

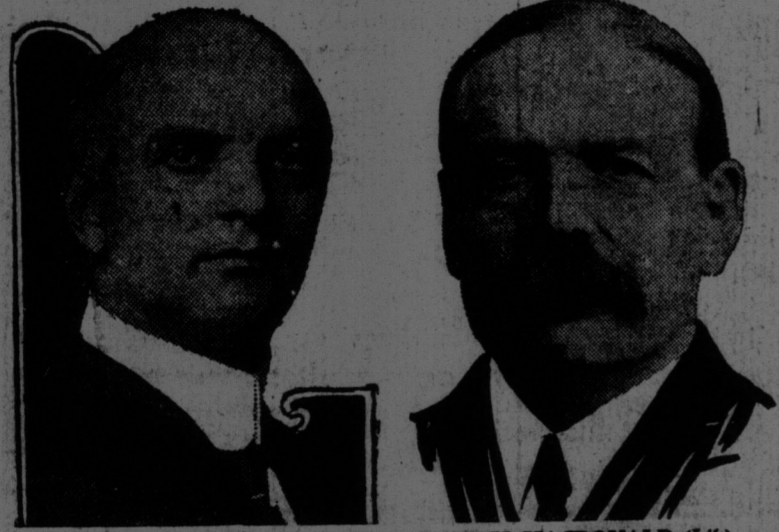
The Evening Times Star

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ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1915

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

THESE ARE THE MEN WHO WILL PROBE THE SOLDIERS' BOOTS CHARGES



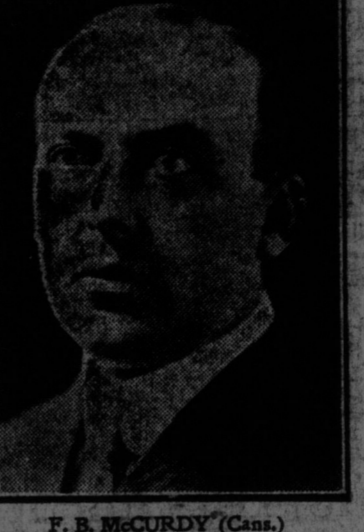
W. S. MIDDLEBORO (Cons.)
North Grey



E. M. MACDONALD (Lib.)
Pictou



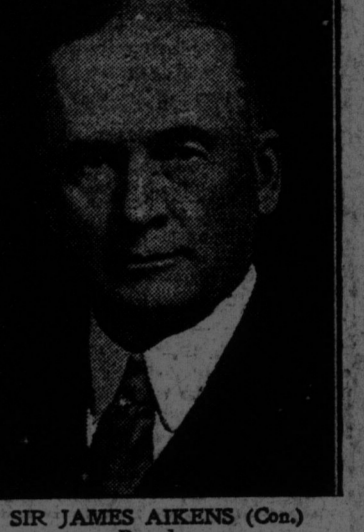
E. W. NESBITT (Lib.)
North Oxford



HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Lib.)
Rouville



F. B. MCMURDY (Cons.)
Shelburne and Queens



J. H. RAINVILLE (Cons.)
Chamby and Vercheres



SIR JAMES AIKENS (Cons.)
Brandon

The special parliamentary committee which will investigate the charges that inferior boots were supplied to certain units of the first Canadian overseas contingent. The committee consists of seven members—four Conservatives and three Liberals who will probe thoroughly into all the circumstances of the contracts and manufacture of the footwear.

Every Kind of Weapon of War In Use On a Part of Western Front

Twenty-Third Week of Constant Fighting Closed With Today—Germans Again Resume Attacks on British Near Ypres

Paris, Feb. 20.—For twenty three weeks, Northwestern France has rocked with the crash of battle. The mighty engagement which now extends over a line stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier, began just twenty three weeks ago today, with the battle of the Aisne, when the retreating hosts of General Alexander von Kluck made their stand on the heights north of Soissons. Since that time the battle front has been extended over the territory of two more nations Belgium and Germany, and some of the fiercest fighting that has marked the course of this gigantic conflict, has taken place in West Flanders and Alsace-Lorraine.

AGAIN ATTACK BRITISH

Official despatches from the north state that the Germans have again resumed their attacks against the British forces near Ypres. It is believed in some quarters that this is the opening of a strong offensive movement by the Germans who evidently hope to strike some hard blows while preventing, by submarine blockades, the transfer of any more British troops from the British Isles to the coast of France.

