

eting Cards

Weeks before Xmas. m over, better and ear. The stock is nited.

PLAY AT BOOKSTORE 160 Colborne St.

SS DIRECTORY

OUR CREDIT is good at Geo. Macdonald 13 COLBORNE ST. Inter Clothing for Men, Women and Children; Also Household Furniture.

TRY A. SHEARD For High-Class Confectionery Home-made Candy a Specialty 23 COLBORNE STREET Phone 1545

BRANTFORD CARTAGE CO. Baggage and Parcels called for and delivered promptly.

Service Guaranteed ac. Phone 254 - BellPhone 745

LAND'S G DIFFERENT FROM Y IN YOUR

CARDS

DARS

the Talk of Everybody nd Price

ERLAND

XMAS GIFTS

DE GOODS

Factories by Brantford to Are Helping to the Following :

the Kitchen Overall and Shirt COMPANY, Limited Manufacturers of the MOUS "RAILROAD SIGNAL" OVERALLS "Everybody Wears 'Em."

own Brand Corn Syr up

Bensons Prepared Corn ANADA STARCH CO.

GH-CLASS PRINTING

OURIER JOB DEPT.

ALLIES HAVE WON THE ADVANTAGE SAYS THE NEW YORK CRITIC

War Has Developed Into a Siege—Trench System Proving Most Effective—Germans Have Been Held Successfully in Check.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—In his review of the war situation in Europe today, the military critic of The New York Times says:

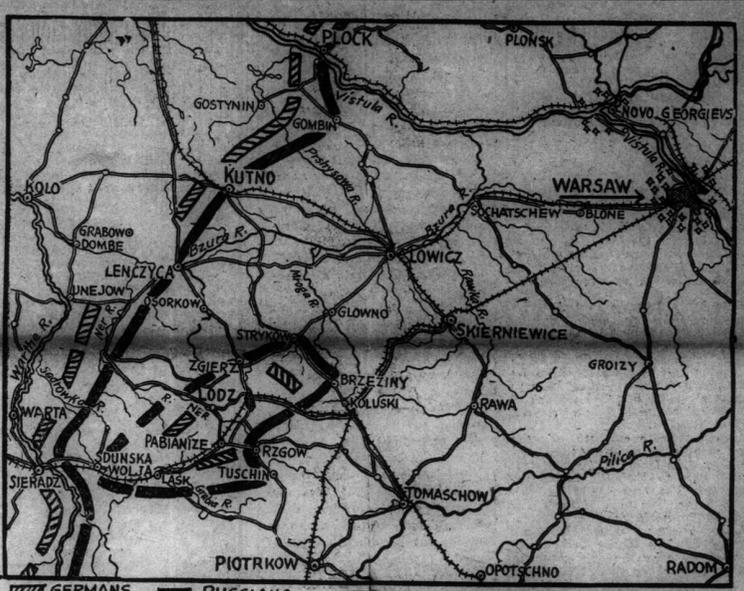
"The activity in Belgium shows that the allies there are taking advantage of every opportunity to press back the German lines. The cutting of the levees along the Yser has permitted the low lying ground on both sides of the river to be inundated to such an extent as to preclude the movement of large bodies of troops in this region. The narrow passage ways along the roads and dykes are so easily swept by artillery fire that frontal attacks are well high hopes."

"This throws to the front the important operations in the Belgian field to the higher ground near Ypres, where the British troops have recently gained ground. Their advance from Ypres along the railroad toward Roulers is aimed at the railway station of northwestern Belgium. If the British can press their advance along the north side of the Lys River they can force the Germans to evacuate their positions along the Yser and the Belgian coast."

