

German Fleet Bombarded English Coast Cities

London, Dec. 16.—The British Admiralty announce that German fleet movements of great importance are taking place in the North Sea this morning. Scarborough and Hartlepool have been shelled. Further particulars will follow shortly. The situation is developing. The announcement gives no hint of number of German vessels engaged but the Admiralty statement is thought to indicate the German Fleet has left Kiel. A later despatch says four German Cruisers eluded the English patrol and passed through the mine fields to the Yorkshire Coast. Various sections of the Fleet are said to have engaged the Germans.

Nine Persons Were Killed at Hartlepool At Eight o'clock This Morning Great Damage Was Done to Properties in the Cities of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby—Units of the British Fleet Engage the Hostile Squadron—Two German Cruisers Said to be Sunk—Great Excitement Prevails in London.

THE BOMBARDMENT: LATER DETAILS.

The British Admiralty announced that the German fleet engaged that fortress between eight and nine o'clock this morning. The enemy were driven off. A despatch from Hull via London says nine persons are reported to have been killed at Hartlepool and a number injured in the bombardment of the port by German cruisers this morning. A despatch from Whitby says two German cruisers bombarded the town early this morning. Some damage was done to buildings. It is reported here that two of the raiding German cruisers have been sunk.

GREAT EXCITEMENT PREVAILS IN LONDON.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—A German fleet made a sudden dash into the North Sea to-day, shelled Scarborough and Hartlepool, English coast towns on the North Sea, and engaged certain units of the British fleet. Four German cruisers appeared off Scarborough at an early hour and began to bombard the town. It is apparent that they had no difficulty in dropping shells into the city. There was some panic and many of the people fled from their homes. The residents of Hartlepool were aroused from sleep at an early hour by the sound of heavy guns being fired. They crowded the streets and made their way to the beach to learn what was going on. In a few moments shells from the German ships broke forth. Panic showed itself at this point. Fear took possession of the people and many of them abandoned their homes and fled inland. The news of the naval attack was announced by the British Admiralty shortly before 11.30 o'clock this morning and it threw London into the greatest state of excitement that has prevailed since the outbreak of the war.

BRITISH FLEET ENGAGING ENEMY.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—British flotillas are reported to have been engaged with the enemy at several points however, and at noon the situation was described by the Admiralty as "developing." It is not ascertained at this time whether this German attack was designed merely to spread panic among the British people, or whether its purpose was to engage the British fleet in a general action or to act as an escort in an attempt to land troops on the British coast. Neither Scarborough nor Hartlepool are fortified.

RESIDENTS LEAVE HURRIEDLY.

HULL, Dec. 16.—Fugitives reached here from Scarborough report that the German bombardment was heavy and that great damage was done to property. A railroad man has wired from Scarborough saying: "Shells are falling thickly here, Scarborough." The shelling of Scarborough by German cruisers began shortly before eight this morning, several buildings have been damaged by shells. When the German shells began falling the people rushed into the streets in a state of greatest excitement. Crowds ran to the railroad station and all who could, boarded a train just leaving for Hull. Several buildings in Scarborough have been damaged by the fire from the German warships.

BOTH TOWNS OUT OFF FROM OUTSIDE WORLD.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The Admiralty has commanded all telephones and telegraph wires leading out of Hartlepool and Scarborough, cutting off both cities from the outside world.

GREATEST ACTIVITY IN WESTERN WAR ZONE.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—An official announcement at noon says: "Violent bombardment of Westende by British warships seeking to drive back its German occupants is taking place to-day." The announcement indicates the greatest activity in the western war zone. It was asserted that the Belgian troops had repulsed a counter attack by the Germans, and had occupied ground along the left bank of the Yser. In the regions of Arras, Alsne and Champagne, an artillery duel is continuously in progress, the French obtaining an advantage at several points.

BRITISH DESTROYED GERMAN SUBMARINES.

FLUSHING, Holland, Dec. 16.—The British officer and his mechanic who were picked up two days ago in the English Channel by the Dutch steamship Oranje Nassau from a disabled British naval hydro-aeroplane, had dropped a number of bombs on Zebrugge. They said they destroyed several German submarines there.

KAISER'S APPEAL TO HIS SOLDIERS.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent says: The Kaiser has been imploring his troops to capture Warsaw. According to The Bourse Gazette he has distributed to his soldiers a single proclamation, in which he says: "Unless you take Warsaw I shall have to make peace for Germany under degrading conditions." In spite of the miltary sound of this, it is vouched for by the correspondent of this leading journal, who says he has seen the proclamation himself.