An effort of the Germans to gain a position dominating the pass of Bon Homme in the Vosges ended in failure. The Germans managed to get a foot-hold upon Hill No. 607, but were attacked by a company of French and put to flight. Although the French were outnumbered the German forces engaged in this action were reserved, unused to the terrors of battle, and they fled before the rushes of the seasoned French veterans.

An artillery duel is in progress near the Lys River, and another near Rheims. In Champagne, near Perthes, Souain and Beaussejour repeated attacks are being made by both sides. Every kind of operation known to warfare is in use there. Sapping and mining operations are followed by long bombardments and infantry charges. Snipers are engaged all the time. Aeroplane attacks are frequent. At times, under the glare of flashlight and the blinding flashes of bursting shells, fighting develops in the darkness. Big guns, mine throwers, high angle guns, and every other weapon possible to create destruction are in use.

DEFEAT AT SUEZ WAS DECISIVE

London, Feb. 20.—A Morning Post dispatch from Alexandria says:—“Seven hundred refugees brought here by the United States warship Tennessee, state that the defeat of the Turks at the Suez Canal was more serious even than thought. Djemal Pasha is said to be discouraged and has stated, it is declared, his intention to abandon the invasion of Egypt unless a new army is forthcoming. The Germans in Jaffa say that many German officers like those who were killed. The Germans first divulged the defeat in their cooperation with the Turks.”

GERMANS FORBID LENTEN PASTORAL

Havre, via Paris, Feb. 20.—The German military authorities have forbidden the reading of the Lenten pastoral letter issued by Monsignor Heylen, Bishop of Namur, according to information received here, because it enumerates instances of indignities which he accuses Germans of having inflicted upon the priests of his diocese.

Noted Indian Leader Dead.

Bombay, Feb. 20.—Hon. Gopal Kishan Ghoshale, an Indian leader, who was president of the Indian congress in 1905, died yesterday.

Phelz and Pherdand WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—Pressure remains high and with the exception of light snow in a few sections of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the weather has been throughout the dominion.

May Be a Little Warmer

Maritime—Moderate northeasterly winds, fair; Sun-day, moderate winds with stationary or a little higher temperature.

New England Forecasts—Fair tonight and Sunday; fresh north winds.

BAKERS TAKE UP MATTER OF PRICE OF FLOUR

Ask The Government to Take Means to Stop Speculation

PRICES LIKELY TO GO UP

Sir George Foster Replies That it is Easier to Note Price Changes Than to Propose Remedy, But Government is Going Into Question

Toronto, Feb. 20.—Correspondence between the department of trade and commerce, Ottawa, and the Bread and Cakes Manufacturers' Association, seems to point to a general and substantial advance in the price of these necessities.

A letter to Sir George E. Foster from the association declares that since August when the convention of the association was held in Winnipeg, the price of all commodities used in the bakers' trade has advanced, in some cases one hundred per cent, but that in spite of this advance, the association, as a body, did not carry out the idea of avoiding any increase in the cost of bread to the consumer, so long as our stock of flour and other materials, purchased before the war, was on hand. The high prices prevailing today do not exist because of any shortage in supplies, but rather because of reckless speculation.

If the government could, by any feasible method, stop such speculation, the price of flour could be kept at a level consistent with the supplies on hand the world over, and such a would "enable our people to purchase a reasonable price for bread."

The letter concludes with expressing the belief that an extraordinary increase in the price of bread would be a national calamity, and hoping that beneficial legislation will be enacted.

Fairville Soldier Writes From Havre

Charles Nelson Celebrated Birthday By Landing There on Way to Fight Germans

Word has been received by relatives of Charles Nelson with the first Canadian contingent, that he landed safely at Havre, France, after a quick trip from Southampton. He remarks on a postcard that the anniversary of his 21st birthday passed by him unnoticed in the hurry and excitement of landing. As usual the correspondence was signed by his captain on the reverse side, indicating that it had been examined.

Now that the warmth of the sun is more noticeable and people are saying how much the weather appears like spring the kiddies are wondering if there is to be any playground this summer. If so now is the time to set the machinery in motion. An average attendance of 100 children a day last season shows there is a real need for such an institution.

