows weeks of waiting, and finally the loading of the ships with the household goods, and wives and children, and lastly the men. Gilles de Lamourie's family were not taken owing to Anderson's intercession on their behalf, but after the last boat put to sea, Yvonne slipped down the shore and succeeded in going on board. The weeks of uncertainty had awakened in her the love that had long lain dormant.

She succeeded in reaching Paul's ship; and before they reached the broad Atlantic the Acadians succeeded in capturing the boat and put into shore. Paul and Yvonne soon found a priest, who sealed the great bond that had already caused each to risk their life for the other.

There is a quaint atmosphere about the book, in keeping with the very excellent character of the Acadians, and the descriptions are exceedingly clear and wholesome. The book is written by Chas. G. D. Roberts, a well-known Canadian writer.—L. K. Hoffman.

### EXPECTATION OF LIFE

Years One May Count Upon Living at Any Given Age

No statistics have been calculated with great care than the tables which give the exact expectation of life for men and women at various ages. These mortality tables are officially accepted by the various states in the United States, and from them the life insurance companies compute their rates of insurance. They are as accurate as the most carefully gathered figures can make them.

At ten years of age the expectation of life is 48.72 years. When one has reached the age of twenty the chances are much improved, and there is still an expectation of 42.20 years before one. At the age of twenty-five the average has improved, and there are still some thirty-nine years ahead.

For the normal man or woman thirty years of age the average length of life is sixty-five years. A person thirty-five years old may expect, according to these tables, on thirty-two years more.

As each milestone is passed the prospect brightens. Thus at the age of forty the prospect is for nearly twenty-nine years more, and at forty-five there is an expectation of twenty-five more years.

By the fifty years the expectation is about twenty-one years, and in the fifty-fifth years it is nearly eighteen more. A man of sixty may look forward with some confidence to fifteen more years of age, and this increases so that at seventy years the prospect is eight years. On having successfully passed the eightieth year there is an expectation of about five years.

### BE EARNEST

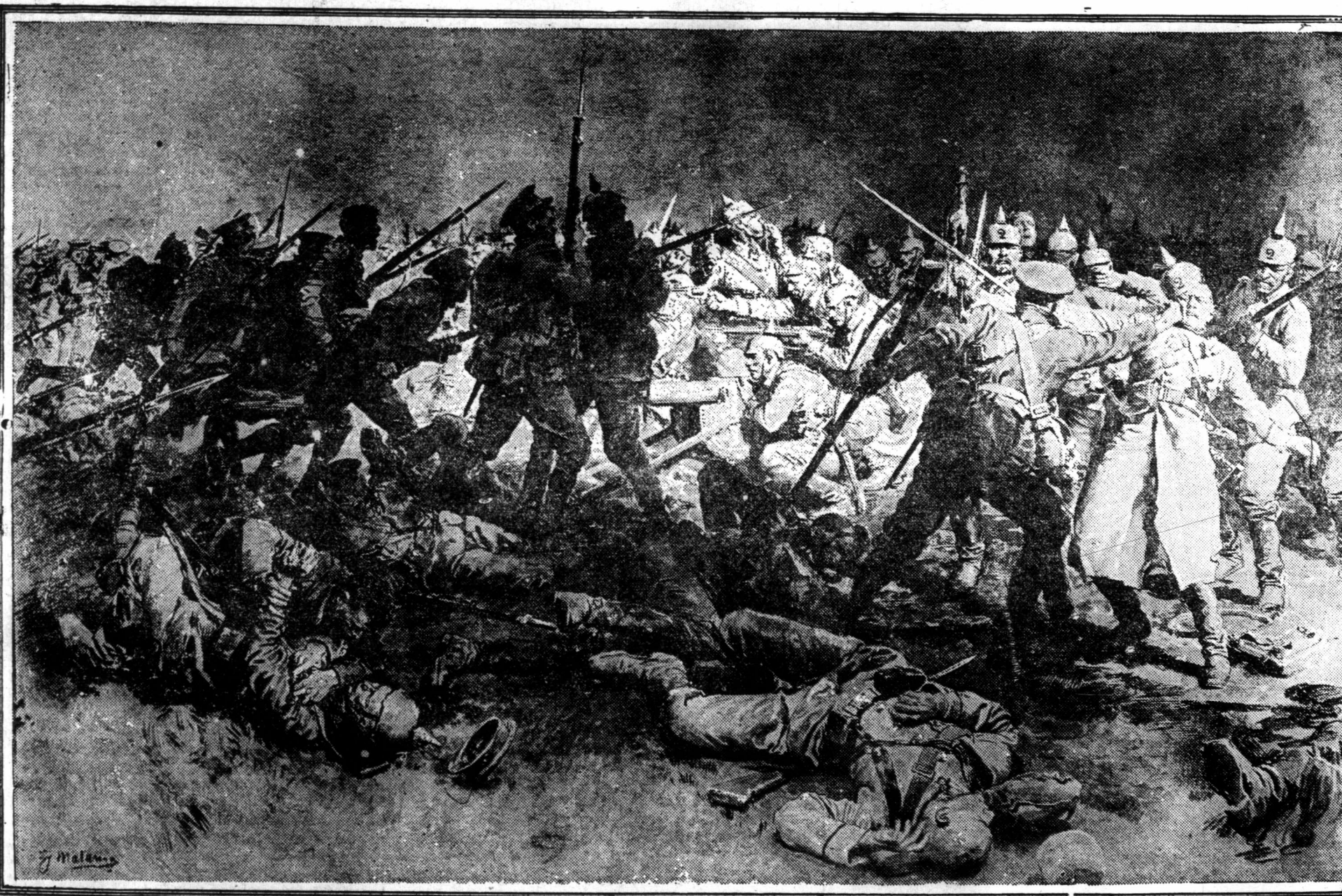
He who would impress a truth on others must first be impressed by that truth himself. He cannot sway his hearers by a conviction that he is not already swayed himself. Unless the truth has got hold of the speaker he cannot hope to make it get hold of his audience. Earnestness is a result of deep feeling and of heartfelt purpose; the most effective speaker is always an earnest speaker. John Angell James, of Birmingham, England, said to a class of young preachers whom he was addressing, "Young men, be earnest, not aim at earnestness, but be earnest."

