

HELLO GIRLS GIVE CHEER TO TORONTO'S POOR



Toronto's poor have no better friends at the Christmas season than the 'Hello' girls of the Bell Telephone Co. Each year the various exchanges select girls to visit the city and provide for them baskets of good things for parents and children. The photo shows a basket provided by the girls of the Long Distance Exchange ready for the onslaught of about 100 little folk at Smith's Hall.

RUSSIAN CITIES IN DEATH STRUGGLE

Torn Between Conflict of Rival Powers

People Flee From Cities in Search for Bread—Blockade Not Ending Revolution.

(By Elias Tobenkin)

(Mr. Tobenkin has just returned to New York after spending several months in the Baltic states—the doorstep of Russia—as a correspondent of the New York Evening Post.)

Tobenkin interviewed scores of travelers who passed in and out of Russia and had access to current Bolshevik documents.

Peace between Russia and Latvia, making of the former Baltic state a "small nation," was signed in midsummer and within a few days 25,000 persons in Petrograd, Moscow, and four or five other cities who had been born in the former Latvian provinces claimed Latvian citizenship and asked for passports to go to their native country.

It was not patriotism that lured them to Latvia. It was bread. They heard that there was bread in Latvia and there was very little bread in the Russian cities.

Try to Get Away. The same happened in the case of Estonia and of Lithuania. All summer long transports of refugees arrived from Russia into Estonia. They were Russians who had been born in Estonia when Estonia was a province of the czar's empire, and who now used this fortunate accident of birth to get out of Russia, to get away from her starving cities and to get to a place where there was bread.

For it is not easy to get out of Russia otherwise. A Russian foreign passport is rare these days. The Bolshevik government does not give it, and the countries outside of Russia do not take it. The Bolshevik government does not want Russians to leave the country for fear that they may begin agitating against the Bolshevik regime abroad.

The governments outside of Russia do not care to admit Russians for fear that they may start agitating for Bolshevism.

Flies to Get Bread. In spite of all these difficulties and restrictions, however, people flee the Russian cities. They flee into the country. They flee to relatives, near and distant, on the land. On the land there is still bread. On the land there is wood, while in the cities there is no heat in the homes. There was a saying, "the rouble spoke" in Holy Russia. The bread has lost its speech in Russia today.

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Stores Open 9 A. M. Close 6 P. M. New Spring Styles Inspiring One to Sew. ON FRIDAY A Big Sale of Blankets. Wise women will buy these Blankets in quantities. The wonderfully low prices will decide this conclusively for you. Now if ever is the time of year it is good to know that your linen closet holds a bountiful supply of Bedding in reserve. This sale brings to you a big opportunity to replenish your supply at a small cost. Blankets are in white or grey with borders of pink or blue. They are soft, light, and comfortable; the kinds preferred in most households. Three sizes—small, medium and large. While They Last \$2.00, \$2.25 and \$3.00 Pair. Sale in Housefurnishings Department, Second Floor. Manchester Robertson Allison Limited KING STREET GERMAN STREET MARKET SQUARE

Lowest Prices. Our all winter footwear sale is going better than expected, and purchasers have taken advantage of our low prices. Overshoes, Skating Boots, Felt Boots and Slippers; also Lined Boots, Shoe Pacs. Best Quality. All our sale goods are this year's fresh, new stock, and no second quality overshoes or felts. SEE OUR WINDOWS. Sales and Service. Attention and service during our sale means everything to the purchasers. Our sales people are anxious to please you. Try them. WATERBURY & RISING, Ltd. Three Stores

OUR ANNUAL FUR SALE. Is going ahead full swing and discriminating buyers in search of VALUE are taking advantage of the reduced prices at which we have marked our entire stock. The sale has exceeded our expectations and during the last few weeks we have had to make up a great number of new garments which we have put in at the same reduced prices. Space does not allow us to describe them all but below you will find today a few exclusive models described. No duplicates will be made of these. SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. 1 ONLY SCOTCH MOLE CAPE COAT—Regular, \$675. Now \$375. (A beautiful wrap exclusively designed—may be worn as a cape with loose flowing lines or very simply with the aid of its button fasteners made into a smart belted coat—34 inches long—No duplicate to be made.)

SILVER PLATE. A wide range of new shapes and designs in a good quality plate. W. H. HAYWARD CO., Limited 85-93 PRINCESS STREET

Pre-Stock Taking Reduction 20% Off Every Stove, Range and Heater. Philip Grannan Limited 565 Main St.

