C.P.R. Building
OFFICE FOR RENT.
Large public and private office, on the ninth floor, excellent light. Will erect partitions to suit tenant. Apply,
H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
38 King Street East.

The Toronto World

For Rent
OFFICE, 36 KING STREET EAST,
Choice public and private office, on fourth floor, overlooking King street; large vault. $35 per month. Apply,
H. H. WILLIAMS & CO.,
38 King Street East.

FROBS— Fair and cold. THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 30 1915 VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,832

ASQUITH INDICATES IMPENDING CABINET CHANGES

Ireland to Be Excluded From Conscription Bill

ASQUITH FIRM IN PURPOSE TO FORCE CONSCRIPTION

Cabinet United on Main Principle, But Resignations Later on Are Foreshadowed---Ireland Will Probably Be Excluded --Government is Prepared for Opposition.

LONDON, Dec. 29, 11.51 p.m.—The following explanation of the cabinet situation will appear in the newspapers of London tomorrow morning, furnished by the Press Association:

"It has been generally expected that Premier Asquith's pledge to married men would be carried out in letter and spirit, but the view is held in some quarters that a further chance for single men to enroll would not be inconsistent with the fulfilment of that pledge.

"The premier himself rejected this interpretation of his words and informed the cabinet that resort to compulsion was called for in his opinion, not only to carry thru an honorable obligation, but also it was needed in the present state of the war to provide a steady flow of reinforcements for the various battlefronts.

Agreed on Principle.

"On the question of compulsory service for single men with relegations to later groups of men engaged in reserved occupations, there is no difference in principle within the cabinet. Until the details of the procedure are definitely settled there is no expectation of personal changes in the administration. It is recognized, however, that to pass at the present stage from the well-defined case of single men and to secure a general obligation to military service on the part of the adult population would introduce difficulties.

"In a matter which touches so many ingrained prejudices, the government may be expected to move warily. The ministers must be prepared for some opposition to their proposals, however limited in form.

Ireland Excluded.

"It is understood that the government will carry a majority of the house of commons with them or any reasonable scheme, and anything like organized obstruction is unthinkable. After the smooth passage of the bill, it is possible the measure will not apply to Ireland.

"The case of Ireland is exceptional in as much as since registration there has been carried out in a partial manner, and there has been no attestation there under the Derby group system.

"The cabinet will do its utmost to meet all objections and secure a measure of general agreement, which the premier declares essential."

Labor Conference.

At a meeting of the joint labor recruiting committee in London this afternoon the calling of a national conference of trades unions to consider the compulsion situation was urgently demanded, but it was decided to await an explanation of this position from Arthur Henderson, chairman of the labor party.

Some of the committeemen contended that out of 600,000 men unattested sixty per cent were unfit, twenty per cent. "starred," being necessary workers at home, and that the bulk of the remainder held conscientious objections to military service.

Public opinion has not yet crystallized, but there is widespread approval of Premier Asquith's general attitude, and there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced.

The difficulties within the cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself in practical form.

FOUR MEETINGS GIVE SIR ADAM WARM GREETING

Ratepayers at Many Points Strongly Favor Radial Railway Bylaw.

TO BUY METROPOLITAN

Speaker Intimates It Will Be Taken at Fair Valuation With People's Consent.

Four enthusiastic receptions were given to Sir Adam Beck when he laid the hydro radial scheme before large audiences—the North Toronto town hall, the Technical School, Winchester Street School and the Parkdale Collegiate. On each occasion the audience were entirely favorable. Expressions of opinion were not sought for, but at each hall Sir Adam was assured by standing votes and unstinted applause that practically every ratepayer who attended was heart and soul with the promoters of the bylaw.

Pointing to the record which the hydro system has enjoyed since it was instituted over six years ago, Sir Adam showed how it had lowered rates for no other reason than that large surpluses were on hand for which the commission had no need to carry on its business. Pessimistic predictions were ridiculed by the speaker declaring that the same prophets of blue ruin had foretold a dismal failure when it was proposed to establish a power system, which would be operated solely for the benefit of the municipalities it was intended to serve.

Help to Steam Roads.

