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TWELVE PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 2 1909—TWELVE PAGES

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CANADA'S MILITIA FEELS NEED OF OFFICERS

Inspector - General Recommends More Encouragement to Attract Right Men—Forces Not Ready for War.

OTTAWA, Dec. 1.—(Special).—Sir Frederick Borden to-day tabled in the commons the report of militia council for the fiscal year ending March 31 last.

Some remarks as to the general efficiency of the various Canadian militia units are made by Sir Percy Lake, inspector-general. On the whole, he says, there is little doubt but that the infantry is steadily advancing in efficiency, due greatly to the appointment of brigadiers. The training of nearly all military corps suffers from the tendency of most commanding officers to forget that company drill is the foundation of the more advanced training.

The report of the council notes that it has been decided to proceed with the organization of a Canadian general staff, which will in time become the Canadian staff of the imperial general staff.

"I observe," continues the inspector, "from the interim report of the militia council for 1907, that my predecessor in the office of inspector-general (the late Lt.-Col. Vidal), devoted a large portion of his report to the subject of 'Readiness for War.' I regret that I cannot follow him in his views, for, while much of what was said was undoubtedly true the assumptions which the circumstances of the case compelled him to make were so wide as, in my opinion, to rob his conclusions of much of their value."

"All that can safely be said is that, during the past season, the force in general has made appreciable progress towards efficiency and readiness for the field. That it is not at present really efficient or ready for war is a mere truism. It is quite impossible for any force, with only 12 days' training in the year, to be either efficient or ready to take the field."

"With two of his remarks, however, I desire cordially to associate myself. The first of these refers to the absolute necessity of having good officers, if imperfectly trained troops are to operate with accuracy in the field. 'Would Encourage Officers.' 'So far, our system has failed to provide us with sufficient number of good officers. It is apparently increasingly difficult to get the right men to attend the schools of instruction.' 'The remedy can only lie in (1) making the position of the officer more attractive by relieving him of more onerous duties; (2) by allowing him to wear a uniform—and of all avoidable clerical labor and demands upon his time, outside of annual drill. 'In making the courses at the schools of instruction as attractive as possible, by studying the officers' convenience and imparting only such instruction as is essential, and that in as practical a shape as possible. (3) In bringing instruction to the individuals concerned in those cases where a sufficient number of officers to instruct can be assembled at any one time and place. 'Militarism in Schools. 'Secondly, I entirely associate myself with my predecessor's remarks as to the value of military training in schools. Mentally and physically, it is a most valuable aid to education. From a military point of view, it is almost the only means by which a citizen force can hope to surmount the difficulties imposed by the practical impossibility of exacting an adequate period of annual training from adults.' 'The report notes with pleasure the increased general interest manifested in the cadet movement. At the end of the year there were under the control of the department 178 cadet corps, with an enrolled membership of 11,000, a net increase of 3000 cadets. Increases in Quebec and the Northwest have been very marked. 'Cost of the Service. 'The expenditure for the year was \$5,484,806, a decrease of \$311,218, as compared with the previous year. The number of men of all ranks trained was 45,623, at a total expenditure of \$1,416,416. During the previous year 44,121 men were trained at an expenditure of \$1,084,499. In 1904-5, only 33,874 men were trained, at an expenditure of \$677,724. 'TWO NEW C.P.R. BOATS 'Ordered for the Pacific Coast Service —To Cost \$1,500,000. 'MONTREAL, Dec. 1.—(Special).—The C.P.R. have ordered two new boats for the Pacific coast service, to cost \$1,500,000. 'Capt. J. W. Troup of the British Columbia coast service will leave St. John on Friday for England to make arrangements for building a schooner which are due in Vancouver in the spring of 1911. 'GREAT GRAND OPERA COMING. 'NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—(Special).—It is announced that Oscar Hammerstein is to present his grand opera company which is the rival here of the Metropolitan Grand Opera organization in Shubert theatres at Pittsburgh, Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, and Ottawa.

Miss Asquith Is Good Campaigner

The Daughter of the British Prime Minister Will Take an Active Part in the Election.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—Even before the government has announced its program of campaign, women folk of the cabinet ministers' families are beginning to show their active interest in the coming struggle.