Yesterday one of the rooms in the school was again fumigated as another child had contracted diphtheria on the day previous. There are several other cases of the disease in the village.

DEATH OF MRS. J. W. HAMM

The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Hamm took place in the General Public Hospital at an early hour this morning. She was the wife of James William Hamm, who conducts a grocery and meat business at the corner of King and Ludlow streets, West St. John. Besides her husband she is survived by seven children, her father Charles E. Duplisse, of Queens county, four brothers and one sister. She was a native of Queens county, but had resided in this city for the greater part of her life. She was a woman of kindly disposition and won the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends who will bear her death with regret.

FOR THE RED CROSS

The secretary of the local Red Cross Society acknowledges receiving from Mrs. C. E. Colwell, proceeds of bridge and dance, \$27.

GERMANS BLOCKED AT NOVOGEORGIEVSK FORTRESS

Collapse of Campaign to Reach Warsaw From Northwest Predicted—Rumor Says Kaiser Caused Change in Tactics

Petrograd, Feb. 20.—Complete collapse of the German campaign in Northern Poland against the fortress of Novogeorgievsk, which presents an attack upon Warsaw from the northwest, was predicted today by Russian military experts. It is announced at the War Office that the strength of the German attacks on the Sierpec-Plock front has perceptibly decreased. Further fighting is expected there, as the Germans, checked by the stubborn defensive and deep mud in the Augustow region, are apparently withdrawing troops from the front south of the Wislona River and concentrating them in Northern Poland.

Well informed Russian observers assert that the German drive against the Sierpec-Plock front, and their attempts to reach Lomza and Ostrowiec constitute the supreme effort of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to capture Warsaw, the efforts to reach the Polish capital from the west, having entirely failed.

German prisoners taken west of Warsaw are said to be in great numbers. They assert that Emperor William himself forbade the sacrifice of any more troops in what he believed to be a hopeless attempt to smash through the Russian lines on the Bzura-Rawa front and force Von Hindenburg to change his tactics.

SIX MORE TODAY LEAVING NEW YORK

Fifty Cargo Carriers on Way to German "War Zone"—Insurance Rates But Little Higher

New York, Feb. 20.—Marine insurance has been raised but slightly here as a result of Germany's war zone decrees. The reported sinking of several days ago quoted at one per cent, have advanced only to 1 1/2 per cent. Insurance to Rotterdam is quoted at 1 1/2 per cent, and a similar quotation prevails to French ports. There are only a shade higher than before the decrees was issued.

EVIDENCE IN CASE OF ABANDONMENT OF BABE

Preliminary hearing in the case of Deane Gordick for abandoning her infant was concluded in the police court this morning. Charles Gordick, her husband, said that he resided at 114 Pitt street. They were married on Dec. 4, in St. Luke's church, Rev. R. F. McKim officiating. He had known his wife not more than two months before the marriage. The child, he said, was born on January 30. His wife told him that she was going to put the baby in the home for some person to adopt. The child, he said, was working at the time. His wife had advertised for some person to adopt the child, and had received an answer. She told him that the baby had been adopted.

RUSSIAN HERE HAS WORD OF BROTHER KILLED IN BATTLE

Cousin, Too, Writes Warsaw Friend—Anxious About Another Brother Fighting Czar's Battles

Sad news has come to John Ostopolich, a Russian shoemaker who keeps a little repair shop at the corner of Richmond and St. Patrick streets. He has been anxious for news from his native land ever since the outbreak of war for two brothers are on the firing line. He has now received word of the death of one of a German bullet, as well as of the death of a cousin. The information was received in a letter from a friend in Warsaw his native home, and he is hoping with all his heart that it is not true.

Philip Ostopolich, who was about thirty years of age, has been practically all his life a soldier in the army of the Czar. When the war broke out he was among the first to be rushed into action in the firing line and if he has been killed, his brother John thinks it was in the recent fierce fighting in Poland. Of the other brother in uniform, he has heard nothing of late, and his best hope is that he is still alive. Twice each day he watches for the visit of the mail man, eager for news from across the sea which means so much to himself and to another brother, Harry Ostopolich, of Main street, who have been in this country for some time.

