

IMPRESSIONS GATHERED BY CANADIAN PRESS MAN ON HIS WAY TO BATTLE FRONT

Wonderful Activity in Halifax Port While Dominion Soldiers Are Embarking for Overseas. Recent Order to Examine all East Bound Neutral Ships Brings Polyglot Throng to Seaport. Some First Hand Stories of Various Fighting Theaters.

By Stuart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press.

EN ROUTE TO THE FRONT.

Feb. 23.—From the port of Halifax a considerable proportion of the Dominion soldiers now overseas have been despatched to the scene of war. Of that great host no man has been killed by accident during embarkation or by attack of enemy aircraft en route. The men of the "silent service" have brought their ships in and along them out of the port and others in all sorts of weather, from the zero of mid-winter to the torrid heat of a mid-summer without a single "sea-breeze" to lessen the monotony of the operations.

Their work has been greatly facilitated by the business like methods of the embarkation staff. Col. W. J. Mackenzie and his assistants. Practice has brought the system reasonably to perfection. No matter how long the trains are delayed by snow and other troubles on the line—and there have been a serious handicap during the winter—the men on the pier at Halifax never miss a meal. Officials want to send contented troops on board the transports, and good meals makes easy embarkation.

While the vessels wait at the dock for a full complement—and this wait is sometimes a long and weary one—the men already aboard are learning the geography of the ship and settling down in their quarters. Leave is given to the men and their families. Even for working parties on the dock passes are required. "Special town leave" is for the few who are permitted to go ashore. The officer in charge of the pier has no doubt and no delay in sailing will result. There are no "last night" parties at the embarkation pier nor are there fond farewells of youthful lovers encouraged. Tens of thousands of men are packed on the pier and go out upon the transports without seeing any more of the city than the docks and the grim grey clouds crowning the towers. The port for war purposes Halifax is specially well adapted. The harbor can be used at any time without awaiting flood tide, and within pistol shot of the docks the biggest cranes engaged in convoy work can find safe anchorage in all weathers. The great war has once more demonstrated what the wars of the Revolution and 1812 made plain, that whoever holds Halifax possesses the finest and most convenient naval base on the side of the North Atlantic. As the port of call for the evacuation of the passengers of trans-Atlantic liners and other vessels, hereafter examined at Kirkwall, Halifax has become a many-guested town which will like them.

The Polyglot Gentlemen. From all parts of Canada, as well as from Britain, polyglot gentlemen have been hurried to Halifax to assist in the examination. They have said to the Scandinavian tongues, and to them Dutch is not Dutch. The innumerable Slavic dialects of Eastern Europe conceal no secrets from them. While they perform their duties, even Count Bernstorff, haughty servant of a more haughty master, must be reasonable in his demands, for it would be entirely possible to hold this disagreeable person in the harbor of Halifax for a long while without exceeding the bounds of legitimate search. The aforesaid polyglot gentlemen have sources of information that enable them to speak with confidence of events in Europe which have puzzled many of us. "Why was the Grand Duke Nicholas withdrawn from the main Russian front?" asks someone. The Slav regards that as a mere kindergarten inquiry. "It is true," he says. "The Grand Duke is for Russia. He made enemies of the pro-German nobles of the court who sought to find the way for a separate peace. They weakened him at Petrograd. He made enemies of the people by his strong hand, and in the army he ruled by terror. The Russian people know that the Grand Duke is the enemy of a separate peace and of the German court party, but they could not submit to his autocratic methods. "You must know this has become a war of the Russian people. They intend to use it to advance in the direction of constitution and government. The removal of Rasputin was altogether a political affair and had nothing to do with his offences against morals. He was pro-German and dangerous because of his influence in court circles. Russia, you may be sure, will put out of her way everything that stands against it. It is a matter of life and death. It is not for nothing that the Russian people will do so much to injure their own, and their own, by their money and their frauds. The Czar and his people will stay till the end. Professions They Have Known. Perhaps the most interesting, while we wait for our transports' complement are the stories of wounded officers returned to the front for what they all believe will

STEPS TO INCREASE SELF SUSTENANCE OF UNITED KINGDOM

(Continued from Page Seven).

Their breakfast and the morning newspapers they would choose to read. But still there is no doubt at all that they have been of enormous assistance to us in the effective waging of the war. There is no better proof of that than the brilliant success achieved by the recent war loan and I am sure that the success is in a very large measure due to the public support of the great newspapers.

