

Handle 5,000 Men a Week

Demobilization Scheme — Lt.-Col. Sullivan Says That at Present it is Impossible to Work a Systematic Basis.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 14.—"Ottawa" is here in the person of Lt.-Col. Arthur Sullivan, officer in charge of demobilization. Officers may seek to demobilization the idea of any lack of co-ordination and efficiency, but there are evidences on all sides that "Ottawa" is uneasy. "I am only here to meet my wife, who is returning on the Olympic," says Col. Sullivan. "Purely a private matter." And hardly has he completed the statement when he rushes to his room at the hotel, dons his great coat and hastens to confer with Lt.-Col. Robert Cram, officer commanding at the clearing depot. Rather than kick his heels around the rotunda of the hotel, he is very active in the neighborhood of pier 3, the clearing depot and the railway yards.

Lt.-Col. Sullivan reminded the reporter that the general scheme of demobilization is not yet in operation. "I am only interested in matters of policy," he said; too, "I am not interested in transportation."

Lessard Not In It. One thing is certain, no person is proud of the situation and Major-General A. L. Lessard, officer commanding the Halifax military district, said he wished it to be known that his military district has absolutely nothing to do with the clearing depot. "It is absolutely a separate command," he said.

A. B. McCurdy is buzzing around very actively these days. It is well known that he is dissatisfied with almost everything in general, so far as the Department of Militia is concerned.

Optimistic. "Canada, under the demobilization scheme of the Department of Militia, will be able to handle the transportation of all troops returning from overseas," said Lt.-Col. Sullivan. "At the present time, you must remember that we are only dealing with such men as the higher command may see fit to release," he observed. "Under such circumstances the overseas Canadian authorities frequently experience difficulty in selecting troops in such a manner as to be able to bring back anything like proper proportion of troops for each of the several military districts. The big three are under the direction of the Ministry of Shipping who may at any time notify the overseas authorities that a certain ship, sailing on a given date will carry so many troops. As a result, they have to take whatever men are available from the hospitals and such men as are released by the higher command, irrespective of length of service, marriage, or the districts to which they may belong."

Return By Units. "Under the new demobilization scheme will it be possible to bring back the men according to units?"

"This is a difficult question, which is at present under consideration by the Government," replied Lt.-Col. Sullivan. "An early decision on the matter may be expected and every consideration possible will be given to the wishes of the troops themselves."

"Could not much of the work of preparing the men's papers be done on the voyage across the Atlantic?"

"At the present time much of this work is being done before embarkation and some of it on the transports and the documentation is then completed at the military districts. Under the new scheme of demobilization, which will probably come into effect within the next six weeks, an endeavor will be made to complete all documentation before embarkation overseas, so that there will be no delays at the ports or the dispersal stations."

Five Thousand a Week. "How many men can you handle this winter?"

"The railway authorities advise us that in the winter time they can handle 5,000 troops per week and in the summer time this can be substantially increased. If there are sufficient low category men available in England, and sufficient numbers released by the higher command, we will endeavor to keep up the rate of 5,000 weekly throughout the winter."

The Council of the Board of Trade decided to send a vigorous protest to Ottawa with reference to the proposal that the transports laden with returning soldiers be shifted from Halifax to an American port.

These being the days of donning winter underwear, there is more than the ordinary meaning in the saying "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

A Battlefield Tragedy

HUN SHOT STRETCHER BEARER

Foront, Lieutenant, Tells of German Atrocity which He Himself Witnessed—Sgt. Lorsch's Return.

As Lieut. G. W. Van Sickle, who was among the veterans returning yesterday, told of splendid sacrifice and service of the French peasant women one realized how very, very slightly Canadian women have been personally touched by the war. "Oh, they are splendid," he said, "I have gone up with my platoon and knocked at the door and told the housewife that 40 men were to be billeted at her place for a couple of days. She might be in the midst of baking or washing, but that made no difference. She would stop her work, put on a big pot of coffee, and then, after she had served us all, she would go on with her work, with maybe half a dozen of us sitting around watching her."

For miles behind the firing lines the Canadians made great pets of the little French children, and during the last couple of years in scarcely any French home behind the lines are the children not able to speak a considerable amount of English. "If you ran at the door of a French home in one of the towns where the soldiers are billeted, in the evening, you are sure to see them all sitting around the table, the English teaching the French folk his language and vice versa."

The Horrors of War.