Miss Violet Asquith, the prime minister's daughter, is determined to make herself a valuable asset to the Liberal party. She has made her debut as a political speaker and proved herself to possess remarkable eloquence and a charming platform manner. She is decidedly opposed to the militant suffragette policy.

Miss Asquith has opened a Liberal bazaar at Hammersmith, a western suburb of London, where in a eulogy of the work of the Liberal government she said: 'They have resurrected the army, united South Africa and given to the Union a boon of old-age pensions, which some of us had relegated to the millennium. Now we are Crusaders outside the walls of the Holy City.' 'This was a reference to the Liberal government's attack on the oligarchy of wealth and privilege.

"I observe," continues the inspector, "from the interim report of the militia council for 1907, that my predecessor in the office of inspector-general (the late Lt.-Col. Vidal), devoted a large portion of his report to the subject of 'Readiness for War.' I regret that I cannot follow him in his views, for, while much of what was said was undoubtedly true the assumptions which the circumstances of the case compelled him to make were so wide as, in my opinion, to rob his conclusions of much of their value."

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THOUSANDS ARE MADE IDLE BY RY. STRIKE

Mine Workers, Ore Handlers, Millers, Freight Handlers and Others—Famine Conditions Are Feared.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 1.—Every line of industry in the Twin Cities, Duluth and Superior, and all cities northwest dependent on the movement of supplies, is seriously affected by the strike of the railway switchmen which began last evening.

It is estimated that upwards of 12,000 men are already to-night on account of the strike order; thousands of freight handlers and teamsters are losing time by reason of the freight blockades, while a continuous stream of strike for several days will throw additional thousands out of work.

The railroad yards are filled with stalled freight trains and an attempt to move a few by the aid of the ortemen drafted as switchmen is making no impression.

In the iron ranges committee announced to-day that they were bringing to St. Paul new switchmen to take the places of the strikers.

To this President Hawley of the Switchmen's Union said: 'All right, let them come; we will not object.' 'Can't Ship Provisions. 'Business men generally are beginning to feel the strike. Wholesale grocers report that nothing is moving and that small towns that get their supplies from day to day will soon feel a scarcity in fresh vegetable and fruit.

Some of the larger commission houses to-day released their working forces and will make further reductions if the strike continues.

In Minneapolis the flour mills are closed to-night and 2600 men employed in them are idle.

OSLER CLEANS UP \$45,000 ON KING-BAY PROPERTY

Sells Southeast Corner to Union Bank, Which Will Erect Large Office Building.

In 39 days, E. B. Osler, M.P., has cleaned up \$45,000 thru his speculation in the property on the southeast corner of King and Bay-streets, which he purchased for \$150,000, Sept. 21. He has since resold it to the Union Bank for \$225,000. The sale was consummated in Quebec on Friday last. Mr. Osler was out of the city last night; but J. E. Waddell, local manager of the Union Bank, intimated to The World that the sale had been made, so that he was not conversant with the details. It was the intention of the bank to erect a fine office building on the property, he said.

The lot is "L" shaped with a frontage of 38 feet on King-street, by 109 feet on Bay, and extending back at the rear of Washington street by a width of 17 feet.

At the time he bought this property, Mr. Osler stated it was for speculative purposes and that he had received notice of the resale of the lot after it came into his possession. He refused \$10,000 in advance of the purchase price.

This property was one of the largest assets of the Sovereign Bank when forced into liquidation.

Justice Longley of Nova Scotia Gives Four Reasons Why.

AMHERST, N. S., Dec. 1.—(Special). Justice Longley addressed the Canadian Club to-night on "Shall Canada Have a Navy, and Why?" The judge thinks that if this country is to have a navy, she should build them herself, and gives four reasons why: 'First, the construction of a navy by Canada is a choice as to whether effective, neither would it be immediately effective if begun five or ten years hence. We must begin some time, if we are to begin at all. Why not begin now? We cannot begin too soon. 'Second, a money contribution could only be justified on the ground of urgency, and none really exists. The German bogey is purely imaginary. A money contribution could not be a permanent solution. Britain did not seek the money aid of colonial subjects; she wanted their manhood, their co-operation, their personal zeal, and these could only be manifested by developing their own resources of defence. 'Third, it was inconsistent with the policy of autonomy, which all parties in this country agree is essentially Canada's growth and dignity. 'Fourth, important Canadian industries are involved in the construction of our own ships. If we do not know how to build warships to-day, it is time we began to learn. We need the shipyards in operation in Canada, giving employment to our own people and creating a spirit of healthy self-reliance.

