

Mentioned in Despatches

SIR GEORGE BUCHANAN, who has just returned from Petrograd, must be glad to be away from that chaotic country. Buchanan has been British Ambassador at the Russian capital since shortly before the outbreak of the war, and like the other Allied ambassadors has had a most trying time with the changeable Russians. Buchanan is regarded as one of the ablest diplomats in the British service, but no man, no matter how efficient, could do very effective work in Petrograd under present conditions.

BOLO PASHA, who has been condemned to face a firing squad by a French jury, was one of the ablest spies ever employed by Germany. His career reads like a story from a dime novel. He began life as a barber's assistant in Marseilles, later becoming a lobster merchant in the same place, and then started on an adventurous career which took him practically around the world. In turn he lived in Turkey, where he acquired Turkish titles and learned a few tricks from the Turks, in South America and in the United States. His activities included all kinds of get-rich-quick promotions, embezzlements, bigamy, theft and finally an endeavor to betray his country to the Huns. Very little sympathy will be wasted on the erstwhile lobster merchant.

CANADIANS will be interested in the approaching marriage of the Hon. Edith Howard to Lord Congleton. The Hon. Edith is a daughter of Lady Strathcona and granddaughter of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. Lord Congleton is head of the house of Parnell and is a cousin of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, the Irish leader. He has been serving on Sir David Beatty's flagship since the outbreak of war, but only succeeded to the title and family estates on the death of his brother, who was killed in the early days of the war. As a matter of fact seven members of the Parnell family have given their lives for their country in the present war while seven more are still serving.

CAPT. VERNON CASTLE.—Widespread regret was expressed over the death of Capt. Vernon Castle, who was killed while flying in Texas. When Castle gave up his dancing career two years ago to do his bit for his Motherland, Great Britain, the world received a surprise that a man who made his living as a public dancer should show such a courageous spirit. In the old pre-war days Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle were the chief exponents of modern dances and found their services in great demand. Castle, whose real name was Vernon Blythe, was born in England in 1887, but had lived in the United States for the last few years.

GEN. SIR HENRY WILSON, who succeeds Sir William Robertson, was recently appointed the British Member of the Inter-Allied Committee for the direction of the war. Wilson is a born strategist, and held a very high place in the estimation of both Lord Roberts and Kitchener. In the pre-war days he was head of the Staff College and pleaded in season and out of season for compulsory military training and a more general provision for the army. In the war he served under French and performed excellent work, but later found it difficult to work with his commander and asked to be relieved of his post. Next to Robertson he is probably the ablest strategist in the British Army.

GEN. GUILLAUNAT.—With the possibility of a drive on the west front there is also the likelihood of an advance by the Allies at Salonika. The Allies, who have an army of over a million in that sphere, are under the command of Gen. Guillaumat. The General is one of the ablest officers in the French Army and acquitted himself creditably in the Boxer Rebellion, being severely wounded as a result of that scrap. At the Battle of the Marne he commanded a division and later an entire army corps at Verdun. Still later he co-operated with the British in the Battle of the Somme and won the warm praise of his associates. As a matter of fact, it was largely because of his ability to work harmoniously with the British that he was selected for the command at Salonika. He is a man of action, and it is extremely likely that once he starts there will be "something doing."

THE FRENCH GENERAL, Grosette, who died a few days ago, was known as the "arm-chair general." As a matter of fact he was so corpulent that he found it extremely difficult to march with his men, while there was scarcely a horse in the army that could be induced to carry him. However, his avoirdupois came in useful on one occasion. In the early days of the war at the Battle of Ypres the Germans surprised a French division and shelled them so heavily that the French began to retire through the town. Gen. Grosette, who was in command, endeavored to stop the retreat, but his soldiers were more or less panic stricken, and paid little attention to him. He thereupon got an orderly to bring him a camp stool and sat down in the middle of the street, although shells were bursting all round him. This action so shamed his soldiers that they stopped the retreat, rallied, and under his leadership drove the Germans back.

ON THE MORNING of July 2, 1881, President James A. Garfield was dressing in a room at the White House to go to the train which was expected to convey him to make an address at Williams College, of which Harry A. Garfield became president before he accepted the office of fuel administrator. The President's two boys, Jimmy and Harry, were in the room. Harry made a joking remark that he never expected to be President of the United States, but that he could do something which the President of the United States could not do. Thereupon he turned a handspring over the bed.

"You can't bluff me," said the President, who immediately performed the feat. An hour later he was lying prone in the Pennsylvania station, struck by an assassin's bullet.

The country is now waiting to see if Harry Garfield can take another handspring.—The Wall Street Journal.

SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON.—To the ordinary layman the retirement of Sir William Robertson comes almost like news of a disaster. Rightly or wrongly, the public had pinned its faith to this stern Scot, who arose from a position of butler's assistant to what was virtually the directorship of the British Armies. After a row with an overbearing master, who received a thrashing for his arrogance, young Robertson tramped to the nearest recruiting station, took the Queen's shilling and became a private in Her Majesty's forces. He did not remain a private very long, because he applied himself seriously to his work, studied in every spare moment and thus won promotion. In India, Robertson became such an authority on Indian affairs and showed such a mastery of the various dialects that well deserved promotion came to him. He is said to speak French better than English, has a good working knowledge of Russian, Italian, German and a half dozen Indian tongues. Robertson is a complete master of military tactics, and probably knows more about the military methods of other countries than any other Britisher. He is a tireless worker, a born organizer, and like all true Celts, loves a fight. Robertson made a big name for himself in the South African war, where most of the other generals lost their reputations, and added to his splendid record by a wonderful performance in the Retreat from Mons and later throughout the war. Although he may differ from his associates and be forced to surrender his post, the public still retain their confidence in him.

WILLIAM P. KENNEY, vice-president of the Great Northern Railway, will shortly become president of the road, succeeding Lewis F. Hill in that position. Kenney, who is but forty-eight years of age, began his business life as a newsboy in Minneapolis. Now, a year or so after the death of the great James J. Hill, the founder and builder of the Great Northern Railway, the former newsboy succeeds the great railway magnate's son as president of the road.

Food in Storage

Egg and cheese prices too high, Commissioner O'Connor says

Ottawa, February 20.

The Cost of Living Commissioner has issued his ordinary monthly statement of the quantities of food held in storage as of February 1st, 1918. His figures are derived from the returns of companies holding about 90 per cent of the total cold storage space available in Canada.

The amounts of food commodities in storage on February 1, 1918, were:

Butter (lbs.)	7,542,447
Cheese (lbs.)	7,529,923
Eggs (doz.)	1,560,039
Beef (lbs.)	40,197,654
Pork, fresh and pickled (lbs.)	20,915,495
Bacon, ham and smoked meats (lbs.)	13,036,104
Mutton and lamb (lbs.)	4,832,230
Fish (lbs.)	16,440,734
Fowl, all varieties (lbs.)	3,105,535

The preceding figures cover only goods reported as held in storage. To estimate the quantity of any such goods available from cold storage companies for export, add about ten per cent to represent goods in transit and certain comparatively insignificant quantities unreported.

The holdings of the firms reporting quantities of food commodities on hand February 1st, 1918, who also reported for February 1st, 1917, show the following comparisons:

	Feb. 1, 1917.	Feb. 1, 1918.
Butter	7,726,330	6,979,209
Cheese	3,311,801	6,457,783
Eggs (doz.)	738,337	1,480,299
Beef, fresh and pickled	34,090,691	40,134,034
Pork, fresh and pickled	22,875,061	19,999,537
Backs and hams, and smoked meats	16,909,551	12,305,432
Mutton and lamb	5,979,344	4,301,106
Fish	9,947,448	15,162,765
Fowl and varieties	5,724,179	2,345,208

The commissioner makes the following observations concerning these relative increases:

"I must again protest that a 100 per cent increase of egg holdings and an almost equal increase in

cheese holdings over those of a year ago, fail to justify prevailing prices for these commodities. As to cheese I know that less than five per cent of our production will serve our ordinary needs, and that a large amount of the stored cheese is the property of the cheese commission, but I cannot, nor need I shut my eyes to the fact that entirely apart from the cheese bought by or offered to the cheese commission, there is an enormous amount of cheese stored by private owners, and while the price to the consumer, if maintained at an altitude which does not tempt him to occasionally substitute this wholesome food for meat, the cheese producers are reinforcing for a demand for yet higher prices from the cheese commission, the price for export is dominating the price for home consumption. My suggestion is that the price for home consumption is too high already. As to egg holdings, it is about time for storage eggs to come off the market. I consider that the preceding figures show too many held at the time of reporting. My contention raised last month that the then alleged scarcity was non-existent is borne out by the export figures. Canada exported in January, 1917, only 180,430 dozen eggs, while in January of 1918 Canada exported no less than 877,858 dozen. Canada's imports of eggs were less by only 175,000 dozen in January, 1918, than in January, 1917.

The existence of the exportable surplus mentioned was the real reason for a falling off in imports. Further, that surplus, principally available in the west, has been fed out to the east as required. For instance, just a few days after the showing of the greatly reduced stocks of storage eggs in Montreal as of February 1, 1918, compared with January 1, 1918, Montreal stocks were augmented fully one-third. Needless to state, the operators who held the surplus did not fail to take advantage of the necessities of their eastern brethren. There has been considerable selling and re-selling of storage eggs among the egg operators. The consumer pays for every shot. I humbly submit that this sort of thing should be stopped. If I may not so submit I mistake my duty. I may add that this sort of thing can be stopped."