

ALBERT
 Specials after Christmas
 Vacancies in
 Full courses in College, High School, Piano, Organ, Voice Culture and Violin; Expansion Art and Commercial; under competent teachers.
 Write NOW for calendar and full particulars.
 E. N. BAKER, M.A., D.D., Principal

Frank McGinty of Kingston, is in town.

Mr. Caron of Toronto is in Belleville.

Mr. F. Dolan of Port Arthur is in town.

Mr. Col. Barragar was in town yesterday.

Mr. R. Palos spent the holiday in Belleville.

Mr. Ernest Bawden of Vancouver, is in town.

Mr. George Bawden of Port Arthur is in the city.

Mr. Davey Carr of Toronto is visiting in the city.

Miss Violet McKee spent the holiday in Belleville.

Mr. H. R. Wilson spent the holiday in town.

Major R. D. Ponton was in Belleville for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. S. McGuire spent Christmas at Madoc.

Leon Goyer of Welland was at home here for Xmas.

Mr. T. Walton of the Haines' Co. spent Christmas in Peterboro.

Mr. Henry Martin of Toronto, is spending the holidays in town.

Miss Anna Cronin of Rochester, N. Y. is visiting friends in the city.

Mr. J. O'Brien of the Ritchie Co. was in Peterborough for Christmas.

Miss A. Malloch, of the Ritchie Co. was in Peterboro over the holiday.

W. K. Wims and F. P. Wims, of Montreal spent Christmas in the city.

Mr. Roy Hadley of Frankford is visiting Mr. Allen Meagher of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Bowie were in Peterborough for the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Hardley Wilmot of Detroit is visiting his mother and sister, Trenton Road.

Mr. H. Wolfe of the Ritchie Co.'s men's store was in Peterboro over the holiday.

Mr. E. Kidd of the Ritchie Co.'s men's department holiday in Peterborough.

Miss L. Fluke of the Ritchie Co. spent Christmas with her parents in Peterborough.

Mr. Plumpton of the Merchants Bank staff, Kingston, spent the week-end in the city.

Mr. Percy Bell, formerly of this city, but now of Kingston was in the city yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Wotten spent Christmas with the former's parents in Peterborough.

Mr. G. L. Bird of Toronto, is spending the holidays with his parents on Sinclair street.

Miss Louise McCabe of Harold was the guest of Miss Rose Bailey, Motra Street, on Saturday.

Mrs. (Rev.) A. P. Dulter, of St. Ois. is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wootton, Catharine St.

The "Peg of the Ring" series will be shown at the Palace Wednesday only this week, matinee and night.

Capt. E. D. O'Flynn, of the 247th Battalion, Peterborough, spent Sunday and Christmas at his home here.

Miss Josephine Tickle of Victoria University, Toronto, is spending her holidays at her home on Church St.

Mr. Samuel Macdonald, of New Rochelle, N. Y. is spending the holidays with his nephew, Mr. Stephen Haight.

Miss Edith Truax and Miss Sybil Ross of Oshawa spent Christmas at the home of the latter on Catharine Street.

Pte. S. Johnson of Frankford has arrived home from England.

GERMANY REPLYS TO PRES. WILSON'S NOTE

Special 5 p.m.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey today replied to President Wilson's note requesting that the belligerent nations should state aims for which they were fighting, by proposing that a conference of delegates of the belligerents be held immediately in a neutral city. The task of preventing future wars, the official statement says, can be begun only after the end of the present struggle.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE FOR CURRENT YEAR, 1916.