Must Cut Down Papers. "But still in war, when we have got to choose between very stern alternatives, I am afraid we shall have to deprive ourselves, to a very large extent of a certain number of pages of prints which we peruse with such satisfaction and instruction every morning. In France, newspapers are kept to cut down to practically two sheets; I find the same thing in Italy, and we have come to the conclusion that we have got to do so substantially reduce the papers and paper material imported into this country.

Cut by 640,000 Tons. "In 1914, 1,800,000 tons was imported. We propose to reduce the annual import by 640,000 tons. The reduction is to be effected by a combination of the printing and packing trades. We recognize that it is a very serious hardship, but a saving of 640,000 tons is a very important addition to our national security, and I feel it is imperative that it should be made.

Food and Feeding Stuff Reductions. "Now I come to the reduction in food and feeding stuffs. The first is in regard to food and vegetables. All essential articles of food will come on the free list. There are certain articles of diet of which we import a large quantity and which are not essential to our national needs, although very desirable, and of what we think it necessary to diminish the import of or prohibit altogether. The principal articles on this list will be apples, tomatoes and certain fruits, which we have very reluctantly come to the conclusion we shall have to prohibit altogether, and depend upon our home supplies. Oranges, bananas, grapes, almonds, and nuts will be restricted to twenty-five per cent. of the 1916 imports.

Will Depend Upon Home Grown Meal. "There then are meal and feeding stuffs. We think we could, to a much larger extent than now depend upon home grown meal, because we have a larger stock than I think we ever had in this country. Also we will have a good supply of our own wheat.

Family. Today - Fri. - Sat. Charlie Chaplin. In His Latest Mutual-Chaplin Release. "Easy Street". Also - Louise Huff and Jack Pickford. In a Five Part Comedy Drama "Seventeen". And Three Good Acts of Vaudeville. Popular Prices. Mar. 5 & 10c. Eve. 10 & 15c.

OUR GALLANT MEN LOOK FOR SERVICE

"There are millions of gallant young men in France, in Saloniki, in Egypt, in Mesopotamia, facing torture, terror, death. They are the flower of our race. Unless the nation is prepared to take its share of the sacrifice, their blood will be in vain. And I say it would be a crime, a black crime, for any government to ask them to risk their brave lives in the coming conflict if they knew that the nation behind them were faint-hearted or selfish. Their sacrifices would be thrown away. We have no right to ask it. "For that reason I have come down after long deliberation and thought, careful and searching, and on behalf of the government of this country, I submit to the house of commons and through the house of commons to the nation, the proposals which I hope the commons will approve, proposals which I hope the nation will carry out with unflinching and ungrudging heart."

Danger Beer to Spirits. "We must guard against the danger in doing this of driving the population to drink spirits. That would be a serious disaster. Above all, while we are cutting down on barrels that can be brewed in this country, we must have corresponding restrictions on the placing of spirits on the market. "There are one or two other restrictions on leather boots, rawhide and bottles, which can be found in the proclamation, but that in the main gives a summary of the restrictions which we propose to impose immediately upon imports—restrictions which we regard as essential in order that we should have the quantity of goods for the purpose of conducting this war successfully.

Ensured Against Any Speculation. "It is necessary to secure that there be no speculative buying or cornering of supplies so as to raise prices above the level of the prices at the beginning of this week. That will not be permitted or tolerated. These restrictions will be very carefully considered, and I appeal to the house and through the house to the country to take them as a whole. "It is very easy to pick anyone out and say 'You are not saving very much tonnage here—cannot you let that tonnage go to oranges, another says 'Why not let bananas in—another says 'don't save much tonnage.' Another says that about French bonnets. 'It is rather hard on France.' Well, that is true. I do not mean to say that if you cut out one of those—the nation

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Had to Go Beyond Last Restriction. "But we had to go beyond that last restriction. We had to cut the balance of 18,000,000. It is absolutely impossible for us to guarantee the food of this country without making a very much deeper cut in the barter of the country and we must reduce it to 10,000,000 barrels. That means that you will save nearly 600,000,000 of foodstuffs per annum, nearly a month's supply of

A. H. Jarvis. "The Bookstore." Phone 732. Visit the Bookstore for Stationery.

Prof. and Mrs. F. H. Sinclair. Dancing Instructors. Teachers of Modern and Classic DANCING. DANCING ASSEMBLY, TONIGHT, 9 O'CLOCK. STUDIO—RACQUET COURT—155 METCALFE ST. Phone Queen 3824.