"The German assaults north of Arras, which carried them to the Chateau de Vermelles, were intended to bring similar pressure to bear upon the troops on the left flank of the allies. The repulse from Vermelles effectually checks this strategic plan. Throughout the long center of the battle line in France, the fighting consists of the short range work of siege warfare. To reach the working parties in their deep trenches, it is necessary for the projectiles to drop nearly straight down upon them. This problem confronted the Japanese in their siege of Port Arthur in 1904 and was solved by them by the development of the trench howitzer. This gun fires a small shell or grenade at a high angle, so that after travelling from 200 to 500 yards, according to the powder charge used, it will fall into the enemy's trenches. At still closer ranges, similar effects are obtained by the use of hand grenades. For short distances these may be hurled directly, but the usual method is to swing them on a cord and let them fly when they get up speed. When the opposing trenches get within range for hand grenades bombardment, it becomes almost impossible to make further progress by trenches without prohibitive losses. The advancing troops then have to take to burrowing. Tunnels are driven forward as rapidly as possible by frequent reliefs, working at high speed for short periods."

"Two tactical uses are made of tunnel warfare. One is to drive the tunnel under the enemy's position, to place a big charge of explosive and then at a signal blow up the redoubt and its defenders, as happened in the great crater at Petersburg in 1864. This was also the method when the Japanese blew in the counterscarps of the Russian forts at Port Arthur. Coincidentally with the explosion of the mine heavy artillery fire is brought to bear upon the enemy's positions on both sides of the point of attack and an assaulting column, massed ready for the signal, is sent forward to capture the enemy's line. The second use of tunnel warfare is to get in a new advanced position without the losses consequent upon a dash across the open ground. Tunnels are pushed forward until they gain the new line, and galleries are then run out right and left. Charges of explosives are then placed in the galleries, which on their detonations blow out a line of craters that need only to be connected and shaped up to provide the new advanced line of trenches."

"By fighting similar to that described above the opposing armies have been carrying on the fighting along the Aisne, in the Argonne, and in the Woivre districts since the second week in September. The net gains are about evenly balanced. Considering the war as a whole, however, the allies may claim the advantage of having held the Germans from the development of their military strength."



RUSSIANS WIN BETWEEN THE WARTHE AND THE VISTULA—GERMANS HEMMED IN.

Reports continue to arrive showing the magnitude of the Russian victory in Poland. Although the great battle between the Warthe and the Vistula is still in progress, Russian official reports indicate that a large body of Germans is still hemmed in around Lodz. The Russian ring passes through Bagow, Tuszyn, Brzeziny, Strykow, Zgierz and Zdzianka Wola. Some German troops, however, are still in trenches between the last two places. Further west the Russians have advanced to Gombin, and the German line is said to be broken in a number of places.

ARE GERMANS ON ANOTHER DRIVE TO CITY OF WARSAW?

Von Hindenberg Has Commenced a New Offensive but Russians Are Still Near Lodz—Success Achieved in Other Quarters.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—A cable to the Herald from London this morning says:

"The great movement of German troops from Belgium and Germany to reinforce Field Marshal Von Hindenberg in Poland, apparently is having its effect. While Petrograd is silent on the great struggle and Berlin says the offensive is progressing normally, unofficial advices say that serious fighting is taking place at Ilow, thirty miles from Warsaw, and at Piotrkow to the southeast of Lodz. Both of these towns, like Lodz, are situated on the main roads to the Polish capital, and are far in advance of any positions from which the Germans heretofore have been reported since their retreat from Warsaw in October."

"The new offensive by Field Marshal Von Hindenberg began on Thursday last, when, having failed in his attempt to pierce the Russian center at Lodz, he commenced another effort to envelop the opposing flanks. This drive, from the unofficial reports, has progressed approximately 20 miles on each flank, and leave Lodz still in the possession of the Russians, as the top of the Russian arch that extend toward the Posen frontier."

"The capture of one of the advance positions at Przemysl is regarded as conferring a valuable advantage on the Russians in their attack on the fortress. Leaving this city to the attentions of the besieging armies, the Russians are pushing in small bodies steadily across the plains of Hungary, and fugitives are said to be pouring towards Budapest."

"The allies continue to push forward in Flanders and in northern France, but the Germans explain that they the giving ground for tactical and strategical reasons."

"The advance as far as Flanders is concerned seems to have been checked on the outskirts of Langemarck. There has been a recrudescence of hard fighting in the Argonne district, where the French say they are making progress. On the whole, however, in these siege operations these successes and reverses only mean a gain or loss of a few hundred yards and a slight readjustment of positions."