CONDITION OF KAISER STILL QUITE SERIOUS.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—A telegram from Geneva to The Temps says a despatch from Berlin confirms the report that the Kaiser's condition is quite serious. The Crown Prince will remain in Berlin for the present.

TURKS LIBERATE BRITISH CONSUL.

ROME, Dec. 16.—The negotiations between Italy and Turkey over the removal of G. A. Richardson, the British Consul, from the Italian Consulate at Hodeida, Arabia, are approaching a satisfactory solution. The Turks have returned Mr. Richardson to the Consulate and presented excuses for his removal. They also promised to punish those guilty of the breach of diplomatic relations.

SON OF FORMER PREMIER KILLED IN FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—A son of former Premier Barthou has died from wounds received at Thann. Although only 18 years old, young Barthou volunteered during the first days of the war. He declined to accept an easy place on the war staff, and requested to be sent to the firing line, where he won the highest praise for courage from his chiefs.

CANADIANS OFF TO EGYPT IN JANUARY?

LONDON, Ont. Dec. 16.—In a message from Salisbury Plains it is stated that the first battalion of the first contingent is to be despatched to Egypt early in January. A large number of London men are attached to this battalion, and Lt.-Col. Campbell Beecher, commanding officer of the Seventh Fusiliers of this city, is junior major.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS LIFE WORTH LIVING? Editor of The Ontario: The problem of whether life is worth living has been wittily answered by the statement that it largely depends upon the liver, but in any event at this juncture it may be readily admitted that "Life" is worth reading. There is no passive innom naturalty. To read this war, and especially its issues, are of vital moment, not merely to the belligerents, but also to those nations who "only stand and wait." The justice of the British cause, and the unanswerable appeal made by the children, mothers, and motherless children of Belgium have gripped "Life" hard and it throbs with human interest. I can believe that the amenities of journalism will allow you to give this free advertisement to "Life" for the sake of the cause. Its cartoons speak louder than editorials. We should confine ourselves to finding fault with the part of the press which sides with the Germans, let us also express our appreciation of those journals who live up to their public functions of being both moulders and interpreters of public opinion. W. N. PONTON.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO

The non-jury sittings opened yesterday afternoon, the Honourable Mr. Justice Middleton presiding. Out of eight cases upon the docket five were settled or postponed. The first case was that of Tuttle v. Canada Cement Company.

This was an action brought by and on behalf of the widow and four infant children of the late James Frederick Tuttle, who, it will be remembered, was electrocuted at plant 5, of the Canada Cement Works in August last. The temporary metal covering of his engine and belt which had been put on in order to keep the rain from the machinery having come in contact by vibration with the electric wire, became charged with electricity at a very high power of voltage. After the stopping of the engine by the deceased and towards six in the evening he leaned against the metal covering and received the shock which resulted in his death. This is the first and only accident that has occurred from electricity at either of the works of the Canada Cement Company, a good record for the department and the company. A similar shock in dry weather would probably not have injured the deceased.

A settlement of \$3,000. was arrived at before the trial but the Judge had to approve and apportion the amount which he did as follows: To the widow who will return to England with her children \$1,000, to Ruby eight years old \$300, to Clarence six years old \$450, to Pearl, four years old, \$500, and to Edward, two years old, \$750. The shares of the infant are to be paid into court, and maintenance allowed the mother from time to time from the said shares. The settlement was satisfactory to all parties. S. Masson, K.C., for Plaintiff. W. N. Ponton, K.C., for defendant.

BAY ICE FAIRLY FIRM

The cold spell of the early part of this week has put such an amount of Jack Frost into the water that the bay is now frozen firmly across. Even last night's severe wind could not shatter the ice field so great. It has been the grip of the ice being on the water. Should the cold spell continue it will not be long before there is sufficient depth of ice to warrant the ice routes being marked out, although this is exceedingly early in the season for the cold snap to set in and it may be that the weather will moderate.

RELYING ON THE PAST

Special to The Ontario.

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—Mr. Rowell's proposal to the government to close all bars and clubs, that is, all social drinking places, during the war, and after the war to submit to the electors of the province on a majority basis the question whether these places should be re-opened or not, continues to occupy much public attention, and a practical question, often heard asked is, "what will the government do?"

Hon. J. G. Macdormid, the new Cabinet Minister, as far as is known, is the only member of the government who has publicly referred to Mr. Rowell's offer. What he said is significant.