Far from being detrimental to the steam roads, Sir Adam declared that it would prove of benefit to them. The hydro radial would handle inter-urban freight and would not interfere with transcontinental traffic. It would build up industrial Ontario and would actually bring more business to the railroads. Reduction of the cost of living was claimed by the speaker as one of the results of the proposed radial system, for with better transportation facilities marketing could be effected more cheaply and the consumers would be greatly benefited.

George H. Gooderham's contention, that the agreement was not approved by the government, was disproved, as every clause was passed by the Ontario legislation and placed on the statute books.

Metropolitan Purchase.

Reference was made to the fact that the Mackenzie & Mann interests had sought to dispose of the Metropolitan Railway, and overtures were actually made to Sir Adam Beck. He stated last night that a fair valuation of the Metropolitan road would be made and it would be taken over and operated for the benefit of municipalities of Ontario, but not until formal consent had been given by the people of Toronto.

Sir Adam said that the commission of three, which will administer the affairs of the hydro-radial system, would not be bested with powers any more inclusive than that of the hydro lighting system. That body would be directly responsible to the Ontario Government, by whom they were appointed, and were thus responsible to the people of Ontario.

Full reports of these meetings will be found on Page 3.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC IS BEHIND THE BOARD OF TRADE

The World hit the nail on the head yesterday when it said that the Canadian Pacific Railway was at the back of the board of trade's attack on the hydro radial bylaw.

That great corporation is planning to gridiron Ontario with electric lines, and to acquire an immense water-power to drive them, if it can secure it. But it won't embark in the power business until it knows it can beat Beck's radials and kill off an opposition that, once inaugurated and supported by the municipalities, would be too much for even the great Canadian Pacific. They are acquiring and building their trial lines now, and hope to get the people of Brantford to sell them that city's line to Paris. A bylaw to that effect is before the electors of Brantford in this election. The Brantford Expositor is urging the ratepayers to sell out to the C.P.R.

The C.P.R.'s chief agent in Ontario has been working in Toronto now for over a month, and it is more than suspected that he prepared all the ammunition for the board of tradee. The whole thing was cut-and-dried before the council met. The literature was predigested and ready to hand out, and was handed out on schedule time.

Whether Mr. Woods' announcement yesterday that he would assume the money responsibility of the board of trade's poster advertising has any connection with the campaign, we cannot say. But the greatest efforts have been made in the way of trench warfare all this week by the agents of the C.P.R. in the city to beat the bylaw.

TOM FOSTER'S "SOUND" POLICY

Controller Foster was left behind two years ago by the electors because they had found him out in a piece of assessment on Marjorie avenue. We have no desire to recall the sad facts, for which he was exonerated last year by the same or another set of electors. His influence was of an effective kind, and he was returned, and, therefore, it is only right to let bygones be bygones.

Mr. Foster was not going to be caught in any such way again, and hee had his real estate on Marjorie avenue considerably increased in value on the assessment roll. He also increased his declaration of income considerably as well, raising it from $962 at the city hall and $62 at his Beaton street residence in 1913 to over $4000 in 1914.

As a private citizen this may be all very well, but as the watchdog of the treasury and thee unwearying advocate of what he calls economy, which we had occasion to show yesterday, does not really mean economy, we doubt whether he is a sufficiently model citizen to represent the people of Toronto. We have all read the things in the advertisements that Mr Foster says "Tom" Foster says. Probably he does say these things, but very few people have heard him saying anything that someone else had not said first. Besides this, there is a growing curiosity to know what Mr. Foster has done.

Among all the things he talks about, it is interesting to note that, with hardly an exception, it is about the things other men have done that he is sententious. "Employers of labor find it advantageous to promote their own workmen to responsible positions," says Controller Tom Foster. But whom did Controler Foster ever employ and promote? As a public man asking for the suffrages of Toronto workingmen, he has a right to say what he does as a capitalist to give labor to the citizens or to promote them for their merits and fidelity. We fear that Controller Foster knows more about burying his talent in a napkin than employing it for the paying of wages, or the promotion of employes. But it sounds fine to say that employers of labor find it advantageous to promote their workmen.

One workman who knew the controller, as did the author, and thought he was a friend, told the story at the time of the 1913 election now he had been ill, and to show his sympathy, as far as he could understand, the "gentleman" controller raised his rent. It encourages a man to get better quick to have his rent raised when he is ill. Controller Foster has some original ideas of his own, sureley.