COAL. All Kinds - Hard and Soft TELEPHONE 1913 CONSUMERS COAL CO., LTD.

Officially the Russian Government is feeding the people. Official prices have been established again and again that outside a small number of government employees who are better fed, the people at large are not sufficient to keep body and soul together, and that in order to live people must buy food from speculators regardless of the fact that this is forbidden by law, regardless too of the frightfully high prices demanded for food by the speculators. The working people cannot afford to pay the speculators' prices. According to statistics compiled by the Soviet Government, the maximum pay which a workman gets, other source of earning, is 9,000 rubles a month. That would be just a pound of butter—if the workman would ever think of eating butter. The workman is compelled to live on the government rations. He gets the "payok" as it is called in Russian. The frightful depopulation of the Russian cities was shown by a census taken in Moscow last August. The census showed the population of Moscow to be 1,698,000, a loss of 2,024,000 residents, or more than 86 per cent. On the eve of the revolution, in February, 1917, Moscow had reached its high water mark in the matter of population. It had 2,692,000 residents. The total loss of Moscow's population in those three and a half years was 929,800, or more than 45 per cent. The population of Petrograd according to the latest figures from Russia is now 800,000, or 800,000 less than the population of Moscow. Prior to 1914 the population of Petrograd was 2,500,000. Almost without exception the Russian refugees I talked with were laymen, and they were laymen of the Russian cities and for the suffering of their populations at the door of the blockade. And all these Russians united in asserting that the life or death of the Russian cities had little or no bearing on the life or death of the Bolshevik regime in Russia. If the blockade of Russia was intended as a weapon against the Bolshevik Government it was a blundered weapon. It was not serving to destroy the Soviet Government. It was not diminishing the Soviet power. On the contrary, it was placing it more firmly in the saddle.

CENTRAL BAPTIST ANNUAL MEETING. At the annual business meeting of the Central Baptist church last evening the treasurer reported a balance of \$1,024.94 on hand. The pastor, F. H. Bone, was in the chair, and arrangements were made to build a new parsonage. The budget for this year was \$8,000 and the Willing Workers raised \$1,105.69. The appointment of H. S. Wannamaker as superintendent of the Sunday school was confirmed.

LOCAL NEWS. Shaker blankets down in price again at Bassen's, 14-16-18 Charlotte, 1-17. Good skating on Lily Lake tonight. Make haste! Workmen, we bought 200 strong and dark patterns in working pants, slightly second, \$1.98 a pair, at Bassen's, 14-16-18 Charlotte, 1-17. Good skating on Lily Lake tonight. Strong and dark patterns in pants, cheaper than overalls, \$1.98 a pair, at Bassen's, 14-16-18 Charlotte street, 1-17. Everything in every line is down in price at Bassen's, 14-16-18 Charlotte, 1-17. Band in Carleton Rink tonight.

SALE OF BLANKETS AT M. R. A.'S, LTD. Sample blankets and many odd pairs that have become slightly soiled from handling, will be sold Friday morning at greatly reduced prices. These are all in double bed size; cotton, down nap and wool. All are in white with colored borders. Prices are wonderfully low. The early comer will get the best bargain.

DRIVER OF WHISKEY RIG SHOT DEAD. Montreal, Jan. 13.—Shot through the abdomen by one of two assailants on each side of his rig on Hensyburg Road, about two miles from Champlain, New York, on the Canadian side, J. Senechal, 35, a farmer of St. Calude de Lacolle, died last night. It is said he was driving a load of whiskey to the United States border and the man for whom he was driving was in the rig with him. It is alleged that a quarrel started between the two and that when two men appeared from either side of the road and that one of them shot Senechal.

RECENT WEDDINGS. Harold J. Evans, dispensing chemist at the D. S. C. R. hospital, Fredericton, and Miss Rose Elizabeth Slattery were married at St. Dunstan's church, Fredericton, yesterday by Very Rev. Dean Carney. Both formerly resided in St. John. The marriage of Leslie Miller Somerville, of Millbrook, Queens county, and Miss Ada Beatrice Brown, of Annapolis, Queens county, was solemnized yesterday afternoon at the residence of the officiating minister, Rev. J. A. MacKeigan, 72 Leinster street. The bride and groom were unattended. They will make their home in Millbrook, where the good wishes of many friends follow them.