THE ONE THEATRE WITH THE MASTER ORGAN AND ORCHESTRA. "The Witching Hour" by Augustus Thomas. Boston's Famous Robust Tenor. Willis Flanagan. Added Attraction Miss Laura Wilson. Soprano Soloist. Thursday, Friday, Saturday. The Artistic Screen Star, MARY DORO. In Her Latest and Greatest Triumph "LOST AND WON". LAST TIME TODAY, FANNY WARD IN "BETTY TO THE RESCUE."

DEAL OF FEEDING STUFF.

Taking all these categories together, of food and feeding stuffs, we hope to be able to save over 900,000 tons per annum, which shows the extent to which we have relied upon foreign countries for commodities of this kind. If you slaughter the cattle that are here there is a saving of feeding stuff that you want to a considerable extent.

Manufactured Articles. "There are then the manufactured articles. There are articles of luxury which run into very much bigger figures than the more useful things. I certainly did not realize that we were importing so much of a very considerable number of these various articles. I regret deeply in some cases because good many of them came from France and Italy, and there is no doubt at all that they have done a great deal of good in France. "Unfortunately, we are driving to do it for the sake of having the tonnage not merely for ourselves, but for France and Italy as well, and I am sure that if they had to choose between the two that they would infinitely prefer having the ships for other purposes.

Must Husband Grains. "It would be impossible for us to continue to sanction the absorption of an enormous tonnage of foodstuffs in grain as long as the nation was faced with the prospect of a shortage of essential foodstuffs. "The quantity of barley used in the brewing industries has already been reduced. In 1914, 24,000,000 standard barrels were brewed in this country. In 1916, that was reduced to 26,000,000, partly no doubt, owing to the fact that about two or three billions of the adult population had left our shores and most of such beers are brewed in France. I do not believe that there will be much beer exported from this country to France and certainly none that the army needs.

Exclude Foreign Teas. "Early this year on the advice of the food controller, it was proposed to reduce this 26,000,000 to 18,000,000. Let me say this at once. The government are bound to recognize the patriotic spirit in which those who had engaged in this business had faced all restrictions which have hampered them and reduced their profits during the war. It would not be fair for me not to recognize that at once. It is a powerful trade and no one knows better than I do all these interferences in the most laudable spirit of determination to do all in their power to contribute to the safety of the nation and they do it.

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Mon. Tues. & Wed. Lillian Gish in "The House Built Upon Sand"

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MON, TUES, WED. FATIMA—The most famous of Oriental Dancers and at one time an inmate of a Turkish Harem. A repertoire of the Oriental dances, descriptive of the perspicacious Art of the Far East. There is nothing in FATIMA'S art to offend the most fastidious. CHAS MACK & CO.—A most amusing Irish story by one of vaudeville's most talented Irish comedians "A Friendly Call." MABEL FONDA TRIO — A remarkably talented juggling combination doing any number of difficult feats of jugglery. WELTON & MARSHALL—Talented singers and dancers. Original song material interspersed with dance numbers—the kind that bring the applause. —ALSO A— Pathe Gold Rooster Feature, Presenting Helen Chadwick and Montague Love

THURS, FRI, SAT. LOU SKUCE—Cartoonist of the Toronto Sunday World and a former Ottawa boy, in a series of original cartoons which are depicted on the screen by the aid of a novel electrical apparatus which enables the audience to follow every move of his brush. NINE BERBERS TROUPE—An organization of Arabian athletes in a fast and highly sensational series of acrobatic accomplishments. HALLEN & HUNTER—In a comedy singing and talking act which is overflowing with a clever brand of eccentric comedy. NITA JOHNSON & CO.—A quartette of clever singers, dancers and comedians in a lively and interesting comedy offering. JACK MARLEY—A monologist with a trunk full of new and original stories. THE BUCKLEYS—Twenty minutes of magic and illusions.

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A triangle Fine-Arts production from the poems of a Mississippi hero by John Hay. Thrilling, peopled by real, live human beings, filled to overflowing with rapid fire action and suspense. It will keep you on the edge of your seat throughout. Triangle Comedy, British Gazette —AND— Ladies' Fashions

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