We told what the controller did for the soldiers in last Friday's paper. He opposed everything that was proposed to help them. He had no sympathy to waste on soldiers. They had to die, anyway, he said. He would close up the juvenile court. It is merely squandering money to try to save little children and boys and girls from lives of crime. He moved to reduce the wages of the men on small salaries.

Ald. McBride told the other day how he shoved Chief Thompson out of his position as fast as it could be done, while he commured and voted against the acceptance of Acting Chief Smith's resignation after months of deliberation. Ald. McBride says the controller is working to defeat Ald Walton, one of the best men in the council, and Ald. Yeomans. The controller's brother is on the fire brigade.

What has he done? What has he not done or attempted to do? His last appeal is for a "sound," economic administration. Economic! He is chiefly responsible for the piling up of overdrafts by cheeseparing in the estimates of previous years, which gives us an extra two mills in the taxes this year. Tom Foster does not understand what real economy is. Sound! Yes; we will admit the "sound." A great deal of it, and very poor wind, of the Morley avenue variety.

BIG OPERATIONS DEFERRED UNTIL END OF WINTER

British Staff Confident Allies Can Smash Thru German Lines.

AWAIT RIGHT MOMENT

Reports From Russia Indicate Winter's Rigors Are Unusually Severe.

LONDON, Dec. 29, 10.08 p.m.—Despatches from both east and west express the belief that the winter weather is likely to prove the most severe obstacle to war operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks.

"The most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January," was a French general's reply a year ago to the demands for a great offensive. This same remark would probably apply equally this winter.

Reuter's correspondent at western headquarters, after remarking that the British staff is confident that the allies are now so strong in men and munitions that they can break thru the German lines whenever the right time comes, declares that the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big movement, and adds:

"Porous and Mushy."

"Such a movement needs careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling-up tactics always involve the possibility of counter attacks, which may end in rolling-up the aggressor. With the face of the country in a porous and mushy condition it is impossible to effect the essential quick movements of artillery, without which any big offensive is foredoomed to fail.

"The allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the greater part of the German front trenches forthwith, because the enemy holds these lightly. But then? With the ranges registered to a nicety from myriads of artillery and machine guns, such a step would be sheer suicide until the opportunity is ripe."

Severe in Russia.

A Russian correspondent writes: "The most severe part of winter has now begun in the Russian theatre. All reports agree that the weather this year is harder than usual. It is increasingly doubtful if any serious events will occur until the end of January."

Despite the weather the duel in the Vosges mountains, in the western zone, continues, and may eventually prove to be one of the big operations of the war. The gains in either direction thus far have been small, but the French claim progress in their efforts to establish themselves on the crest of the foothills which here dominate the plain.

FRENCH AVIATORS FLEW FAR OVER BULGAR LINES

They Penetrated Nearly One Hundred Miles and Bombarded Effectively a Number of the Enemy's Encampments.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—(11.10 p.m.)—Despite numerous difficulties, such as landing grounds and a mountainous country, French aviators have succeeded, according to an official note issued here, in carrying on reconnaissances about 93 miles into the interior of the Bulgarian lines. In the month of November alone there were no less than fifty-four reconnaissances, during which observations and numerous photographs useful in strategic movements were taken. Aviators bombarded cantonments at Uskup, Istip, Kara. Hodzali, Strumitza, and Petric. These bombardments were very effective.

The statement says that, thanks to wireless despatches, the French observers were able to regulate their artillery fire. It adds that a well-perfected aerologic service has been organized to aid aviators.

BRITISH NAVY MAKING ALLIES' TRIUMPH SURE

Balfour Believes Moving Pictures Will Give Public Clearer Realization.

PLAYING GREAT PART

Success of Land Operations Depends on Work of Grand Fleet.

LONDON, Dec. 29, 5.30 p.m.—"The British grand fleet, which as a grand fleet has never yet had the opportunity of being in action, has nevertheless from hour to hour, day by day, thru all the months of the war, been the foundation upon which everything else has rested,' was the summary by A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, of the lessons to be derived from a moving picture record of the activities of the fleet, over the first production of which he presided this afternoon.

Mr. Balfour declared that the film shown was "packed with lessons to the deepest import to Britons and to the world."

Quiet But Effective.