"I do not think he declared, that we need concern ourselves greatly about Mr. Rowell. The people have told the government of Sir James Whitney to go on with its good work in temperance as in other matters."

This statement reveals two points. First, that in spite of the sharp lessons of the government in the two by-elections of West Hants and Dundas county, its spokesman still keeps relying on past records, and does not realize that public opinion is swinging against the government precisely because it shows lack of initiative and too great a leaning on the past.

In the second place, Macdormid's speech reveals the fact that he, as a responsible member of the Cabinet, is not favorably disposed to Mr. Rowell's proposal to close all bars and clubs during the war and that the government probably intends to adopt a stand-pat attitude.

Why did not the Prime Minister himself make this statement, is a natural question which is being asked these days. Hon. Herat is regarded as a temperance man and apparently he does not want to bear the responsibility himself, although, as a matter of fact, he and his colleagues are responsible, and they must recognize it for what Mr. Macdormid said. One suggestion is that the influence of the liquor interests with what they did for the Government last summer, is so strong that the Government cannot move even to adopt such a popular policy and one so much in the public interest as to meet a definite critical situation by a definite method of discouraging drinking during the war by

shutting all bars and clubs.

With the unemployment prevalent, as it is in the industrial centres of the Province, the economic saving alone which would result in the closing of these drinking places during the war, would be very considerable. Ontario, in taking drastic steps, would only be following the lead of Russia, France, Great Britain and Manitoba.

MOTORISTS WORRY TAXES MAY GO UP

Government Must Soon Decide Whether to Adopt Horsepower System

Motorists throughout the province are becoming a little anxious concerning the likely size of their fees for the year 1915. It is uncertain yet whether the government will follow the recommendation of the highway commission and institute a horsepower system or whether the matter will stand over for a year allowing the license department to pursue the ordinary course. Premier Hearst was not in a position last evening to state what would be done but the proximity of the new year on which all licenses are renewed will call for an early decision.

OFFICIALS DON'T KNOW

The Ontario Motor League officials do not expect that the charge will be effected this year and point to the fact that the old forms are being issued. It is recognized however that the government may see fit to adopt the horsepower rating according to suggestion. This plan was presented by the commission as a possible source of nearly \$200,000 in revenue, the idea being that it be turned to the account of good roads. No objection was raised to the system by car-owners although they thought the suggested scale excessive. The plan proposed the taxing of all low-power cars (below 20 h.p.) at \$10 per car, and the figures were then scaled up to charge a maximum of \$100 per h.p. of powerful machines. The present rate is \$4 per car. It is understood that returns for next year are already coming in.

