

# Christmas Card Helped Him Out

Wounded, Lost and Faint From Wound, British Officer Is Led to Safety by—

(By Second-Lieut. Charles Vince)  
It happened in Flanders in the Christmas of 1918, and you may explain it if you like by saying that the mind is half starved in the trenches. At any rate, that commonplace little picture on a penny Christmas card took strange possession of my mind. It must have been lying about when they made up that parcel at home, and someone picked it up and slipped it in, just in idleness. When I found it I could almost hear my mother's practical voice, "What do they want with Christmas cards out there? Shall we put in some more raisins or that cake of chocolate?" I do not know even now who slipped it in. I had the fancy never to ask.

It was a Christmas scene, one of those scenes that you find only on Christmas cards—a little church with lighted windows, and the rest a field of snow. It was night, but a Christmas card night—just a deep blue in the sky, so that you could see everything quite plainly. Little figures were coming down the road to the church. It was clear that they really enjoyed the cold, and that alone made it a pleasure to look at them.

The church bell was ringing. That is to say, the artist had drawn in the top left-hand corner a golden bell with an end of rope attached, and a wreath of mistletoe around it. I did not doubt that the bell was ringing.

An Odd Tree.  
In the top right-hand corner the path to the church door came by a little round hill, with one odd little tree. The tree was so much on one side that only on a Christmas card could it have stood unsupported. The artist had evidently drawn it so to get it in the picture. But somehow he had succeeded (or perhaps it simply was that my mind was famishing) in so drawing that hill with its tree and snow path that you wondered what was on the other side.

That card took possession of my mind. All my memories of Christmas seemed to inhabit that impossible little world of the church and the cheerful ordinary pleasure from it. You understand and the snow. I got an extraordinary stand that my mind was half starved.

We had been back for a rest and were in the trenches again. There had been snow at the New Year, and then a thaw, and before the thaw was done, a frost. In the sheltered spots the snow lay still—a momentary cleanliness in that muddy land.

It was on a night when the frost was still on the ground, a very dark night, with one of those low Flemish mists, that I was wounded and lost on patrol. The wound was in the leg and the cold sealed it up. But I lay for some time, and when I started to drag myself back I had lost all direction.

Certain Death.  
I stumbled into a broken old trench. The cold was numbing. Body and mind were both half numb. I was as likely to reach one line as the other, and most likely to drop there and lie till I was found. But no one could lie there that night and the next day and be alive when night came again.

I must have been going for half an hour, in pain and very slowly, when the trench came to an end. There was a pile of rough earth. It was there, perhaps, that the trench had been blown in, but I could see nothing. Then I felt about and found, a little way back, a communication trench leading off on the left. That must be my way. Until then the night had been very quiet, but at that moment the firing began, suddenly and unreasonably, as night firing does. It was away along the line and coming nearer. I lay on the pile of earth and waited. I had got beyond the pain of the cold—I was just drowsy with it.

Sees the Tree.  
Not far ahead of me came a burst of shrapnel, a great sheet of flame. Through the mist it was the very color of that odd sky of the Christmas card. A second burst followed, and a third very near. Then the firing stopped as suddenly as it had begun. But in the brief blue light of that last burst I saw on my right a hammock white with snow and a tree. Half its top was gone, and a shell must have uprooted it, for it hung over at an impossible angle. But some stray strand of root still held it there. It hung over just like the tree in the Christmas card.

How long I lay I do not know. But I remember that I kept thinking of the scene on the card, and wondering why it was there. My mind kept turning on that, and then suddenly I said, "But the tree is leaning the wrong way." I must have puzzled over that, for I kept repeating, "But it is leaning the wrong way." And then suddenly I said, "I must be just the other side of the hill."

That is all I remember. But that thought must have worked in some

strange way on my tired, numbed body. I must have dragged myself out of the trench and how far beyond I do not know. When I was seen next day and men crawled out and got me in, I was lying close to one of our sap heads.

It is a curious but certain fact that if I had gone by that other trench I should have come to the German line.

**WERE SCRUTINEERS ATTACKED?**  
Toronto, Dec. 22.—Special officers have been sent to Verner and Sturgeon Falls by the Attorney-General to look into the story that mobs had attacked the scrutineers on Monday on their way home from the polls and that some were badly beaten. The authorities at Sturgeon Falls wired the Minister of Militia. The matter was turned over to the provincial authorities.