Receipts	
Taxes Levied	\$212936 66
Rent, Vacant Lands	541 50
Auctioneers' Licenses	140 00
Billiard & Bowling Licenses	545 00
Butchers' Licenses	15 00
Carters' Licenses	541 00
Hawkers' & Pedlars' Licenses	270 00
Livery, Hack & Auto Licenses	312 50
Show Licenses	225 00
Tobacco & Cigars Licenses	222 00
Tavern Licenses	183 00
Dog Tax Licenses	11 00
Milk Vendors' Licenses	17 00
Fines & Fees, Police Court	1623 95
Registry Office Fees	1 07
Market Fees	1655 00
Scavengers' Licenses	10 00
Total	\$220179 68
Expenditures.	
School Expenses	\$ 47465 63
Provincial War Tax	6298 36
Administration of Justice	4550 00
Hydrant Rentals	7000 00
Interest on Current Loans	4815 78
Public Works Dept.	1249 10
Fire Dept.	11689 10
Parks Dept.	593 43
Light Dept.	6941 50
Market & City Property	2618 76
Printing and Stationery	864 82
Police Dept.	7832 62
Salaries	7665 05
Contingent	4800 45
Insurance	1778 45
Board of Health	268 54
Library	2200 00
Indigent & Hospital	2268 42
Garbage	3985 00
Municipal Patriotic	4938 78
Purchase of Property	7380 00
Street Cleaning	1949 89
Election Expenses	303 12
Canning Factory Rental (estimated for 1917)	2500 00
Expenditures (estimated to Dec. 31, 1916)	2500 00
Debiture Coupon Interest	35278 26
Debiture Sinking Fund	26379 25
Total	\$217292 15
Surplus	2887 53
Total	\$220179 68

H. F. KETCHESON, Mayor.

POSTMEN HAD A HEAVY DAY
 (From Saturday's Daily)
 Belleville postmen, express men and mail clerks have been among the most heavily worked citizens during the past few days. An overwhelming amount of orders has had to be handled, and naturally most of them were crowded into yesterday and today.

The snow blockade of yesterday hit the postmen hard. The usual plan has been to employ boys to draw hand-sleighs with boxes heaped up with mail matter. That worked well in ordinary years, but yesterday it did not. Up to noon postmen and boys assistants tramped through the increasing depth of snow and pulled the loads over the snow-hidden walks.

The depth of snow got so great that sleighs had to be abandoned. Mail bags of all classes were requisitioned and strapped on the backs of postmen and boys in vanguard fashion. In this way the mail was delivered, although later than usual. A postman yesterday put in time from 5.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Late last evening the express companies with extra sleighs on their routes labored late to endeavor to wipe out the piles of goods which had come in. They were hampered by late trains from east and west, although under the conditions the railway companies made good time.

The post office has been the scene of a great crush the past day or so, what with despatching parcels and letters. Assistants helped in preventing the blockade. An unprecedented sale of stamps at the stamp office has been recorded.

SOLDIERS GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES
 Ptes. George Buck and Edward Pippin, two soldiers who were last Saturday fined \$25 and costs each for drunkenness and pleaded guilty to destroying windows in Mr. W. Day's shooting gallery, Front street, a week ago last night, were this morning let go on suspended sentences on payment of fines and costs and \$24.50 compensation for the destruction of glass. The boys expressed a willingness to return to their regiment and were advised to cut out Jamaica gin-seng, which they said made them drunk.

DEATH OF WM. DEAN
 Wm. Dean, son of the late Judge Dean, died in New York City. His remains will arrive here next Thursday afternoon.

UNDERWENT OPERATION
 Mayor Ketcheson's father was yesterday a guest at his son's and was seized with an illness that he had to be removed to the hospital and at once was operated on. Mr. Ketcheson is 78 years of age and yet possesses great strength.

NOMINATIONS

LIKELY A CONTEST
 Present indications today point to contest in Thurlow for the reeveship and deputy reeveship.

NOMINATIONS
 Kingston
 Kingston, Dec. 22.—Dr. A. W. Richardson and Ald. J. M. Hughes fill contest for the mayoralty, the former for a second term. Kingston goes back to the one-year Aldermanic term in 1917. H. W. Newman, J. W. Litten and P. B. Chown were re-elected Aldermen in Victoria ward by acclamation.

Port Hope
 Mayor R. A. Mulholland, Reeve G. A. Smith, Deputy Reeve, J. H. Roseberry and Water Commissioner L. B. Chalk and George Millward were returned by acclamation. For the council there are sixteen contestants.