Lieut. Van Sickle went over with the 20th Battalion, and was in France for two years and was wounded last April. "You can have no conception of conditions as they really were," said he. "One thing that haunts me is this: My stretcher-bearer was wounded and someone had brought him a drink of water. Beside him lay a wounded German, whom he offered a sup of water, but the sup did not satisfy the boche, and when the Canadian refused to give him more, he reached around for his pistol and shot my stretcher-bearer when his back was turned. I could not stand it and went over, in my excitement, and gave the German a kick which finished him."

Sgt. Lorsch's Return. There is something in seeing two strong men clasped in each other's arms with tears in their eyes that touches the deepest emotions of the heart, and when D. G. Lorsch, of the Standard Stock Exchange, went forward and clasped his son, Sgt. Fred Lorsch, 16 High Park Blvd., who had been a prisoner in Gleisen Camp, Germany, since Aug. 23, 1915, even the sturdy officers had to grip hard and turn their backs on the sacred reunion. The mother, two sisters and the sweetheart of the repatriated soldier were all there to greet him, and it seemed almost more than he could bear. As for his experiences in Germany, he seemed to prefer not to talk about them.

Huns Are Cowards. "Another soldier said that he was mighty glad the nasty job was over, though there was considerable dissatisfaction among the Australians and Canadians at not getting right into Germany," but, he continued, "of course he knew it was coming because the Germans wouldn't fight unless they were ten to one. The big cowards, as soon as they began to get clapped a little themselves would stop."

Hard on the Cripples. "We were in Buxton when the word came that peace was declared, or rather when the armistice was signed," said Pte. Jack McKee. "It was hard for us fellows without feet on that day, I can tell you," and his eyes were directed to his crutches. Pte. McKee went overseas in June, 1915, and at the battle of Arras was wounded in the right foot. —Toronto Telegram.

Feeling Noose About His Neck. Ex-Kaiser is Beginning to Show Horror — Spends Many Hours Daily Preparing Defense.

(By Cyril Brown)

Amerongen, via Amsterdam, Dec. 11.—The shadows are darkening around gloomy Amerongen Castle, and the ex-Kaiser is noticeably worried by the seeming certainty of execution and coming trial. He talks and acts as if already he is beginning to feel the noose of international justice tightening about his neck.

The correspondent in the chill of less ex-Kaiser, like the ghost of Hamlet, stalks the parapet of Amerongen with a slow step, bent shoulders, nervous flourish of his walking stick and in civilian pants, for the ex-Kaiser to look as if he is now playing the part of a private citizen has shed his uniform. He wore a green alpaca hat, a short dark green fur-lined cape, and the orthodox grey trousers.

The ex-Kaiser has had two civilian suits made to order since coming to Holland, and the ex-Empress brought three boxes of experimental muffs from Potsdam.

The ex-Kaiser is understood to be spending many hours daily working in connection with the preparation for his defense, apparently fully realizing his critical position. He appears to have overcome his congenial impulse and uses the utmost caution now to do or to say nothing which might prejudice his case.

Through Count Sartor Pentz, the eldest son of the Kaiser's host, the correspondent attempted a personal interview with the ex-Kaiser, who sent me the following significant reply: "His Majesty the Kaiser greatly regrets he cannot receive you now, but hopes to make your acquaintance later."

Sunday afternoon the correspondent saw the ex-Empress walking slowly with a bowed head about Amerongen park alone, occasionally stopping to look down into the murky waters of the castle moat, still brooding. Later the ex-Empress was accompanied by the ex-Kaiser, wearing a golf cap. It was a melancholy picture as the two slowly passed over the local bridge of alpha in the twilight.

United Farmers Were Insulted by Toronto Papers. Unionville, Ont., December 14.—R. H. Halbert, president of the United Farmers of Ontario, was the chief speaker at a banquet of the local branch of the organization held here Wednesday night.

The press, he said, had published things about the farmers, particularly the farmers' delegation to Ottawa, that were an insult to every responsible farmer in Ontario. There would not be a press in Toronto if these things were said of any other class, he stated. He claimed that the U. F. O. had saved \$40,000,000 to the farmers by delaying for a year an increase in freight rates.

Only Laborers Voted at Dresden

"People Spoke Plainly," Says Vorwarts of Result.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—A fortnight ago, Dresden, today, Chemnitz. The people speak plainly," says Vorwarts, commenting on the result of the elections in Chemnitz to the Soldiers and Workmen's Council there, the Majority Socialists having polled 73,000 votes as against 5,500 by the Independent Socialists. In Dresden the old party polled 117,588 votes as compared with 8,440 for the Independents.