"Seemingly more important is the unofficial statement that the French have seriously interfered with the German communications between Metz and the Woivre district in France, for here, as elsewhere, command of the roads is of the greatest importance to the armies."

SIR ROBERT BORDEN PAID TRIBUTE TO ACTIVE SERVICE MEN AT TORONTO CAMP

Premier's Visit Was a Most Happy One—He Congratulated General Lessard and His Staff—Canada Fights For Freedom's Cause.

TORONTO, Dec. 7.—There was no ceremonial drill, no review, no march-past at the concentration camp at the Exhibition Grounds when Sir Robert Borden visited it on Saturday. The Prime Minister went there not to inspect the soldiers on dress parade, but to see them at their work in preparation for service with the second Canadian expeditionary force and to learn how they were being housed and fed. His tour of the various buildings, in company with Major-General F. L. Lessard and his staff, occupied two hours. When it was ended Sir Robert voiced his satisfaction with the camp organization, the accommodation provided and the progress made by the men, in a brief address to the officers. He gave a wider circulation to his opinions by the following paragraph in the general orders issued Saturday afternoon:

"The Premier of Canada, on the occasion of his inspection of the camp, desires to express his entire satisfaction with the appearance of all ranks on parade. It was with much pleasure he was able to see for himself the progress made in training and the satisfactory arrangements existing for the messing and accommodation of the officers and men."

SAW MEN AT WRK

Flag signaller stationed on Dufferin Street passed the word that the Prime Minister was approaching. The guard at the gate turned out, and Gen. Lessard and his staff gathered to meet him. The Premier was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. the Hon. J. S. Hendrie, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario; Mayor H. C. Hocken, Sir Edmund Osler, M.P., A. Claude Macdonell, M.P., W. K. McLaughlin, M.C., and Dr. J. O. Orr. He was welcomed by Gen. Lessard, who said: "I have thought it best to let you see the daily routine of camp life and consequently have made no special preparations." The party thereupon commenced the inspection, escorted by a battery of moving picture men and photographers. Sir Robert visited the headquarters of the various units, the sleeping quarters of the officers and sergeants, the dormitories and mess rooms of the men. He saw the soldiers' midday meal in course of preparation in the kitchen, and carried away a copy of the bill of fare. He looked in at the stationary hospital, in which sick soldiers are cared for, and into the veterinary hospital, where sick horses are treated. On the way he watched squads of men at drill, bayonet exercises and signalling practice. He spent some time at the miniature rifle ranges, and watched with interest a group of men firing at a target with a machine gun of the newest pattern.

PRaised ORGANIZATION

Finally he returned to the playgrounds, where all the troops were assembled. The officers having been called to the front, Sir Robert addressed them briefly. He expressed his pleasure at having had an opportunity of inspecting the camp.

"I desire," he said, "to congratulate General Lessard and all those responsible for the good organization I have seen." He had been able to see the troops at their training and had found them a fine looking body of men. As far as he had been able to judge the men were provided with good accommodation and were receiving good training. After a while they would be called upon to do more and would do it worthily. But the work of training was most important. One might as well pick up a few men on the street and expect them to win from an organized hockey or football team, as to send untrained men and expect them to defeat the greatest military organization in the world. "No one," continued the Premier, "has any doubt as to the courage, fortitude and endurance of the officers and men who have gone forward and of those who will go forward. In making preparation you are doing every bit as important a work as if you were already at the front."

OFFICIAL FRENCH NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 7.—2.45 p.m.—The French war office gave out an official communication this afternoon as follows:

"In the region of the Yser, we continue to attack the few entrenched positions still held by the enemy on the left bank of the canal."

"In the region of Armentieres and of Arras, as well as in the Oise territory in the Aisne region and in the Argonne, there is nothing to report, except to refer in general terms to the superiority of our offensive."

"In Champagne our heavy artillery, on several different occasions, has shown marked superiority over that of the enemy."

"There is nothing new on the eastern front of our line, where the positions of preceding days have been maintained."