Deseronto
 Mayor, E. Arthur Rixon, reeve, T. Taylor; councillors, M. Hunt, C. J. Brennan, Thos. Fox, Geo. E. Clement, Wm. H. Haundreich, W. H. Richardson, (all acc.).

Ameliasburg
 Reeve, W. W. Anderson, J.H. Parliament, Geo. Cunningham, W. E. Anderson; deputy Reeve, George Cunningham, R. C. Hubbs, F. Chase; councillors, Jas. Robinson, R. C. Hubbs, Mahlon Eckert, Charles G. Sprague, H. Fox, V.S.

Madoc Township
 Reeve, Simeon Fox, Chas. Thompson; Deputy Reeve, W. H. Kells, Fred A. Comerford; councillor, Jno Miller, Jas. Kincaid, Hercules Rollins, Harry Jones.

Madoc Village
 Reeve, E. C. Tufts, Thos. H. Thompson; councillors, Frank Dafee, Walter Whyteck, Chas. Hart, W. J. Atkins, W. B. Blair, C. R. Ross, Carl McCoy, Jno. Robertson, Jas. Burns.

Huntingdon
 Old council re-elected by acclamation as follows: Reeve, William J. Jeffrey; councillors, Robt. S. Wood, Jas. W. Haggerly, Jno. M. Geen, Chas. A. Mitz.

Trendon
 Whole council elected by acclamation, reeve, Peter MacLaren, deputy reeve, J. V. Walsh;

THANKS FOR EMPLOYERS.
 Munition Workers Grateful For Generosity of Marsh and Henthorn's Ltd.

The employees of Marsh and Henthorn's Limited wish to thank the President and Directors for their generous Christmas Gift of a day's pay to each of their employees.

FIRE PROBE ADJOURNED
 Pending Recovery of Employees Whose Testimony is Required
 Peterboro, Dec. 23.—The Provincial Fire Marshal's investigation into the Quaker Oats building fire was resumed on Thursday morning, and after evidence was postponed indefinitely pending the recovery of employees now in the hospital, whose evidence is required. Meantime the Crown Attorney and the Fire Chief will be on the lookout for further evidence.

MESSAGE FROM MISS GUEST
 A former pupil in this city has received a message from Miss E. J. Guest, M.A., formerly of Belleville H. S. staff, in which she states that she is at the War Hospital, Duxton, Northampton, England, in the Voluntary Aid Department, where there are a thousand beds and all kept full. Corporal Ernest Carr, of the 34th Battery, who suffered terrible injuries, resulting in the loss of both legs, was one of the patients there when he was undergoing treatment.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ENLISTS.
 Bancroft, Dec. 23.—R. M. Sarles, Principal of the public school here; Roy Thompson, relieving agent at the C.N.R., and Irwin Price have all signed up with the 235th battalion. Mr. Sarles is continuing his work until a new principal can be secured.

COL. ADAMS EXPECTS TO GO TO FRONT AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Mr. Hiram Ellis, Picton, recently received the following letter from Lt.-Col. Adams, O.C., 155th: Bramshott, Nov. 20, 1916.

Dear Hiram:—The 155th is about all shot to pieces. Day before yesterday we sent 95 men to France. Yesterday we sent our machine gun officer and 25 men to the machine gun depot at Crowborough. Today we are getting 340 men ready for France. They will leave here day after tomorrow. The Brigadier has definitely assured me that the officers and staff will all remain together and that we will be filled up to strength again right away. He says that he will send me to France right after Christmas for a month at least and that I will have an opportunity of being right up in the front line all the time. I have a letter from Arnold almost every day. So far he is all right. He is now second in command of his company and so has a lot of work to do which makes the time pass very much faster than the last time he was over. Our Brigade Major—whose name is Adams, was in the 14th Battalion when Arnold was wounded. He was in command of Arnold's company and helped to lead him out after he was wounded. English weather is beautiful. It is damp, cold and foggy all the time. The people over here do not know anything about heating their houses. All they use is fireplaces. These make you warm on one side only and two-thirds of the heat goes up the chimney. Milton.

