

LORD BERTIE'S DIARY

What Britain's Ambassador Saw in the War.

In the following installment of his diary, Lord Bertie of Thame deals with the anxieties of the end of 1915, after the British offensive in Artois and the French offensive in Champagne.

The question of man-power and conscription, the bursting of guns on account of defective shells, and, above all, the problem of the Salonika expedition, are discussed from inside knowledge.

American policy comes in for one of the British ambassador's most caustic comments.

VII.
Oct. 6, 1915.—Esher was here this morning. He came from a visit to French, who is optimistic.

In London there is, he says, depression in official quarters. Voluntary enlistments are reduced to 12,000 per week. There are 1,200,000 young men between the ages of 19 and 24 who will not enlist, and there are altogether some 4,000,000 men fit to serve who have not come forward. There has been a meeting at Calais yesterday between Kitchener, Balfour and Millerand to consider how the requisite forces for Salonika can be provided.

Kitchener has promised 75 divisions to Millerand within stated dates, but where are they to come from? If there is to be a Salonika expedition in addition to some troops to hold on the Gallipoli peninsula, it is a very serious matter. Both Joffre and French insist that they must have what was promised, and they are against the Dardanelles and Salonika expeditions. French says that Kitchener is very anxious in regard to the military situation. Lulu Harcourt has had a big part in the shooting, 1,800 in four days. Here there is no shooting at all. The "chasse" (hunt) has not been "ouvert" (opened).

Many Guns Bursting.
Oct. 13, 1915.—I have written to Asquith to call his attention to the shell question. Our guns are bursting, and unless our people are supplied with the same experience of the French, we may have the disasters they have had in gun-bursting. Kitchener has still retained under a part, and an important part, of the shell business, viz. the patterns, and there is no love between the war office and the ministry of munitions.

Oct. 20, 1915.—Murray of Elibank came to luncheon. He arrived from London yesterday evening. He evidently thinks that Asquith will have to go, and will be succeeded by Lloyd George, who, unless compulsory service is accepted, will resign, for he cannot obtain otherwise men for his munitions work. Kitchener a short time ago admitted that compulsion was necessary, but he has now changed his mind and has not made up his mind which side of the cabinet will win. Arthur Balfour strongly agrees with Carson, who is for compulsion, but I hear that another matter in which he did not concur with the majority of his colleagues, for he cannot obtain otherwise men for his munitions work. Kitchener a short time ago admitted that compulsion was necessary, but he has now changed his mind and has not made up his mind which side of the cabinet will win.

Delcasse Retirent.
Delcasse's disappearance has caused much more excitement outside than inside France. The praise of the Times and other English newspapers has been overdone. I think that there will be changes here. Poincare wants a communication man at the Quai d'Orsay, who he thinks Delcasse would be. Delcasse never told him anything that he could keep to himself.

Oct. 22, 1915.—From what Murray of E. says I think that the official days of Asquith are nearly numbered. Lloyd George says that he must have compulsion for his munitions work. The old woman at the W. O. still sticks to shrapnel versus high explosive shells and try to make out that our artillery is superior to the French and that shrapnel is better than high explosive shells for the destruction of trenches and wire entanglements.

I went to Millerand's office in order to congratulate him on his attendance at a British cabinet meeting and his victory there. He was at a "council des deputees" (council meeting), so I did not see him. I do not suppose that any foreigner, and least of all a Frenchman, has ever before been at a British cabinet meeting.

Lunched with Lloyd George. Oct. 27, 1915.—My next visit was to Lloyd George. He had with him Winston. L. G. said he was much to have lunch with Murray of Elibank tomorrow. On my return to the hotel I found a telegram from Murray of Elibank, dated after "and" and later I received an answer-paid telegraphic invitation from Murray of Elibank to go to the house of the French ambassador, where I was to be one of the guests. I am much run after by Lloyd George at all events.

My next visit was to Buckingham Palace, Stamfordham (private secretary to the King) has heard it and me to have lunch with Murray of Elibank tomorrow. On my return to the hotel I found a telegram from Murray of Elibank, dated after "and" and later I received an answer-paid telegraphic invitation from Murray of Elibank to go to the house of the French ambassador, where I was to be one of the guests. I am much run after by Lloyd George at all events.