**DR. WHIDDEN'S MAJORITY IS OFFICIALLY GIVEN AS 8,103 OUT OF 10,577**

**Union Government Candidate Leads English Speaking Canada in Proportionate Majority**

Dr. Howard P. Whidden has been officially declared elected as the representative of Brandon Federal constituency in the Dominion Parliament, by a majority of 8,103. This is thought to be the largest proportionate majority received by any man who came before the electors last Monday in English-speaking Canada. A total of 10,577 votes were cast in the seventy-nine polls of the constituency. Of these Dr. Whidden received 9,340 and Mr. Paterson, the Laurier candidate, 1,237. With 556 more votes Dr. Whidden would have beaten his opponent eight to one. The winner had an average majority of over 102 votes per poll. H. S. Paterson loses his deposit.

**BOURASSA SAYS VICTORY OF GOVERNMENT IS REAL**

**Nationalist Chief Says Voting is Not Formal Approval of War Policy**

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Announcing that he belongs neither to the party of the victors, nor to that of the vanquished, Henri Bourassa, the Nationalist chief, has analyzed the results of the general election in Le Devoir. Mr. Bourassa claims that the victory of the government is real and significant, and would have been secured without the audacious acts preceding the election. The results, he says, prove that the majority in English Canada want to keep the Unionist cabinet in power and approve, on the whole, its war policy. It is going a long way, however, to claim that Monday's vote was equivalent to a formal approval by referendum of conscription or that the people wish to carry on the war without let up or limit. In announcing that the sons of farmers will be exempted from military service and the second class of conscripts will not be called up the government assured for itself the support of a large number of anti-conscriptionists.

"The various groups and provinces in the country voted against unionism in direct ratio to the strength of their resistance to the imperialist tendency," continues Mr. Bourassa. "The government has rallied all Canadian-born or Canadians by adoption who were blinded by the prospect of grandeur and imperial solidarity. The French-Canadians resisted on mass because they are en masse and by instinct nationalistic."

"At the moment two currents of opinion are exercising their influence on the government and its triumphant majority. The most turbulent element of the Unionist party wants to drive the government to measures of reprisal against Quebec. We like to believe that the more solid heads of the cabinet, Messrs. Borden and Doherty, will not allow themselves to be carried along by the hot heads of their party."

**BALTIC FLEET TO BE UNDER COMMAND OF ELECTED BODY**

London, Dec. 22.—Messrs. news reports from Petrograd indicate a serious division in the Peasants Congress, which has been in session for a fortnight in Petrograd. The Right wing led by M. Tchernoff insists that all power shall be given to the Constituent Assembly which will decide upon peace, the land question and other reforms, while the Left is dominated by Soldiers and Workmen's delegates. The latter take the position that the Soldiers and Workmen's Delegates should be given authority above that of the

Constituent Assembly. All attempts to heal the breach have failed. The Left wing has a slight majority.

Officers of the Baltic fleet have adopted a resolution protesting against the latest reform which places the supreme command of the fleet in the hands of a body of elected sailors and makes all posts elective. The resolution of protest declares that the reform if carried out will paralyze the fleet and prevent peace on a democratic basis, because of impotency. Peace will be dictated by the imperialists of the enemy.

**WESTERN FOOD CONTROLLER SHOWS HE WILL CONTROL**

Winnipeg, Dec. 22.—Business is meant by J. D. McGregor, Food Controller for the Western Provinces. After receiving information that one, Gillerstein, a Jew from Fargo, North Dakota, had paid more for a carload of fish than is permitted under the order-in-council issued by the Government, Mr. McGregor ordered the car to be held at the boundary pending his decision.

Mr. McGregor stated last night that Gillerstein had outbid local buyers on Lake Winnipeg.

**ENEMY RECOGNIZES U-BOATS FAILURE**

London, Dec. 22.—Reuter's is authorized to state that although it is not true we are destroying more U-boats than are being built, it is clear from recent attacks on convoys by surface ships that the enemy is not satisfied with the results of the submarine campaign, recognizing it requires assistance.