RECENT DEATHS. Charles A. Darling. The death of Charles A. Darling took place on Tuesday evening at his residence, Nauwigewauk, after a short illness. He was seventy-nine years of age and was well known throughout Kings county, having lived there for many years. Besides his wife he leaves four daughters, Mrs. Harry Gilliland of Hampton, Mrs. William Moore of St. John, Miss Ella of Boston, and Miss Grace at home. Two sisters, Miss E. Darling and Mrs. M. Clark, both of Nauwigewauk, also survive. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon and interment will be in Chatham. Dr. J. McGregor Baxter, of Chatham, died yesterday morning in the Hotel Dieu hospital after a brief illness with pneumonia. For the last twelve years he was post medical officer for the port of Miramichi. His nearest surviving relative is a sister, Mrs. Simpson of Chicago. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon and interment will be in Chatham. William McGrath died at the Hotel Dieu hospital in Chatham yesterday morning after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, one son and three daughters.

FUNERAL IS ALL PLANNED AS EMPRESS WEAKENS. Wife of former German ruler Not Expected to Live Long. Doorn, Holland, Jan. 13.—Former Emperor William of Germany and others at the house of Doorn, are convinced that the death of former Empress Augusta Victoria is a matter of only a short time. Dr. Haecher said today that her condition was such that she might linger indefinitely, although it was becoming increasingly serious. Every detail for the funeral of the former empress has been worked out. A Doorn florist has been ordered to keep constantly a stock of flowers on hand, and one of the employees of the estate has been given a list containing the names of friends and royalties to whom telegrams are to be sent when the end comes. Former Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm arrived here today from Wierigau. He was unable to come during the Christmas holidays because the Island of Wierigau was ice bound at that time.

OXFORD MAN TO PENITENTIARY. Amherst, N. S., Jan. 13.—Alva Peel of Oxford, who was convicted of the charge of arson by a jury here last June, and whose appeal for a new trial was refused by the supreme court of Nova Scotia two weeks ago with Justices Russell and Longley dissenting, will be taken to Dorchester penitentiary today to begin his sentence of five years. The defense has decided not to make appeal from the supreme court's decision, but will make it understood, direct appeal to the minister of justice for clemency. THE SAINT JOHN FUSILIERS. A full turn-out of officers, N. C. O's and men is requested for Thursday, January 13th. The band will be in attendance. Parade 8 p. m. sharp. (Sgd.) H. G. Ashford, Capt. and Adjutant The Saint John Fusiliers.

DENIAL OF BISHOP COHALAN OF CORK. London, Jan. 13.—Reports that Count Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, had interceded in support of the appointment of the Most Rev. Daniel Cohalan, as Bishop of Cork in 1916, which were in circulation during the fall of 1917, and were given in the "White Paper" relative to German-Irish activities issued last Saturday by the British government, are denied by Bishop Cohalan. The bishop, who became head of the Cork diocese on August 29, 1916, has written a letter to the London Times, stating that he heard the report in 1917, and wrote to Pope Benedict regarding it. He gives the text of the reply from the Vatican, which he says is now given to the press for the first time. It was dated November 29, 1917, and reads: "The Holy Father, who surrounds you with his benevolence, charges me to reassure you and to persuade you to disregard all such press statements as wholly unfounded." The letter was signed by Cardinal Gasparri, nuncio secretary of state.

IS SIR THOMAS ESMOND'S SON Will Be Admitted to Australia if He Takes Oath of Allegiance. It was not Sir Thomas Esmond who was refused permission to land in Australia, as announced in yesterday's papers, but his son, who left New York on the steamer Melburn. Sir Thomas is not present in London. He is not a member of the Sinn Fein party in that he was defeated by a Sinn Fein candidate in the County Wick election. Sir Thomas is a member of the Sinn Fein party in that he was defeated by a Sinn Fein candidate in the County Wick election. Sir Thomas is a member of the Sinn Fein party in that he was defeated by a Sinn Fein candidate in the County Wick election.

CONTINUE MORATORIUM IN CUBA, BUT MODIFY IT. Havana, Jan. 13.—Continuation of the moratorium in Cuba on a modified basis for four months would be authorized under the terms of a bill adopted by the senate here last night. It has the sanction of President Menocal. It now goes to the house for consideration.