I said that if I don't go on with the Salonika expedition the French will consider that the matter we have left them in the lurch. There is great reluctance here to go on with it. There is half-sufficing on the question of the "l'union sacrée" (the sacred union) and whether or not we are committed in any way beyond recall.

Brian Ever Persuasive.
November 5, 1915.—I had yesterday, just before 6 p.m., a telegram announcing the intended arrival of Kitchener at 7.30 this morning. There was no train due at Gare du Nord, ultimately it was ascertained that he would arrive at the Gare de Lyon.

He was to put up here and it was to be a profound secret—a case of the ostrich and the sand. He and Fitzgerald were here. We had a dinner between 7 and 8. Kitchener and Balfour was very persuasive, and K. unconvinced in bad French.

A number of the new ministers have been to see me, many of them are very old. When Clemenceau was asked to join them, he said that he was too young.

Yarde-Buller, and Ramsay. Fitzgerald seems such a nice man. K. and staff with a French "officer de liaison" and, who knows, the ground, leave tonight for Marseilles. K. expects to be home in three weeks, but "qui va a l'huchasse perd sa place" (he who goes a-hunting loses his place), which is occupied by Asquith. Kitchener had a three-quarters of an hour talk with Brian this morning. Brian was eloquent and persuasive. K. then saw Gallieni and the afternoon he has gone to see Joffre.

Feared Egyptian Attack.
November 8, 1915.—The military attaché thinks that there was some apprehension of an Egyptian Nationalist attempt on Kitchener, for at the time K. was in the city, the military attaché to walk close alongside of K. on the right, Fitz taking position on the left and slightly in rear with his hand in his pocket, which contained a revolver. K. has had threatening letters. As ministers for the most part only follow what they take to be the public sentiment, instead of leading, what would be the vote of the majority at a general election were it not for the press is a hazard. Luckily, almost every newspaper is for a fight to a victorious finish, and that creates a public opinion for continuing.

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I am not pessimistic, but our mission is not to be able to decide anything. Kitchener told me that Asquith is a wonderful man and the example he gave was that when compulsory service was rendering the cabinet asunder Asquith found a formula which satisfied everybody. It settled, however, nothing. Each minister, no doubt, hopes and expects that his own view will soon prevail. Meanwhile, preparation for compulsion is quickly passing.

"Psalm-Singing Humbugs."
Nov. 12, 1915.—Will President Wilson do anything to show resentment in any practical form to the German "Anders" phrase? I doubt it. He will quote Ezekiel! His note to us is not agreeable. He quotes the declaration of Paris of 1856, to which the American government has never adhered, and they require us to search vessels at sea instead of taking them into port, which the world is impossible nowadays, with big ships and cargo weighing cargo.

They are a rotten lot of psalm-singing, profit-mongering humbugs. Nov. 25.—It is all up with French. He will probably become commander-in-chief in England. I am so grieved for him. Asquith's observation to me that there was a movement against him at home was ominous of evil. I wonder what special circumstances brought about his fall.

German Influence on Greece.
Dec. 1, 1915.—I have been instructed to represent urgently to the French government that General Sarraute's attempt to make communications with the Serbian army having failed, the agreement that the whole of the allied forces should be withdrawn from Salonika for use as circumstances might require had come into force.

With regard to the action to be taken at Salonika, the British government considers that the allied forces should abandon it, but only on the distinct understanding that the Greeks would undertake to defend their frontier; a further communication to be made to the Greek government that if they allowed the central powers to occupy Salonika it would be a "casus belli."

The answer, which I have telegraphed, was that the communication which had been made had caused consternation to Brian and Jules Cambon. I added that I considered that the situation between the British and French governments would become very difficult if we insisted on the withdrawal from Salonika which the French regard as a desire of Greece and which the British government on the demand of the German government.

Encouraged Greek King.
The minister of war, to whom the military attaché communicated the views of the British government, told him that the council of defense had agreed to the complete or partial evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula, as advised by Lord Kitchener, and he recommended that the Salonika question should be decided at once between the two governments.