London, Dec. 22.—Comparative quiet still prevails on the British front in France and Belgium and along the French line running from the region of St. Quentin to the Swiss border, except for bombardments and minor infantry operations.

From Verdun region to Hartmannsweilerkopf in Alsace, artillery activity has been pronounced on various sectors.

German raids at several points last night are the only activities reported in today's official communication.

**DETROIT CONSPIRATORS SENT TO PENITENTIARY FOR MAXIMUM TERMS**

Detroit, Dec. 22.—Albert C. Kaitzch, with four or five others, who was convicted in the federal court early this morning, on a conspiracy charge, was sentenced to four years in the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth and to pay a fine of \$20,000. The maximum sentence possible under law for conviction on three counts against him was imposed. Mrs. Ida Neff was sentenced to three years in the local house of correction and fined \$15,000. Fritz A. Neff, her husband, and Karl Schmidt and his wife, Maria, were sentenced to two years at Fort Leavenworth and fined \$10,000.

**DESTROY U-BOATS FASTER THAN GERMANY CAN REBUILD**

London, Dec. 22.—There is high authority for the statement that a scheme of warfare against U-boats will shortly be in operation, ensuring their destruction at a more rapid rate than Germany's possible maximum output. This scheme does not seem to indicate any new discovery but rather a combination of devices, some already in use, with increasingly destructive results which will be perfected and completed shortly.

**LONG SUFFERING PEOPLE AND OVERWORKED CLERKS CROWD THE POST OFFICE**

The greatest volume of business that has ever been handled by the Brandon Post Office is passing through the mails this year. An avalanche of packages and letters has descended upon the clerks. The clerks in the parcel post and registry divisions are working at high tension to take care of the business long lines of people are constantly handing in at the wickets. The rush at the stamp booth is the worst. Between twenty-five and thirty people form a continuous line waiting to purchase stamps. The congestion, which is not conducive to the best temper of the crowd, or to the highest efficiency of the clerks, is really disgraceful to a city the size of Brandon. It is clearly evident that better postal facilities are badly needed in this city.

Enormous quantities of mail for overseas has been dispatched this year. More of this class of mail has been sent than at any time since the war for seventy-five head of cattle, will be over about two weeks ago, but occasional parcels still come in consigned to England and France.

Domestic mail and that being sent to the United States has reached the height of its movement. The high tide started a little earlier than usual this year, probably because Christmas follows so closely after Sunday.

In the matter of local deliveries, these will exceed any made in former years. Extra men are now working in the postoffice, an extra delivery cart

is being used, and twelve extra carriers will be taken on to help with the last minute rush on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Postmaster Percival states that even with the extra help already engaged it may be necessary to add others to the staff. If any additional help is taken on it will be to aid in the delivery of packages that have been sent by parcel post.

**Toronto Man Lay in Morgue For Two Days**

Toronto News. One of the strangest stories in connection with the Halifax disaster is being told by Mr. Harry Rowland, of the Department of Public Health, who returned today from the stricken city where he has been representing Toronto in relief work.

According to Mr. Rowland, who states positively that his information is absolutely correct, a certain Toronto man who was employed as instructor in the Royal Military College at Halifax, was just about to summon the cadets, when the explosion occurred. The gentleman in question stated that he felt "faintened out" when the force of the explosion struck him, and that all then became a blank to him. Some time later he awakened to consciousness to find himself lying stretched out with a sheet over him, face and all. He could not move hand or foot.

Awake in "Dead House"  
Some time later, he could not say how long, he felt the sheet being drawn off his face, and was conscious of someone looking at him. Then a voice said, "No, that isn't the one," and the sheet was drawn over his face again. This occurred several times and still he was unable to move or indicate in any way that he was alive.

After lying in this condition for two days the ability to move his arms and limbs slowly returned, and the gentleman managed to stretch out his hand. He touched a cold face. He stretched out the other hand and it, too, came in contact with a stiff cold body. Then he realized that he was in the morgue. Struggling to his feet, he staggered from the "dead-house" into an adjoining room where a nurse was caring for wounded. A doctor was summoned and the gentleman was taken to the home of his brother-in-law, and cared for. He had lost the use of one eye, but is slowly recovering from his other injuries.