Vorwarts points out that not a single vote by a capitalist was polled, the only voters being those of laborers.

The Vossische Zeitung declares that the result in Chemnitz "shows that the Spartacists have no footing among the people."

An article in Vorwarts attacks Adolph Hoffman, one of its former editors and an Independent Socialist, for voicing a threat to disperse the National Assembly when it is called. The newspaper believes it will be impossible for the bourgeoisie to secure a majority in the election. "If such a wonder happens," it says, "then it will be an expression of the will of the people, to combat which we would not choose the Russian method of dispersing the assembly, but would employ the Social Democratic way of enlightenment."

21st Batt. Colors Are Handed Back. Ottawa Officer of Famous Corps in Color Party.

London, Dec. 13.—There was an interesting ceremony in the High Commissioner's Office when Sir Geo. Perley handed back the colors of the 21st Battalion, left in his keeping when the battalion went to France in July, 1915. The color party's arrival at Victoria street aroused considerable interest. The officers were Lieuts. R. L. Perry, of St. Stephen; Arthur May; Ottawa; Donald Wood, of Smith's Falls; also Sergt.-Major Jordan and Sergeants James Cross and William McCullough.

Sir George Perley alluded to the especial pleasure afforded him to keep the colors seeing the battalion was raised in his own part of Canada. He mentioned its distinguished services in France. The battalion has gained seven D.S.O.'s, 30 Military Crosses, and 139 Military Medals.

The colors of the 29th Battalion were also removed from Westminster Abbey. The colors of the 116th were removed last week. The colors of 14 other Canadian units still hang over Wolfe's monument in the Abbey.

Soldiers' Wills. The attention of all members of the C.E.F. is directed to the fact that while the military will made by a soldier is a valid testamentary disposition of both real and personal property, a soldier, returning to Canada, should carefully consider the advisability of executing such a will, or making a new one. If the will is not re-executed, or a new one made, difficulties may arise when probate is being applied for, due to the fact that the necessary affidavits of attesting witnesses may not be obtainable, by reason of death, or the absence from the country of the witnesses. It should be borne in mind, that the execution of a new will renders the old one null and void, and that marriage after a new will has been made also renders the will null and void, excepting in the Province of Quebec.

Automobile Was Hurlled 40 Feet. Newmarket, Dec. 15.—Struck by a Metropolitan trolley car here last week an automobile was hurled a distance of 40 feet. It landed on the top of a fence, upside down, and has remained since balancing in mid-air. The two men in the car, Messrs. B. and J. Hamilton, of Keswick, were unhurt, and remained in their seats until the car came down on the fence. They then slowly crawled out and remarked that they were badly frightened.

People from all over the town visited the scene of the accident, and curiously examined what is now spoken of as the "Marvel of Newmarket."

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Fatal Shooting at Winchester, Ont.

Use of Firearms Follows Quarrel Between Austrians.

Curwalk, Ont., Dec. 14.—J. G. Harkness, county crown attorney, was called to Winchester, Dundas County to conduct an investigation into a shooting affray which occurred there between a couple of Austrians who were engaged in construction work.

All that is known of the affair here as yet is that the men were in a car, and got into an altercation, the result being that one shot the other fatally.

HARD CIDER

The Ontario License Board is out with a big stick for those who sell hard cider. The latter has a fine healthy kick in it. The Elgin county magistrate has expressed himself by saying: "I consider these men worse than the lowest dive keepers," declared the squire. "The majority of them were strong for prohibition and now they would make little fortunes by supplying the thirsty ones in the country with this stuff. I think that hard cider is going to be the curse of the province unless stringent methods to apprehend these men are adopted."

In the case of Fuller vs. C.N.O.R. a suit for damages for animals (belonging to the plaintiff) which were killed by getting on the right of way of the defendant Co. through an alleged defective fence, the jury found a verdict for \$300 for the plaintiff, E. Guss Porter, K.C., for plaintiff; A. J. Reid for C.N.O.R.

At the Belleville High School last evening the members of the Women's Canadian Club listened to a very able address by Col. McQueen, of Toronto, on Imperialistic Canada.

On Friday afternoon a horse-driven by Mr. Thos. Lyons, of Thurlow, started off from the G.T.R. depot and proceeded to its home in the fourth of Thurlow without its driver.

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