### BE OF GOOD CHEER

"Be of good cheer," Christ used to say to His disciples. Be cheerful: that is our modern English for it. Carry that sort of look on your face as of a person who has heard a piece of rare good news; carry that sort of tone in your voice. If the circumstances of your life are depressing; if you have known what it is to suffer pain, or to lose your goods, or even to lose your friends, and in spite of that can "be of good cheer," it will mean all the more; a candle shines all the brighter when it is shining in the dark.—William R. Richards.

Weak men have wishes, strong men purposes.—Bishop Barry.

## HOW THE FAMOUS PRUSSIAN GUARD FOUGHT AROUND YPRES



Details of the desperate attempt made by the famous Prussian Guard to break the protecting British line around Ypres are now at hand. A message from the colonel commanding the advance post announced the approach of the enemy, advancing in strong columns on the road leading to Zonnebeke. Cavalry were acting as a screen to the infantry, supported by ten batteries of artillery. The Prussian Guard, however, was not to be deterred. Wherever his weapon struck it dealt death. Suddenly he slipped on the blood drenched mud and impaled himself on the bayonet of a dying German. This hand to hand combat lasted for an eternal half hour, and the troops on both sides fought with the grimest determination. The picture illustrated above is from a drawing by F. Matania, special artist for this newspaper, the New York Herald and the London Sphere.

## FINAL

### LOCAL BUILDER TALKS ON CONDITIONS AT CLOSE OF THE YEAR

Owing to the conditions arising of the war and to other financial sons the building trades in Canada did not experience anything like good a year as in 1911. Tenders asked for several buildings such as the Industrial building, Calgary verity, Gutta Percha Rubber plant, but were withdrawn after war started. The larger bulk erected include Catholic and Presbyterian churches on the North coast about \$20,000 each; the Alberta Bank building and the T. W. Selzer Hotel at a cost of \$24,900. Public Market improvements and Children's Shelter, the latter at a cost of \$21,455. In addition to the above many smaller residential buildings and stores were put up during the year and local contractors had good contracts in Calgary, Hat, Hanna, Edmonton, Ponoka, and other outside points.

Speaking to The Standard, a member of the Builders' Exchange, "We do not expect any immediate improvement in the building conditions and it would be a mistake for us to look for a big improvement in the building line at the present time. They will very probably not find believe, however, that the building line will be as active as it was in 1911. Last year's building conditions were certainly very poor as compared with previous years. Last year for a big improvement in the building line at the present time. They will very probably not find believe, however, that the building line will be as active as it was in 1911. Last year's building conditions were certainly very poor as compared with previous years. Last year for a big improvement in the building line at the present time. They will very probably not find believe, however, that the building line will be as active as it was in 1911. Last year's building conditions were certainly very poor as compared with previous years. 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