**RECORDS OF HITCHHIKING EXEMPTION APPEAL CASE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR**

Winnipeg, Dec. 21.—Records required for Ottawa in the Hutchings exemption appeal case are missing at the registrar's office here.

The discovery was made Thursday. Up to noon a diligent search had failed to unearth them.

The missing material is a book containing records of the work of Tribunal No. 77 which refused exemption to Harold G. Hutchings.

The tribunal was composed of E. D. Martin and ex-Mayor T. R. Deacon and sat at Kelvin school.

The book was handed to Lieut.-Col. Blanchard and was delivered by him at the registrar's office. It was turned over to the chief clerk of the general office and by him was passed on to the clerk in charge of such records.

This clerk was afterwards placed at different duties.

He recalled the volume and declares it was in place when he changed his work.

His successor does not recall having seen it.

The vault and files were searched without success. No trace of the record could be found.

T. R. Deacon and E. D. Martin had a long conference with Mr. Chapman. Both of them engaged in the search. Mr. Deacon assisting in a very careful examination of the records in this vault.

Mr. Chapman would not say that the records missing are essential to the hearing of the appeal which has been entered. It is possible that they can be duplicated by the tribunal members.

**FIREMEN VOTE ON DEMANDS**

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Demands for wage increases of from ten to forty per cent. were submitted to 75,000 locomotive firemen on railways in the United States. The demands were drawn up by committees of the trainmen's brotherhoods. Instructions sent to the firemen say that the vote is not on the question of a strike.

**The Story Of A Real Bear Fight**

Did you ever hear the story of the bear fight? A homesteader living on the North shore of Lake Superior had an experience that is worth recalling in these days of strenuous contests. He had a great reputation as a bear hunter and loved to tell of his exploits. He had often stated to his sons and everyone else who would listen

that he could lick, single-handed and without weapons of any kind, any two-year-old bear in the North.

One day, hearing his dogs making a racket, he and his two sons found the dogs had a two-year-old bear up a tree. The time had arrived to test the old man's "bear-fighting" proclivities. Said the oldest son:

"We'll tie up the dogs and you and the bear go to it."

"That bear looks awfully big for his age," said the dad, "but we'll cut down the tree and I'll tackle him. I ain't been feeling very well for the past few days and if the bear begins to get the best of me I'll holler and you be sure and let the dogs loose to help me."

The tree was cut down and when the bear hit the ground the old man lit into him. It was some fight. At times one could hardly see the contestants as the air was literally filled with pieces of mackinaw, woolen shirt and bear hair. Dad had neglected his training. It was only a short time until the old fellow began to realize this neglect, and the bear, having an edge the best of it in the second round, he called to the sons to loosen the dogs to help him let loose of the bear.

It had been a pretty fight thus far, and the boys, talking it over, decided to let it go for a few rounds farther. Again the old man called to let loose the dogs to help him, but as the old man was still going strong, though covered with blood, they let the fight go on without showing favors to either participant.

This kind of treatment from his sons and worse from the bear made dad so mad that he swore that just as soon as he was through licking the bear he would give those two "smart Alecks" the worst licking they would ever have.

There were fewer pieces of mackinaw and more bear hair flying from then on.

When the sons saw the old man with his knee on the bear's chest and his hands choking the bear's throat until the animal's tongue was out a foot, they ran to the cabin and, taking their few belongings, struck out for the nearest town.

Their father has written them several times to come back home, as all was forgotten and forgiven; but then, should they go home, something might happen to cause the old fellow to recall the bear fight. Dad is over seventy now, but the boys are waiting until he is too old to fight before paying him a visit.

**EXPERIMENT IN FEEDING PIGWEED SEED TO PIGS AT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM**

On account of the fact that the seed of pigweed is being purchased at many country points at a price of \$10 to \$15 per ton and shipped out of the country and that there has been considerable inquiry as to the possibility of using it for feed, an experiment was undertaken at Brandon Experimental Farm to determine the feeding value of the seeds as compared with other grains. The pigweed seed was boiled to kill the germs in the seed and also to make it more palatable. There was a small quantity of small and cracked grains of wheat in the pigweed and also the seeds of other weeds as well. The weights of grain fed were in every case dry weight.