SUMMARY

[By Special Wire to the Courier] A comparison of the reports from Berlin and Petrograd leads to the conclusion that the Germans again occupy Lodz, from which city they were driven on their first retreat from Warsaw. Berlin makes positive announcement that Lodz is in their hands, while Petrograd admits that the situation there is desperate.

"If the fall of the city is a fact, it indicates that communication with Warsaw again is seriously menaced, but a semi-official statement from Petrograd declares that the Russians are strong enough to hold the invaders in northern Poland and will content themselves with doing this, while devoting their main energies to the reduction of Cracow and the invasion of Hungary."

Hungary, according to reports from the Russian capital, is the weak point in the armor of the teuton allies. These messages from Petrograd say that even as early as the fall of Lemberg, Austria asked Russia for terms of peace. The negotiations to this ended, if any really took place, apparently proved abortive. The story is again revived in Petrograd in the form of a report that the Hungarian prime minister, on a recent visit to Emperor William, demanded better military protection for Hungary, the lack of which would cause the loss of the kingdom.

With the exception of a special despatch to the effect that Ostend is burning, nothing has been received in London to dispute the accuracy of this laconic statement.

The latest reports from Montenegro and Serbia indicate that these Balkan allies, at bay in their mountain strongholds, are holding the Austrian invaders in check.

On the water some minor activity has been noted, resulting in the reported destruction of Turkish auxiliaries in the Black Sea by Russian submarines; the mining of two Swedish merchant ships off the Finnish coast, and the crippling by a mine of the famous Turkish cruiser Hamidieh, which is said to have regained Constantinople with considerable difficulty.

Diplomatically, interest is centred on Rome, where the statement of former Premier Giolitti that Austria planned war against Serbia in 1913 has caused something of a sensation.

Kieff Sees An Army of 130,000 Prisoners Pass To the Interior of Russia

PETROGRAD, Dec. 7.—Ten thousand prisoners were brought to the fortress at Kieff on Wednesday, bringing to a total of 130,000 the number of captured Germans and Austrians who have passed through Kieff since the commencement of the war.

They have been sent to the interior of Russia and to Siberia as rapidly as possible, and have been put to work in the fields or in big industrial camps.

BERLIN OFFICIAL NOTICE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] BERLIN, Dec. 7.—(By wireless to London)—The German official statement given out in Berlin this afternoon says that in northern Poland German forces were successful in prolonged fighting around Lodz in defeating strong Russian forces stationed to the northwest and to the southwest of this city.

The text of the communication follows:

"No especial reports have been received from the western theatre of the war nor from the region to the east of the Plain of Mazurian Lakes."

"In northern Poland we gained important successes in prolonged fighting around Lodz by defeating strong Russian forces stationed to the northwest and to the southwest of this city."

"Lodz is in our possession. Details of the battle giving us Lodz cannot yet be made public because of the extended field over which the ensuing Russian was fought. The Russian losses were very large. An attempt by the Russians to come to the assistance of their threatened armies in the north from Northern Poland, was failed by the activity of the Austro-Hungarian and German troops in the districts southwest of Piotrkow."

Rev. Dr. Chown, General Superintendent of the Methodist church, preached to over 1,000 people at Exhibition Camp, yesterday.

New Turnkey Is Appointed For the Jail

Mr. John Cook will be the new turnkey at the jail, and following custom his wife will have charge of the women's corridor. The new turnkey will commence duties January 1. The announcement was made officially today.

Lodz Shelled For a Week

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 7.—The correspondent of the Novoe Vremya at the front, in a despatch to his paper, tells of the bombardment of Lodz. He says:

"The shelling of Lodz began a week ago and grew heavier and heavier until shells were landing in the town at five minute intervals, setting many afire."

"From the battlefield the town appeared enveloped in flames. On Wednesday, the Germans attempted to storm the city, but they were driven back by the Russian bayonets."

"The town is in a pitiable state. The 700,000 inhabitants are scantily provided with food, and there is no employment, as the factories have long since been closed. There has been no regular communication with the outside world the past two months."

The German Reichstag voted a war credit of \$1,125,000,000.