The French consider that Kitchener's conversations with the King of Greece had done much harm; they had encouraged the king to think that we would gladly withdraw from Salonika on terms which the German government desired, and which would suit him.

The Greek chief of staff, the pro-German Metaxas, had indicated that the best means for saving Egypt would be by an expedition to the south of Alexandria.

Wanted to Shelve Kitchener.
Dec. 3, 1915.—I had communicated to Brian further representations from the British government to the effect that to continue to send troops to Salonika, in accordance with their undertaking, makes them apprehensive of a disaster, as their military advisers consider that if the decision to withdraw be delayed it may become impossible.

He will resign, so that the threats are not made. Kitchener, who he seems to have much impressed, it seems, by the increased opposition to the military council held at Chantilly this morning, by the Russian and Italian representatives, to the abandonment of Salonika.

Will our cabinet make Kitchener of Lloyd George the Jonah? Perhaps. Brian further representations from the British government to the effect that to continue to send troops to Salonika, in accordance with their undertaking, makes them apprehensive of a disaster, as their military advisers consider that if the decision to withdraw be delayed it may become impossible.

Were Hunting Jonah.
Dec. 7, 1915.—There are signs of weakening in Asquith and Co.'s "fixed determination" about Salonika. X. hears from his military friends here that Lloyd George says that if we desert the French in Salonika question

NEW COLLEGIATES URGED BY TRUSTEE

Number of Proposals Advanced at Educational Banquet Last Night.

The educational banquet with Trustee Bryden N. Campbell, retiring chairman of the board of education, as host, held last night in the Tecumseh house, constituted itself a rapid succession of excellent speeches of a highly inspirational and optimistic character.

The provision of additional secondary school accommodation during the coming year, the accomplishment of the board during the past year, and the outlook for the coming year were topics which provided abundant material for a number of practical and worth while addresses.

Chairman Campbell himself advanced the idea that provision be made for the inclusion of the mayor, or some other member of the city council, as a member of the board of education, by way of forming a connecting link between the two bodies.

"If such a move were made possible," declared the retiring chairman, "there would be established a sympathetic touch between the body which raises the taxes and the body which spends the bulk of those taxes."

Mayor George A. Wenize "fore-stalled" an appeal for support of a sixth of a dozen of colleges" by indicating that he would get behind the construction of "a twelfth of a dozen" during the coming year.

Would Back Collegiate.
The mayor stated that from conversation he had had with different members of the council he had every reason to believe that the 1925 council would get behind at least one new college during the coming year.

Trustee A. J. Grant, M.D., retiring chairman of the collegiate committee, pointed out that "the board of education was doing a bit in making life better for children and stated that the world would become better or worse directly in proportion to the kind of job that was made of that very task."

Trustee Grant averred that the only solution to the collegiate problem was the erection of two new colleges. He commented upon the most commendable things the board had ever done.

Trustee S. F. Lawrance, chairman of No. 2 committee during the past year, and generally accepted as the chairman of the board for the coming year, declared that "the greatest task of the day is the teaching of children to study national questions and Canadian history, so that they will become trained and educated, not only to build up our country, but to hold a better place in the world to live."

Trustee Rev. R. D. Mess, M.M., touched upon the danger of present-day democracy, and pointed out that "as in the past the building up of the ideal of democracy had occupied the attention of the generation, it is now the duty of the generation to-day to be guarding against the dangers of that self-same democracy, which tended to break down individual initiative."

Envies New Board.
Trustee Rev. Quintin Warner, retiring chairman of No. 1 committee, expressed himself as being envious of the new board, and working out of the new board, under the new order for the betterment of the past, but considered that his break with the board of education was not as abrupt as would be the case with the other trustees who were retiring, since his work in the juvenile court was close to the work of the schools of the city.

Trustee A. N. Udy, retiring chairman of the advisory-vocational committee, commented upon the fact that as the final meeting of the year was brought to a close, the chairman of the board also drawing to a close "the ties formed in his five and half years' association with the board were gripping him a little more than he had expected."