The success of all the land operations of the allies, from Archangel on the north to the Persia Gulf ultimately depended, he believed, on the British fleet, because, were it removed, the allied nations, "now banded together against the tyranny of the central powers," would be cut off from the outer world, and from each other. He doubted whether the magnitude of the task thrown upon the British navy, and "so far triumphantly accomplished," was yet realized.

"The silent work of the first lord, "It is performing at this moment not alone for the allies but for the whole world the greatest the most important part in the drama now being played out for the freedom of the world. The world has yet to know how much it owes to the British fleet, and how the assured victory, which is coming to us in the future, is coming at least as much as the gift of the British navy as of the splendid valor of the allied troops, whether British or foreign."

GOVERNMENT POSITION FOR INVALIDED SOLDIER

Lance-Corporal Charles Gillingham Appointed to Ottawa Department of Labor.

Special to The Toronto World.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 29.—Lance-Corp. Chas. Gillingham is the first returned soldier from St. Thomas to receive recognition by the government, which today appointed him to a position in the department of labor at Ottawa.

Lance-Corporal Gillingham enlisted in St. Thomas when the war first broke out.

A regular blizzard, which is the worst storm of the season, started in this district about 9 o'clock this morning and did not abate until this evening. A foot and a half of snow fell, and the heavy drifts in the surrounding country will make the roads impassable. The city electric cars were tied up two hours.

TURKS CEASE ATTACKS TOWNSHEND REPORTS

Situation at Kut-el-Amara Has Been Quiet Since Christmas Day.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—(7.50 p.m.)—The following official communication concerning the operations against the British forces by the Turks in Mesopotamia was made public tonight:

"General Townshend reports an entire cessation of the attack and bombardment since Christmas Day. He also reports a heavy thunderstorm on the 26th."

BUSINESS IS PLEDGED OVER THE RADIAL LINE

Municipalities Ask Toronto to Provide an Entrance and Assure Their Support.

TORONTO'S SHARE SMALL

Guarantees Less Than One Per Cent. of City Assessment, Others Guarantee Ten.

Further evidence that the hydro radial bylaw is a business proposition of which Toronto should take every advantage is being furnished daily, and yesterday the feeling thruout the business section was 50 per cent. greater towards a favorable view of the agreement than on Tuesday.

Ninety per cent. of the Toronto business men interviewed by The World expressed themselves as unqualifiedly in favor of the bylaw. The more enthusiastic supporters are those who have studied the problem to some extent and are conversant with the facts.

It was found also that a great many are taking the opinions of others, but when their attention was called to the issue they promised serious consideration. Every single one was a supporter of radials, and those who had any objections whatever hinged them on what somebody else had said relative to control of the streets or some other clause.

Sir Adam Beck yesterday gave fresh assurances that a clause would be inserted setting at rest any misgivings along this line; but this assurance was given when he addressed the members of the city council some two weeks ago. In view of this rumor, a number of business men who had held back came out strongly for the bylaw.

An Interesting View.

An interesting view of the situation was given by John B. Laidlaw of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Limited. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the bylaw, because he has given considerable time to the question and is conversant with the needs which a radial railway would supply.

Altho a resident of Toronto, and a past president of the College Heights Ratepayers' Association, he has had a home in Whitby for some little time, and has taken a great deal of interest in the local affairs of that town. For

(Continued on Page 5, Column 5).

SITUATION AT SALONIKI CAUSES NO UNEASINESS

Serbian Army Being Reformed—Report of Attack on Scutari Denied.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—By all accounts Saloniki is now safe. Certainly the central powers show no haste to attack the allies' position. Seventy-five thousand Serbians have reformed at Scutari and Eloussan, in Albania, and the Montenegrin army, which heretofore has been debarred geographically from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing itself energetically into the contest against the Austrians.

Reports that the Austrians are attacking Scutari are authoritatively denied. According to the latest advices, the Austrians were at Bjelopolje, where they were recently repulsed by the Montenegrins, and cannot reach Scutari without crossing the Albanian Alps and the flooded River Drin.

CONTRABAND ON SHIP OF PEACE

Bags of Rubber Consigned to German Agent in Sweden.

NOW UNDER SEIZURE

Britain Will Allow Remainder of Cargo to Reach Destination.