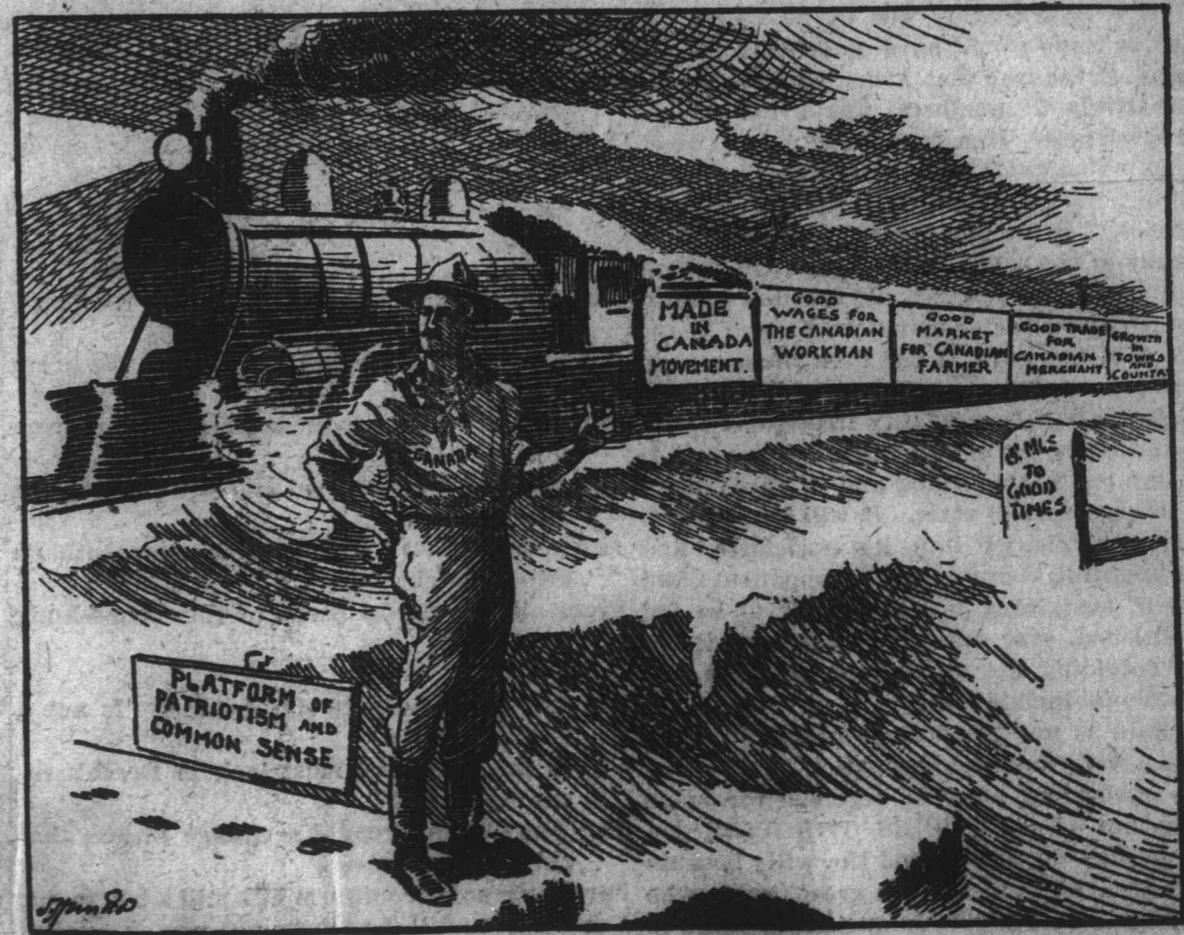
IMPERSONATOR DREW CROWD

Third Number of Y. M. C. A. Star Course Delighted Large Audience—Humor was Pre-dominating Note

Many extremely clever impersonations were given at the Y.M.C.A. Star Course last evening by Elsworth Plumstead, entertainer of New York. Mr. Plumstead put on the entire program and delighted his audience, which was very large.

His program was made up of a medley of songs, quaint stories, costume selections and character-delineations from the writings of the present day. He first appeared as the happy philosopher of Edmund Yawee Cooke and after a clever interpretation of this type, the weary horse-monoled actor of European aristocracy. The contented farmer was again the star of the evening. These and other delightful characters were made to tread the boards and the efforts of the entertainer succeeded in rousing the most wholesome mirth. The tragic note was not struck, because he said people in these days of stress are relieved by a few hours of laughter.

The second part of the program was devoted to impersonations of the old farmer, who had been bass singer in his youthful days, the down-and-out actor, and the "big boy." These three in costume were delightful. Mirth ran riot in the recollections of the old farmer, his quaint method of cultivating a deep bass voice so that he became the leading singer in the village choir. In the selection "And the other One Was Booth" the only tendency to the serious was introduced. Mr. Plumstead had studied the down and out tragic actor who haunts the corner of Broadway and 42nd street in New York City and thinks that when he dies, art will perish. The hopes, disappointments, recollections, and the self-consciousness of the once hero of the boards and the comparison by the down-and-out tragedian of himself with Booth together with the fidelity to life as manifested in the entertainer's study of the character, united to form one of those types whose appeal will never fail.



HIS TRAIN IS COMING IN.

ution in the matter and we have can- and may be had in vershoes for men or Shoes you may de- 40c 65c 75c .50c to 80c .75c to \$1.10 50c to 90c \$1.50 to \$3.00 Son SERVICE on Seal Coats Seal is the Rich- ing fur next to ve showing very coats in the new with large shawl cuffs, also with evers and cuffs trimmed to cor- with the rich ap- the Seal. ice \$125.00 Woodley ur Window ur suits to be CLEANED PRESSED Method phone 794 Front Street ive Millinery odels at Campbell's ng of French and New original crea- ions is ing and creating no end oment from the smart- ously Priced I. Campbell Front Street e New tlebury e Picture Framing Mouldings Pictures Wall Papers Everything new oubtedly have the est in Wall Papers. goods are shown in ropolitan city. If tly this come in and in hour—we will put ough an initiation in apers and decorative ch as you have never eed. from the very lowes to the very smartest a, both of design and ombinations, ave surprised many this year—we will e you if you will dare us to show our line. e New tlebury all Paper and Art ture and Framing ore