CHRISTMAS RIFLE SHOOT
 At the armories last evening many participated in a Christmas shoot for turkey. Several members of the ladies' club also took part and made fine scores. For the first bird, Messrs. G. B. Smith and A. R. Symons tied but Mr. Smith modestly retired in favor of Mr. Symons. The second bird was tied for by Miss Milburn and Miss Lazier with 97 points scored. The winner of this will be decided later. Owing to the late hour, the shooting for the last bird was confined to a competition of five shots each with no sighting shots and this was won by Mr. Symons with a score of 48 out of 50.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.
 The editor of The Ontario gratefully acknowledges the receipt of Christmas greetings from Mr. N. W. D. Rowell, K.C. M.P.P., Lt.-Col. J. A. V. Preston and officers of the 39th Overseas Battalion, Major J. M. Wilson, A.D.D.S., and staff of the Canadian Army Dental Corps, Military District No. 3, the President and Directors of the National Exhibition, Toronto, Mr. Maurice D. Lynch, Chicago, as well as from many other personal friends.

SCHEDULE REARRANGED WHEN PICTON CLUB QUITS SERIES.
 Peterboro, Dec. 23.—Owing to the fact that Picton has dropped out of O. H. A. Group No. 2, the intermediate schedule has been rearranged as follows:
 Dec. 26—Lindsay at Cobourg.
 Dec. 29—Cobourg at Lindsay.
 Jan. 2—Lindsay at Peterboro.
 Jan. 5—Peterboro at Lindsay.
 Jan. 8—Cobourg at Peterboro.
 Jan. 12—Peterboro at Cobourg.
 Jan. 15—Peterboro at Cobourg.
 Jan. 19—Cobourg at Lindsay.
 Jan. 23—Lindsay at Peterboro.
 Jan. 26—Peterboro at Lindsay.
 Jan. 30—Cobourg at Peterboro.
 Feb. 2—Peterboro at Cobourg.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED
 by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

UNCLE AND NEPHEW FINED
 James Wims and his nephew James Wims were arrested shortly after midnight in a stable on Front street under the influence of liquor. Two bottles were found with them. This morning they pleaded guilty in police court to being drunk in a public place contrary to the new Temperance Act. Both were fined \$15 and costs or 15 days.

DESERONTO BOYS IN COURT
 In Deseronto yesterday before Magistrate Bedford, two boys named Fred Wilkes and Fred Laundry were committed for trial on charges of shop breaking. They were arrested as a result of a series of deprecations by some boys in that town. Mr. Carnew represented the crown.

MIDNIGHT MASS
 St. Michael's church on Sunday midnight, was crowded with worshippers for the Midnight Mass. Exquisite music was rendered by the choir. The rector, Rev. Father Kil-been officiated.

THE ONLY MEDICINE THAT HELPED HER

"Fruit-a-tives Again Proves Its Extraordinary Powers"
 ROCKON, Que., March 2nd, 1915.
 "I have received the most wonderful benefit from taking 'Fruit-a-tives'. I suffered for years from Rheumatism and change of life, and I took every remedy obtainable without results. I tried 'Fruit-a-tives' and it was the only medicine that really did me good. Now I am entirely well—the Rheumatism has disappeared, and the terrible pains in my body are all gone. I hope that others, who suffer from such distressing diseases, will try 'Fruit-a-tives'. MADAM ISAIE ROCHON.
 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