LONDON, Dec. 29 7.49 p.m.—A British official statement issued tonight says:

"It is ascertained that 55 bags of rubber, all consigned to a well-known enemy forwarding agent in Sweden, were removed from the parcel mail on board the steamship Oscar II. The estimated weight of the rubber seized is about 4000 pounds.

"The remainder of the mail, which consisted of 734 bags, was handed over to the postoffice for immediate transmission to its destination."

The Oscar II. is the vessel which carried the Henry Ford peace party to Europe. On the voyage across she was taken into Kirkwall by the British authorities and her cargo examined. The Oscar II. was detained for more than 24 hours, but was allowed to proceed on Dec. 16. There were reports at the time that part of the cargo was contraband and a prize court would take the matter into consideration.

CANADIANS HAVE FINE RECORD FOR SOBRIETY

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The general officer commanding at Shorncliffe has issued a divisional order congratulating Canadian troops on their good conduct. The general adds: "The proportion of drunkenness is less than one per thousand, which is far better than the usual record of regular troops, even in time of peace."

BULGARS HELD BACK BY SERBS

Enemy's Loss Five Times Greater Than That of Serbians.

FIGHTING EVERY INCH

Bulgars Claim Large Forces Are Being Massed Around Varna.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—(10.50 p.m.)—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens, dated Wednesday, says:

"According to information received from a Bulgarian source, the third Bulgarian army corps is now between Varna (on the Black Sea coast) and Rustchuk (on the Danube), while a Turkish army of 30,000 is at Burgas (to the south of Varna). A German army corps passed Uskup Monday, going south.

"The Patris announces that General Stephanovitch's Serbian army has made good its retreat into Albania. It was 30,000 strong at the beginning of the Bulgarian attack, and has been continuously engaged, disputing the ground inch by inch. It has saved almost all the material belonging to it, and has caused the Bulgarians a loss five times greater than it suffered itself. It is now a complete army of 64,000 men.

MINE SANK TRAWLER THREE MEN KILLED

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 28.—(Via London, Dec. 29, 10.21 p.m.—Delayed.)—The Dutch trawler Erin has foundered in consequence of an explosion of a mine which was caught in her nets. Three of the crew were killed. Eight others, of whom three are wounded, have been landed at Ymuiden.

EAST INDIANS ANXIOUS TO SERVE AS OFFICERS

Congress Asks British Government to Reorganize Present Volunteering System.

LONDON, Dec. 30, 12.10 p.m.—The Indian National Congress, on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the British Government to admit Indians to commissions in the army and navy, and emphasizing the necessity for reorganizing the present system of volunteering to permit Indians to enlist without distinction of race or creed, according to the Bombay correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Co.

Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, in offering the resolution, said that the heroism of the Indian troops and their comradeship in arms with the British had awakened a spirit of enthusiasm and loyalty, and aroused an ardent desre to go to the front if only the opportunity were given. England, the speaker declared, could not do without India, nor India without England, and if they wanted to stand united they must both take advantage of the present situation.

Another speaker declared that if Indian had been trained along military lines, Germany would have been crushed by now.

A resolution criticizing the laws against Indians in Canada and South Africa resulted in an animated discussion. Many speakers urged that the Indians be given equal rights with European immigrants.

The Bylaw Will Sweep Toronto

The coons started falling down out of the trees yesterday on the hydro radial situation—big ones and little ones. They saw that the citizens were almost a unit in voting for the bylaw. Hardly anyone will accept bets of two to one that the bylaw will carry; or even money that it will be carried by three to one.

* * * * * *

The outspoken support of The Globe and Star indicates that Liberals would emulate Conservatives in voting for Adam Beck.

* * * * * *

Sir Edmund Osler, in his usual manly way, says he is against the bylaw. You can always find him—he doesn't do any walking in the middle of the road.

* * * * * *

President Woods of the board of trade admitted that he has personally undertaken the money responsibility of the advertising campaign against the bylaw.

* * * * * *

The men who helped to drive W. K. McNaught out of politics and off the Hydro-Electric Commission are against the bylaw.

* * * * * *

The strongest influence against the bylaw is from the railways. Any expectation of theirs that the Conservative machine would help them will be disappointed. No orders to that effect came from Ottawa or the Queen's Park. Even Sir John Willison is not going on the stump against the bylaw.