

WINTER HOLDING WESTERN FRONT STOPS OFFENSIVE

"Dead Reckoning" Shelling
Main Daily Activity.

DIFFERENT TO FIRE

Colonial Troops "Carry On"
Unperturbed by Hail
of Steel.

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WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Sunday, Dec. 3, via London. Dec. 6.—From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press: "Winter, 4, grey and bleak, has held the western battlefronts in its icy grasp more than a week now, and has apparently checked any attempt on the part of the Allies to break through the enemy's lines. The weather has been the chief factor in the situation, and the shelling has been largely done at what the Germans would call 'dead reckoning'."

The shelling, damp, leaden skies have shrouded the land in gloomy darkness, and observation has been almost wholly impossible. For the past few days there has been a mist, and on two occasions the war zone has been completely obscured by a haze of heavy fog. But through this fog the guns are hammering away—driving at the unseen enemy—arousing post roads and railroads, and any other "registered" place, where the Allies have been busy with the multitudinous affairs of war behind the lines of battle.

Uncanny Fog Battles.
A battle in the fog and nearly every attached engagement in this struggle in the Somme could be classed as a battle by ordinary standards, is a weirdly mysterious and uncanny affair. A roar, a flash of red flame, and out into the leaden mist shrieks a shell on its well-intended mission of death and destruction.

This is where it should fall," remarks the gunner, as he points to a map with a pair of compasses. "We will not utter another word here," and bang goes the gun again, and the misty fog for the battery seems to shoot into a little dark world all its own.

The Germans, however, have been bombarding one of their recently lost positions. It is a favorite occupation of the German gunners—this shelling position they know well, and they had been driven from it. And such "strafing" calls for a reply, even if the enveloping fog permits one to see nearly nothing but a grim muzzle of the silent gun itself.

Such fighting as this makes war intensely imperial, and in the colorful language of the front line, the German gunners are called "the reds." There was considerable hostile shelling today against our front on both sides of Arras, and our retaliation was prompt and effective.

One knew that if the British shells were truly searching their way through the smoke mist to their charred destination, the reply must be all that the communicable claimed.

Whine Disperses Security.
Under the protecting canopy of fog the Associated Press correspondent sought to explore the pulverized ruins of what was once the thriving little French village of Beaumont-Hamel. Officers and Tommies coming from that direction gave every assurance that all was quiet within; so the motor car proceeded blithely along until a ghostly whine in the impenetrable gloom overhead told its own story. The daily shelling had been going on near by.

To one only casually acquainted with the noise of a battlefield, there is always bewilderment at first as to which are the "friendly" shells, going over toward the enemy, and which are the "very unfriendly" visitors, coming over to burst in a wild destroying fury. In the mystic greenness of the dripping fog the bewildered observer is puzzled by the ordinary whistle and "crump" of the valv-colored shells translated into a veritable witch's chorus. So intense was the bombardment at one time, with the shells rushing in opposite directions, that the mingled sounds became like the singing of storm winds.

Each Calibre's Different Song.
Each calibre shell has its own particular plaint, some time sadly melancholy in the distance, and again spitefully fierce in its nearness. It is a great source of satisfaction when, under the tutelage of an experienced officer, one comes to distinguish for one's self the difference between the out-going creak of the friendly shells, and the incoming "whine" of what the "Tommy" call "another present from the Boches."

Visitors to the British front are always impressed by the absolute indifference of the English, Canadian and Australian soldiers to the indiscriminate shelling so recently indulged in by the Germans. "Unperturbed in the slightest degree they 'carry on' as if there were no such thing in all the world."

A striking picture in the fog was that of a little English burial party, at a newly-made grave. A chaplain in black, with a black scarf thrown about his neck, was reading the "Service for the Dead," while six Tommies stood bareheaded beside the bodies of several of their comrades, who, being buried where they fell, found a final resting-place in ground more hallowed to the real soldier than Westminster itself.

Sadly, alone and detached, the little party seemed, and all the while they reverently tolled cross-currents of shells were whining and whining through the overhanging mist in the strangest of regular chants.

Nature's Queer Pranks.
Oddly enough, foggy and misty days

YOUNG FARMER WHO FORSOOK THE PLOW FOR KING'S SERVICE



PTE. G. MILLER, of Aylmer, who is training here with A. M. C. training depot No. 1 under Major Smith. He was born in London, England, 22 years ago and for the past seven years has been farming in Aylmer district.

are generally succeeded by beautiful still, frosty nights, and the clearest possible atmosphere, and the guns are always heard grumbling and barking through the crystal darkness. With the coming of dawn, however, the mists sweep in from the sea and limit the batteries once more to "firing by the map."