STOP FISHING

Fleet at Firth of Forth Cannot Go Out for Remainder of War.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 7.—An order issued by the Admiralty yesterday that the whole fishing fleet in the Firth of Forth Scotland, cease operations, has been received with consternation by a thousand fishermen who face ruin. The population also is excited as the people believe the prices of fish will advance beyond the reach of the poor, whose principal food is fish. The Firth probably will be closed to fishing until the end of the war.

The new Northern Congregational church in North Rosedale, Toronto, was dedicated yesterday.



The best Christmas present you can give the mail man, the express man, or the shopgirl, is to do yer shopping early.

Were Burned Alive Under Russian Fire

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 7.—The Times correspondent writes from Petrograd:

"The fighting near Lodz has been marked by many stirring episodes. The Novoe Vremya correspondent writes that daring attacks by the Siberian cavalry at Rzgow, Brezin, Tushin and Laska and on the line to Zgierz Strykow will be commemorated in history. The forest between Brezin and Krupin, is a continuous German grave yard. One Russian regiment, which already had won renown early in the war charged a howitzer battery of the enemy. The centre was broken before the hellish fire, but nothing could arrest the rush on the flanks. They cut down the gunners, captured the howitzer and cleared the way for the infantry. How unexpected and terrible was this joint attack appeared from the firing of the village of Krupin, where maddened German soldiers were seeking refuge. They were burned alive when Russian shells set the huts on fire."

"Wednesday morning the Germans left Zgierz to storm Lodz, but did not reach even the Russian trenches. The Tsar's infantry received the German columns on their bayonets, while the Russian batteries shelled them. The struggle lasted several hours. The Germans strained every effort to pierce the Russian infantry line, but

ALL IS NOT PEACE IN GERMAN ARMY MOW, CASE OF DER GOLTZ

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—A cable to the Herald from The Hague says:

"It is positively asserted in Brussels that Field Marshal von Der Goltz recently made an attempt on his life. Inconceivable as having lost his Kaiser's favor, it is said he travelled to the front and there subjected himself continually to a withering fire from the allies' trenches, and he was wounded slightly by a shrapnel splinter. He gave the impression, I want to leave immediately for the front on his life. Eventually his staff advised him to go back to Brussels, where he found a telegram from the Kaiser announcing the appointment of his successor, General Bisping. Field Marshal von Der Goltz then took a room under an assumed name at the palace hotel, near the Gar Du Nord, rumor says, and tried to shoot himself through the heart. His effort failed, and he was prevented from making a second attempt on the following day. The Kaiser gave him a showing appointment as military adviser to the Sultan to 'save his face'."

An incident of the gravest importance occurred at Antwerp on Thursday evening, when orders came from headquarters that all landsturm officers, numbering about one hundred, were to leave immediately for the front on their life. The officers, it is understood, flatly refused to move. "We are landsturmiers," they said. "We have families at home. We are not here to fight, but only to guard the town. If the regular army is exhausted, Germany must make peace."

JACK TARS GIVE CHEERFUL NEWS HOW THEY'RE GETTING ALONG

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LIVERPOOL, Nov. 26 (correspondence)—The hospital ship China chartered by the British admiralty, put into Liverpool with about two hundred sick sailors, collected from the various warships on the North Sea. Some were in rather bad condition, and had to be carried on stretchers to the waiting ambulances, but the majority were able to walk. From one of the convalescents a small idea of their life in the North Sea was gathered. He said:

"We are getting on all right in the North Sea. It is beastly cold out there, but we don't mind. At times life is a bit monotonous but we bear it all nicely. Some of our vessels had a look more than once at the German ships, and if they would only come out we could settle the whole lot quickly with our big guns. The Germans do not touch our big ships, but only the smaller ones. We give chase to their submarines when seen and make them clear off—though mishaps will occur. There are not so many German submarines about as people think. We have plenty of sleep, good food and hard watching and cruising."

"Some of us have had a glimpse of Heligoland, but the atmosphere was misty and the place lies low. Some of our destroyers looked in to see what was going on, but owing to the torpedo nets they could not go far enough to do damage."

Before returning to Britain from his visit to the firing line in France, King George conferred upon Field Marshal Sir John French, the Order of Merit.