REGIMENT ON SNOWSHOES. 'OTTAWA, Dec. 1.—The 43rd Regiment will probably go in for snow shoes now on trial, charged with less the winter prove a very open one, there will be a number of marches on snowshoes by the regiment. 'NOMINATION IN LUNENBURG. 'LUNENBURG, N.S., Dec. 1.—(Special).—The Liberals to-day nominated J. S. Sperry, ex-M.L.A., to contest the seat for the seat made vacant in the Dominion House by the resignation of A. K. McLean. The Conservatives have not yet decided if they will contest this seat.

NOT SUCH AN EASY MARK

UNCLE SAM: Threw high an' kicked like a steer, b'gosh!



WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—United States Secretary of State Knox late to-day returned the passports of Filip Rodriguez, charge d'affaires of the Nicaraguan legation, with a letter scathingly denouncing the Zelayan administration. The letter is definitely declared to represent the views of President Taft and is about as plain-spoken as anything emanating from the state department in many years.

The letter apparently indicates a determination on the part of the United States to hold President Zelaya personally responsible for the alleged torture and execution of the Americans, Cannon and Groce, and exhibits the unique situation of one government holding the chief executive of another practically as a common malefactor.

"Since the Washington convention of 1907, it is notorious that President Zelaya has almost continuously kept Central America in tension or turmoil, that he has repeatedly and flagrantly violated the provisions of the constitution, and by a baleful influence upon Honduras, whose neutrality of Costa Rica, San Salvador and Guatemala. 'It is equally a matter of common knowledge that under the regime of President Zelaya republican institutions have ceased in Nicaragua to exist except in name; that public opinion and the press have been throttled and that there has been a steady upward tendency to real patriotism. 'Two Americans, who this government is now convinced were officers connected with the revolutionary forces, and therefore entitled to be dealt with according to the enlightened practice of civilized nations, have been killed by direct order of President Zelaya. Their execution is said to have been preceded by barbarous cruelties. The consulate at Managua is now officially reported to have been menaced. 'Into the question of ultimate reparation there must enter the question of the existence of Managua of a government capable of responding to demands. There must enter also the question, how far it is possible to reach those actually responsible for and those who perpetrated the tortures reported to have preceded the execution, if these be verified; and the question whether the government be one entirely dissociated from the present intolerable conditions and worthy to be trusted to make impossible a recurrence of such acts, in which case the president, as a friend of your country, he is also of the other republic of Central America, might be disposed to have indemnity confined to the value of the lives lost. 'If the government is not so far as the punishment might fall where really due."

WEIGHED SUGAR IN A HURRY 'And Government Employees Gave "Trust" the Best of It. 'NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The fruitful opportunity for fraud in the haste and confusion of the sugar business done daily on the Williamsburg docks of the American Sugar Refining Company was what the government sought to bring out to-day in its prosecution of the former six employees of the company now on trial, charged with defrauding the government by under weighing.

David Fragner, once an assistant government weigher, testified that at a busy time two trucks a minute passed over a single set of scales, or eight to the minute on the four sets in use there for every hour of the day. Each truck weighed half a ton, and each set was weighed three times short; the secret manipulations of government employees, who, it is charged, were paid cash by the sugar company for the evasion of customs duties. 'If the game ran properly, the government stood to lose its duties on 5500 pounds of sugar for every hour.

UNCLE SAM GOES AFTER PRES. ZELAYA'S SCALP

Will Hold Him Responsible for Execution of Two Americans—Demands New Government.