The pigs used in this experiment were Berkshire, Yorkshire, and Berkshire-Yorkshire cross-breeds, and were divided as nearly equally as possible into three lots.

**Summary of Experiment**

	Lot 1 Barley and feed pig- weed	Lot 2 Barley and feed pig- weed	Lot 3 Barley and feed pig- weed
Number of pigs in experiment	10	10	10
Total weight at beginning of experiment	1584	1524	1724
November 15, 1918	1584	1524	1724
Average weight per pig	158.4	152.4	172.4
Total weight at end of experiment, Dec. 1918	2189	2079	2189
Total gain in 21 days	284	279	263
Average gain per pig in 21 days	28.4	27.9	26.3
Average daily gain per pig	1.4	.95	.9
Amount of feed used			
Barley chop at \$1.20 per bus.	320	320	482
Feed flour at \$50 per ton	306	306	250
Pigweed seed at \$10 per ton	330.65	324.55	321.0
Total cost of feed	\$110.40	\$114.02	\$121.50
Pounds gain	284	279	263

From the above figures it will be seen that while the cost of feed is much greater for the pigs fed on barley and feed flour than where pigweed seed form part of the ration, yet when the gains are taken into consideration, the pigs on the straight grain ration made much the cheapest gains. No charge was made for the pigweed except the actual cost of time and fuel required in boiling it. Another lot of five much younger pigs was fed on straight pigweed but did not do well at all; barely keeping up their original weight and were going back very rapidly toward the end of the experiment.

The results of this experiment would indicate that pigweed alone has practically no feeding value, and if there is any market for it at all it would be much more profitable to sell the pigweed and purchase other feed than to feed it to pigs.

**Huge Popular Majority For Union Govt.**

Manitoba on Monday last gave a civilian popular majority of approximately 66,000 for conscription and Union Government, according to the nearest calculation that can be made from the unofficial figures at present available. Of the 66,000, the city of Winnipeg gave 29,378, the popular vote in the city standing 39,357 for Union and 9,989 against. The approximate popular majority given above includes about 12,000 voters in Dauphin and Souris combined, which went by acclamation.

This does not include the votes of the soldiers in Manitoba, for their ballots were sealed in envelopes and forwarded to Ottawa to be counted and allocated to the various seats. A feature of the soldiers' votes is that in hundreds or thousands of cases soldiers did not know what constituency they would ordinarily vote in, since redistribution has changed the lines in many of the former Federal ridings. The men accordingly insisted on casting their ballots in constituencies known to favor the Liberals, and men in a position to know declare that the soldiers voted ninety-eight per cent. for Union.

The same is said to apply all over the West, and it is stated that when the soldiers' ballots are counted, there will not be one Laurierite elected from any part of the four Western provinces.

**Kaiser's Peace Terms Said To Be As Outlined**

Washington, Dec. 21.—What purports to be an outline of the Kaiser's much advertised "Christmas peace terms" has reached here through the same neutral diplomatic channels which earlier in the week received information to support intimations from abroad that a new peace offer was coming.

In the main, the terms as described follow the lines of those said to have been written by German Foreign Minister von Kuhlmann last Summer. At that time they were denounced as having been written purely for political purposes.

The so-called terms, which must be appraised only at their face value, are said to include the following:

To leave the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine to a plebiscite of inhabitants.

England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Serbia, Roumania and Northern France.

Russian provinces bordering the Baltic, the Black sea and Prussia to become independent under a German plan.

Poland to be called an independent state under Austrian suzerainty.

Disarmament, freedom of the seas and commerce to be left to the peace conference.

Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries, with the right of access to the sea being granted to Serbia.

Turkey to remain intact.

Whether such a proposal of terms is merely another step in the German propaganda to impress the public mind that the Allies are responsible for a continuance of the war, or whether it is really a feeler for peace, is a subject for the estimate of the government's concern.

**TROTSKY SHOWS KAISER'S TERMS MAY BE ACCEPTED**

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, addressing the Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates, declared that if the German Emperor offered "offensive" peace terms the Russians would fight against it.

"We did not overthrow Czarism to kneel before the Kaiser," he said, "but if through our exhaustion we have to accept the Kaiser's terms we would do so to rise with the German people against German militarism."