Frank White, M.P., discussed subjects to come before parliament when it opens on Feb. 4. He mentioned the new water works, St. Lawrence waterway scheme and diversion of water at Chicago, restriction of the powers of the senate, the Canadian National Railway, trade treaty with Australia, inter-domestic trade and imperial relations, economic problems, the air force, etc.

Others who were present spoke briefly and the banquet closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

CHINESE TROOPS BATTLE IN SHANGHAI DISTRICT

Slight Skirmishing Reported Between Soldiers of New Leaders.

By JAMES L. BUTTS.
Special Cable to The Advertiser and the Chicago Daily News. Copyright. Shanghai, Dec. 30.—Slight skirmishing between the troops of Chen Lo-Hsian, loyal to Lu Yung-Hsiang, and those supporting Sun Chuan-fang, the new Tschun of Chekiang Province, is creating apprehension here. The fighting, however, was 50 miles southwest of Shanghai, and probably will not reach major proportions.

Although Sun Chuan-fang's troops drove back the forces of Chen Lo-Hsian nearly 20 miles, owing to superior artillery, it is not believed that the fighting will threaten Shanghai again.

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YEAR'S TRADE BALANCE FAVORABLE TO CANADA

Dominion Exports Increase in 1924 by 45 Million Dollars, While in Same Period Her Purchases Abroad Decrease by More Than Ninety Millions.

EACH PASSING MONTH SEES IMPORTS DROP

Canadian Press Despatch.
Ottawa, Dec. 30.—A reduction of approximately forty-five million dollars in the grand total of Canada's trade, with a big decrease in imports and an increase in exports during the year ending tomorrow, as compared with the calendar year, 1923, is indicated by figures available here.

Trade figures for the eleven months ending November 30 have been compiled by the dominion bureau of statistics. The figures for December must necessarily be in the nature of an estimate as complete returns will not be available until about the middle of January. However, by assuming that the trade during the present month approximated that of December 1923, it is possible to arrive at an estimate for the total trade.

Imports Less.
Total imports into Canada during the present year will, it is estimated, be to the value of approximately \$310,900,000. This is a decrease of more than \$90,000,000 from the figures for 1923, when total imports reached the figure of \$400,900,000.

Exports of domestic goods, however, will show an increase over the present year. The value of exports is estimated to be approximately \$1,060,000,000 as compared with \$1,014,444,274 in 1923. The increase in the value of domestic exports will therefore probably amount to approximately \$45,000,000.

In reviewing the figures of total imports by months for the year, which is just ended and comparing them with the monthly import figures for 1923, it is noticeable that the value of goods imported into Canada showed a decrease in every month of the present year excepting December, as compared with 1923. The December figures for the present year are not available, of course, but it is probable that they will also show a decrease from those of December, 1923, which were \$65,657,071.

Value Fluctuates.
Monthly totals showing the value of domestic exports are less uniform. In the three first months of the present year the value of Canadian goods exported was appreciably greater than in the corresponding months of 1923. April showed a decrease of approximately \$100,000,000, but the increase in May, 1924, as compared with May, 1923, was nearly 30 millions. Other months varied.

The most marked decrease in the value of exports dropped from \$138,087,873 in 1923 to \$118,564,536 in 1924. The forgotten figures do not include the total value of foreign goods exported from Canada, which will probably amount to approximately 13 million dollars this year.

At the meetings last night of the normal school alumni of 1923-1924, held in Smallman & Ingram's, of 1922-1923, held in the Tecumseh house, it was decided to hold joint meetings in future of all years of the school alumni.

The meetings, though held on the same night this year, were in different places, owing to the fact that no joint meetings had been arranged for, and it was to increase the friendship and fellowship of the members of the alumni that the proposal to amalgamate in future was made and carried unanimously.

H. A. Young of St. George's school was elected president of the 23-24 class, and Joe Willis for the 22-23 class for next year. Members of the two executives elected were: 1923 class—President, H. A. Young; vice-president, H. H. McKee; secretary, J. Webster, and secretary, Betty Brown. The class of '22 officers are: President, Joe Willis, and Miss Adams; and Miss Roddick on the committee.