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RAIDING HUN TRENCHES

British Troops Active on Franco-Belgian Front.
 There was no Christmas Truce this year, and during the holiday much damage was done to the German defences by the Gns of General Haig's Artillery.
 LONDON, Dec. 26.—Further official details are given in the War Office statement issued under Sunday's date of the daylight raid recently conducted by British troops on the Franco-Belgian front north of Arras. A successful raid carried out on Saturday night in the vicinity of Hebuterne is also reported. The statement reads:
 We entered enemy trenches last night in the neighborhood of Hebuterne. Dugouts occupied by the enemy were bombed and prisoners were taken.
 Gas was successfully discharged by us Saturday evening against the enemy's trenches west of Mesines.
 Saturday night the enemy fired a comical shot at Sorrel. No damage is reported.
 Intermittent artillery activity continued particularly on the right of our line between the Somme and Hebuterne, North-east of Morval as enemy working party was caught by our fire. Our heavy artillery shelled enemy battery positions opposite Neuve Chapelle and Festubert.
 Further particulars regarding the raid by us north of Arras, and reported in the communiqués of the 20th and 21st show the operation was more successful than at first reported. The raid took place in the afternoon, in broad daylight, after careful preparation. Two lines of enemy trenches were penetrated on a 490 yard front, and all the objectives aimed at were reached. Our troops remained in the enemy's trenches which were badly damaged, for a period of 2 1/2 hours. All his dugouts were methodically searched and blown in before returning. One German officer and 57 men of other rank were made prisoners.
 The official statement from British headquarters Christmas night reads: "In successful raids during the night (Sunday) against the enemy's trenches west of Arras and south of Armentieres, we took a number of prisoners. The enemy this morning (Monday), exploded a comical shot south of St. Eloi. The damage was slight."
 "There has been considerable artillery activity at intervals during the day along our front north of the Somme, where the enemy defences and headquarters were systematically shelled by us. Much damage was done to the enemy defences. Elsewhere the usual artillery activity continued, being most marked in the neighborhood of Ypres and along the front of Armentieres, where we bombarded the buildings occupied by the enemy in the rear of his lines.
 Three German Aeroplanes in One Day.
 PARIS, Dec. 26.—The bulletin issued by the War Office Monday night reads: "The day was relatively calm along the whole front. On the Somme front three German aeroplanes were brought down by our pilots on Dec. 24. The first machine fell in flames south of Epinacourt, the second crashed to earth near Omicourt, the third fell in the direction of Liencourt."
 "On the night of December 24-25 one of our air squadrons bombarded the enemy airdrome at Arras, and also at Vialignes, as well as ammunition depots at Athies, Ennemain, and Moncote-Chausse.
 "Eastern theatre: A violent artillery struggle took place in the region north of Monastir."
 "Belgian: There is nothing to report."
 Romanian Confident as to Future.
 LONDON, Dec. 26.—A Reuters dispatch from Jassy, dated Dec. 22, says that the Rumanian Parliament was opened there on that day by King Ferdinand. The dispatch says that the king, in a speech from the throne, said that the war has shown that Austria-Hungary in her present condition could no longer exist as a factor in the equilibrium of Europe. The king said that the Rumanian Army had struggled against the forces of four combined enemies in a manner justifying Rumania looking to the future with absolute confidence. According to the dispatch, the king was given an enthusiastic reception by the Senators and Deputies.
 Holland in Favor of Peace.
 BERLIN, Dec. 26, via Sayville.—The Overseas News Agency gives out the following regarding the peace reports:
 "The Bern (Switzerland) Tageblatt reports that the Scandinavian governments, according to rumor, will in the immediate future hold a conference in order to foster peace negotiations by common proposals."
 "Likewise, The Neue Zurichser Zeitung reports from The Hague that Holland will probably issue a note similar to that of Switzerland."
 Replace Austrian Minister of War.
 BERLIN, Dec. 26.—The Austrian Minister of War, General Ritter von Krobath, is to be replaced by Field Marshal von Schieffer, according to a Vienna report published in The Yossische Zeitung, and given out by the Overseas News Agency.
 Captain Cecil Walford Ward has been granted a discharge of bankruptcy debts, aggregating £18,000, by the English courts, with assets £94, a dividend of about a penny in the pound will be paid. The debtor formerly practiced before the British Columbia Bar. He formed the Canadian Real Properties Syndicate, and was connected with many other real estate ventures which collapsed in 1912.