**BUENOS AYRES MOBS AGAIN DEMANDING A BREAK WITH GERMANY**

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 22.—As a result of the publication of telegrams sent by Count von Luxburg, former German minister to the Berlin Foreign Office, it again has been necessary to call out mounted patrols to disperse the crowds of people who demand a rupture of relations with Germany.

The mob, which was shouting "Long live the republic," and "Death to President Frigoyen," was dispersed after a fight with the mounted police in Calle Florida. Heavy guards again have been placed over property owned by the Germans in the city, and the mounted police also are guarding the office of the newspaper La Union for which Count von Luxburg obtained a subsidy.

**HOW TO ECONOMIZE ON FOOD, CHILD MAKES SUGGESTIONS**

**Children in Senior Grades of Public Schools Contribute Essays on Live Topics**

Some excellent essays have been written by the pupils of the senior grades in the public schools from subjects given them by Superintendent White. Everything possible has been done to stimulate the interest of the children in topics of the present day and special talks have been given them by the teachers on the need for food conservation. This has resulted in a better understanding of the subject by the pupils and the spreading of the knowledge in their homes will no doubt help as well. "How to Economize in Foods" is the subject of the following article written by Miss Hazel Belyea, of Grade Seven, Alexandra School, and suggests many ways of helping the Food Controller.

The Food Question  
The great question of today that occupies the attention of the Allies, and in fact all the world, is the question of how to economize in foods. The world food shortage is extremely serious. Europe is looking to Canada for help; if more food is not sent from Canada, Europe will face semi-starvation by next Spring. The more waste there is in Canada the less food we can send away. In the face of the grave situation we must save. "The kitchen is the key to victory."

There are many different ways in which we can economize. Meat is needed greatly in Europe. We should have at least two meatless days a week. On these days we can use meat substitutes. Cheese, for instance is large in food value; cereals and meatless soups make nourishing foods. Eggs, peas, beans, etc., should also be used. We must eat less bacon in Canada. It can be easily cured and transported.

White flour is another place to economize. Rye and graham flour can be used as substitutes. We must eat less bread and waste none. One slice of bread contains three-quarters of an ounce of flour. Often a slice is left over from a meal, gets stale, and is thrown out. This is an inexcusable waste; stale bread should be cut up into small cubes, then rolled into crumbs and packed in a glass jar until needed. Many nourishing and palatable dishes may be made from stale bread crumbs.

The Oatmeal Habit  
One of the best ways to economize in foods is to get the oatmeal habit. It may be substituted for white flour in bread-making; very good bread indeed is made with oatmeal. Oatmeal is much cheaper than prepared cereals and much more nourishing. It contains practically all the food the body needs to build it up. Oatmeal contains more fat than any other cereal and therefore makes a good winter food.

This is a time when we must deny ourselves all luxuries. Candy and sweetmeats, cakes and pastry must be done away with to a certain extent, as sugar, butter and eggs are so scarce. Of course there are plenty of war-time recipes that may and should be used. The Germans have been forced to admit that the Canadians are fighters, but they say we lack the power of self-control and sacrifice necessary to economize in foods. They claim they are going to win the war by starving the Allies. Let us show the Kaiser and his people that we are made of the same kind of stuff as the boys who hold the road to Calais. Let us produce everything we can, waste nothing, and thus help to bring victory sooner to the Allies.

**TOTAL PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR SALES IS COMING SOON**

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The first step toward total prohibition throughout Canada is being taken by the Government as one of its first post-election measures. Although the official announcement will not be made until today it is understood that at the meeting of the Cabinet Council last night an order-in-council was passed prohibiting the importation of alcoholic liquors into Canada.

This will shut off the big source of waste during war time. It will affect Scotch and Irish whiskies and champagnes and other wet goods now imported to the extent of millions of dollars each year. It will hit especially the Quebec importing houses, which are now the distributing centres for the dry provinces. Still more drastic legislation, looking to the curtailment of liquor drinking in Canada, is forecasted for the near future; prohibition of the manufacture of liquor entirely, except under license for medical or other necessary purposes, is the next step.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 21.—In the Argentina 25,500,000 francs has been subscribed to the new French loan.