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THE NEW SEA LORD PEERLESS IN STRATEGY

King Approves Appointment of Sir Arthur Wilson to Nation's Most Responsible Position.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—King Edward to-day approved the appointment of Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, commanding the British Channel fleet, as first sea lord, to succeed Admiral Fisher, who was recently elevated to the peerage and who will retire from the admiralty on Jan. 25.

The choice of a new first sea lord is always difficult. The number of men qualified for the post may be reckoned on fewer than the fingers of one hand. He must have a will of iron, a clear thinking brain, mastery of all naval problems of past, present and to come, and, above all, he must be able not only to win the confidence of statesmen on both sides in politics, but he must steadfastly hold his own in the council chamber with the ablest and most parliamentary debaters of the time.

A first sea lord, if he is worth his salt, must also hold his own in the sphere of executive administration against the preponderant social, political and financial interests of the army. He must at all times and in all companies and in spite of the temptations of his sails to catch the passing breeze, be obsessed with the fact that governs the existence of the United Kingdom, India and the empire, I. e.,—the articles of war declare—"the navy under the good Providence of God upon which the safety of this realm doth chiefly depend."

Must See Things as They Are. 'Any efficient first sea lord must necessarily make powerful and determined enemies, because he is in a sense responsible for the British Empire, cannot indulge in distorted vision. He must either see things as they are and in their true perspective or connive at the ruin of his country. 'All this may sound elemental and platitudinous, but, as a matter of fact, not only the British people are in constant danger of losing a sense of proportion about the navy, but even "War" ministers have been known to forget that war for Britain means sea war. These are the reasons why the appointment of Sir A. K. Wilson, V.C., is absolutely the best possible arrangement against the lord mayor's banquet at the Guildhall was the official spokesman for the navy. Speaking of the new sea lord's responsibilities and held no brief," he

BUNYAN MEMORIAL IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY. 'Subscriptions are being raised to place a stained glass window in Westminster Abbey in memory of John Bunyan. The committee of the executive committee of the largest windows in the north transept of the abbey, the designs for the window have been approved. The cost of the window is \$10,000. John Bunyan is read by millions of people all over the world. His story almost confine the statement to Canada. There are hundreds of thousands of people who read his story and are from Bunyan's great dream their first lessons in literature, and all that it implies. Many of the leading writers now rank Bunyan as the greatest writer of English prose, that people, earnest simplicity, and dramatic imagination standing gloriously unobscured. Bunyan's story is that many Canadians would like to contribute to the fund and write to the committee and forward any sums that may be sent in for this purpose. The list will be closed on Friday, and the contribution give ample time for the contribution to reach London before Christmas.

A MUCH-NEEDED STREET CAR LINE. 'Editor World: If Mr. Fleming wants to do the citizens a turn in the way of improving the city, he should suggest that the Broadview line, or the Parliament-street line, I don't care which, be extended westward along York-street to York-street, down York-street to Front-street, on Front, going around the Union Station loop, and thence back the same way by York and Queen-streets and on to the northeastern turn. 'This would give another quick service between the corner of Yonge and Queen-streets and the Union Station, and would give a lot of lawyers who want to go to Osgoode Hall, a regular service to and from that point. It would also give a lot of people who want to get to the big stores a ready alternative of the Yonge-street route, and in a way would reduce some of the congestion on Yonge-street. Besides, it would give a lot of people who live at the east end of the city a quick way of getting to the Union Station, avoiding changing at Yonge-street, as they now have to do, and thereby relieving the congestion. There is no doubt about it that the Yonge-street line does not give a proper service to the Union Station, and ought to be supplemented in some way. And a still further improvement would be going from or coming to the Union Station, and westward to Queen-street, and from there to a very convenient junction to or from the Union Station at York and Queen-streets with Law Clerk.

UP TO BROTHER TOM WHITE OF THE CIVIC GUILD OF ART. 'Editor World: A picture of surpassing beauty, including the snows of Lake Ontario bathed in the glory of December sunshine, was spoiled for thousands who pursued downtown from the west end yesterday because half a dozen or more unsightly signposts on a lot at the foot of Roncesvalles-avenue obstructed the view. This land should be made into a public park, and should be bought by the city as a place for park purposes. And in the meantime the signposts should be removed. The picture would be appreciated. Marcus.