A fine program for the evening had been arranged, and was carried out. The 23-24 class, under the leadership of H. A. Young, T. E. Clarke, J. G. McEachern, V. Croxford, past president of the Normal literary society, E. W. McKee, and H. H. McKee, gave a variety of songs and recitations. The 22-23 class had its dance in the large room of the Tecumseh House.

At Smallman's the speakers included J. H. Shaker, past president of the Normal literary society, E. W. McKee, and H. H. McKee, gave a variety of songs and recitations. The 22-23 class had its dance in the large room of the Tecumseh House.

The following were present: Harry Rokeby, Howard Brown, Emily Clarke, Margaret McCallum, Wilfrid McKee, Mabel Taylor, J. G. McKee, Ernest Kouritz, Dorothy Nethercott, Kathleen Milton, Myrtle Hall, Zella Graham, Alma E. Steele, W. McKee, and H. H. McKee, gave a variety of songs and recitations. The 22-23 class had its dance in the large room of the Tecumseh House.

Others who were present spoke briefly and the banquet closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

MAD WOMAN MURDERS 4 MEMBERS OF FAMILY

Young Widow Confesses Slaying Mother, Father, Brother and Daughter.

Associated Press Despatch.
Logansport, Ind., Dec. 30.—Mrs. Emma Hobough, 35-year-old widow, confessed today that she killed the four members of her family found dead yesterday in the farm home, eight miles from here, according to Sheriff A. W. Sawyer of Cass county. The sanity inquest set forth this morning was postponed until late today.

Mrs. Hobough was known to have been demented, though thought to be harmless, for the past 12 years, according to information to the police. She was taken into custody yesterday after the discovery of the bodies of Henry Bassler, 69, her father; John Bassler, 60, her mother; Viola Hobough, aged 3, her daughter, and her brother, Charles, who was shot off from shotgun charges.

Special to The Advertiser.
Chicago, Dec. 30.—One man was killed and another severely injured today when an Illinois Central freight train, westbound from the stockyards, crashed into a stalled freight train, obscured by a curtain of smoke and fog just inside the city limits. The dead man was J. J. Mischo, 43, and the injured man, Edward Shors, 35.

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STORE CLOSING TODAY AT 5.30.

Tomorrow—New Year's Day
STORE WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY.



See Tomorrow's Paper

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With That Rich Flavor and Fragrant Aroma, Try
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Will Plan Reconstruction
When Inspection of Wreckage Is Completed.

As soon as fire inspectors have made an inspection of the Hunt's flour mill, which was gutted by a disastrous blaze yesterday morning with a loss exceeding \$500,000, plans for the reconstruction will be made. The announcement of C. R. Hunt to The Advertiser last night.

Only the walls of the building are left standing and the south wall will likely be torn down as it buckled under the intense heat of the flames. The roof and floors have collapsed. Firemen are still pouring water on the smouldering ruins, and the six grain elevators at the rear of the building, where 125,000 bushels of grain are stored, are still being subjected to a continual stream of water.

It is not thought that concrete grain elevators will suffer to an appreciable extent from the fire. If colder weather arrives, however, intense frost might cause the walls to crack.

Companies numbers two and five of the fire department were on duty at the building until 1 o'clock this morning, and then they were relieved by companies numbers four and three. Jack Pickering of the central fire hall will be confined to his home for the remainder of the week, due to injuries sustained in a fall while working on the aerial ladder.

The reconstruction of the plant will mean that a large number of men will be employed, and this will relieve the unemployment situation in the city to some extent.

Even if the present walls cannot again be utilized, it is expected that a building similar to the one that was burned will be erected.

HYLAN WAS DISCHARGED FOR DRIVING TOO FAST
Associated Press Despatch.
New York, Dec. 30.—John F. Hylan, mayor of New York, was "fired" from his engine-driver's job on a Brooklyn elevated railroad of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, February 1, 1887, for having "taken a curve too fast." It developed today that a similar "curve" had been taken by Hylan in a recent case.

The mayor today answered the allegations against him, stating that he had never learned the cause of his dismissal. He denied the curve-speeding incident.

ONE KILLED, ONE HURT IN CHICAGO TRAIN CRASH
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