TWO WOMEN ARE SUFFOCATED IN MANCHESTER FIRE

Manchester, N. H., Feb. 20.—Two women were suffocated in a fire which poured out a three-story wooden building containing stores and tenements in Spruce street, early today. The dead were Mrs. Frosina Legdas, sixty years old, Miss Oramin Legdas, her granddaughter. They were found in their rooms on the third floor.

LOCAL BELGIAN FUND TOTAL NEARLY \$37,000

The total receipts for the Belgian Relief Fund to date are \$36,958. This includes the following contributions received today by Mayor Frink—Belgian Baby Fund, Yreside League, St. John, Rev. R. H. Osher, \$6; Charles H. Gorman, Brown's Flats, N. B., \$1; Westfield Branch, \$10; proceeds supper, per R. R. McManus, \$27.

Local Questions Which Are Arising Over War Stamp Tax

Demand for Stamps Greater Than Supply to Date—Some Interesting Problems

The demand for war revenue stamps in St. John so far has been greater than the supply. Stocks received by the local office of the inland revenue department have been sold as rapidly as they have arrived and the consumers have been clamoring for more. Owing to the tremendous number required all over Canada the Ottawa office has had difficulty in arranging an adequate supply but the first rush is over and the stamps are now beginning to come in regularly. The sale so far totals about \$600.

Some interesting questions have arisen in connection with affixing the stamps. One of these has arisen in connection with bottles of wine which arrive in sealed wrappers or cartons. The dealers did not wish to break the seals and proposed to affix the stamps on the outside wrapper. This was against the rules as the stamp must be affixed to the actual container.

Another matter which has come up is the method of cancellation. When the stamps are placed on a package they must be cancelled with the initials of the person affixing them. It has been necessary also to insist on the date being marked as well as the initials as otherwise the stamps might be used more than once. Inspectors from the department are on hand when the stamps are affixed to make sure that everything is according to law.

So soon as the officers are assured that the knowledge of the requirements is sufficiently widespread to make ignorance no cause a vigilant watch will be kept for violations and the penalty of \$500 for each infraction will be insisted upon. The only section of the new act to go into force yet is that imposing the tax on native and imported wines but already many questions are being asked regarding the way in which the other sections will be interpreted when they become operative.

The additional duty will cover the entire tariff and importers are asking whether it will be imposed on the original price or upon that price with the duty added. The Ottawa office has received a communication from liquor importers on this subject as it will mean a big difference to them. The price of a bottle of whisky might be \$1 while in Great Britain but its value after the duty is paid here might be \$8, thus tripling the value on which the war tax would be levied. No decision has been given but it has been intimated that the war tax will be collected on the duty paid price.

HAMPTON TO GIVE A KENNEBECASIS SERVICE

Announcement of Importance To Farmers and Others

The steamer Hampton will again be seen on the Kennebecasis river this summer plying between St. John and Hampton, according to a well-known river steambot owner. The steamer will be thoroughly overhauled and repaired for the opening of navigation.

SUSSEX VETERINARY IS ARRESTED IN KINGSCLEAR

Harry J. Ellison Wanted on Charge Involving Money—Forty More Results

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 20.—Harry J. Ellison, a veterinary surgeon, of Sussex, was arrested at Kingsclear last night by Chief McCollum and Sergeant Dumont. He is wanted in Sussex on a charge involving money. Provincial Constable McLeod arrived this morning and left for Sussex with Ellison. Ellison is charged with having wrongfully obtained \$800 from the Animals' Insurance Company in August, 1913.

WHEAT LOWER

Chicago, Feb. 20.—European approaches to virtual outlawing of food-stuff shipments for either Germany or Great Britain, tended decidedly today to depress the wheat market here. After opening 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 lower, the market here suffered a material further setback, interrupted by only a moderate temporary rally.

COSTS HIM \$100

Peter Francis, Sheffield street, appeared before Magistrate Ritchie this morning to answer a charge of selling beer without a license on Saturday, Feb. 13. After Special Patrolmen James McMahon and Frank Alger had given testimony, the defendant was fined \$100 or three months in jail.

A ST. JOHN PRIEST

Rev. Joseph McLaughlin, C.S.S.R., who has been stationed in St. Patrick's Redeemerist church in Toronto, has arrived in the city, and will be at St. Peter's, North End. He is being warmly welcomed by many friends in St. John. The young priest is a son of William McLaughlin of Brussels street.