The British gunners, particularly the "heavies," are looking to have their "eyes" again—the airplanes. The co-operation of the aircraft has been one of the new British armies, and a factor which the officers of the higher commands say cannot be over-estimated. The Allies feel they have complete mastery of the air on the western front, and that mastery of the air means mastery of the artillery.

Afraid of Offensive.

The extreme cold of the last three days has been most beneficial in hardening the soft, wet ground. The Germans are evidently watching this phase of the situation, with its possible bearing on further offensive work, and have redoubled their random fire with the idea of harassing movements as far as possible.

SARNIA MAN EXPIRES SOON AFTER RESCUE

Pulmotor Does Not Revive
William Leathorn.

NON-JURY ASSIZES CLOSE

Lady Gets Judgment For
\$1,850 From Brother—
Indian Must Sell Land.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
SARNIA, Dec. 6.—William Leathorn, 136 Vincent street, lost his life last evening, virtually by drowning, though he did not expire until after he had been taken from the water.

He had rowed across the river to Port Huron, yesterday, and upon returning to this side attempted to land at the foot of the Cleveland-Sarnia-Sawmills Company. The boat was upset by huge waves, and he was thrown into the water.

The pulmotor was secured, but was of no avail.
Dr. R. G. R. McDonald decided that no inquest was necessary. Mr. Leathorn was aged 58 years and 6 months. He was employed at the G. T. R. roundhouse and is survived by a widow and family.

SISTER SECURES DAMAGES.

SARNIA, Dec. 6.—The Lambton non-jury sittings of the supreme court were concluded before Justice Lennox today. In the case of Cowan and Cowan, wherein the plaintiff asked for \$2,000 damages from her brother for alleged malvolent actions, and also a request for a reconstruction of the will of the late Edward Cowan, judgment was awarded for the plaintiff for \$1,850, with the parties involved to pay their own costs.

FOUR ST. THOMAS GIRLS ARE ACCEPTED AS NURSES

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 6.—Miss Ella Forsythe, Miss Lillian Armstrong, Miss Daisy Copeman and Miss Vina Copeman, four St. Thomas nurses, have been accepted for overseas service with the Canadian army.

TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS.

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 6.—The case against the directors of the Woodstock Concrete Machinery Company, which was to have been heard at Toronto yesterday, has been adjourned for a week in order to enable the firm to dispose of its business.

RUMANIAN CAPITAL TAKEN BY TEUTONS; POLOCHTI FALLS, TOO

Staunch Defence of Rumanians Fails to Check the
Invading Enemy.

GERMANS CLAIM CONQUEST

No Admissions by Allies Yet,
But London Accepts
Berlin's Word.

POLOCHTI'S LOSS SERIOUS

Important Railway Junction
Point and Centre of Great
Oil Districts.

NO TANKS LOST.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Commander Lockyer Lumsden, who has been in three actions on the Dobruja front with British naval armored cars, has been wounded, says Reuters' Petrograd correspondent. The dispatch adds that six British petty officers are missing, but that none of the cars has been lost.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The fall of Bucharest and Ploechti announced in the German official communication tonight, has not been confirmed from other sources, but the position revealed by the previous German and Russian communiqués left little hope that the Rumanian army could be saved.

The Y.C.A. canvass, which on Sunday seemed doomed to stick at about \$600 short of the required \$3,000, has been successfully completed. The promise of the last \$300, if the rest was forthcoming from a prominent citizen gave a fresh impetus to the canvassing and a trifle over the amount was realized.

JOHN W. DRAKE DEAD; WILL BE BURIED HERE

Former Mayor of Windsor Well Known
In Essex.

WINDSOR, Dec. 6.—John W. Drake, former mayor and alderman and businessman here for 45 years, died last Tuesday night following a week's illness. For more than 30 years he had been head of the Drake Furniture Company. A staunch Conservative, Drake was one of the best-known men in Essex County. Burial will be at London, where he once lived.

WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP

YOU SHOULD USE
MILBURN'S
Heart and Nerve Pills.

Sleeplessness is caused by the nervous system becoming deranged. Perhaps too much worry has gotten on your nerves, perhaps you have overworked yourself, or have been excessive in your use of tobacco, but whatever the cause, the nervous system must be built up again before restful sleep can be assured.

Those whose rest is broken into by frightful dreams, nightmares, sinking and smothering sensations, who wake up in the morning as tired as they went to bed can have their old, peaceful, undisturbed, refreshing sleep back again by using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

Mrs. John Sloan, Haley Station, Ont., writes: "Over a year ago I was very nervous. I could not sleep at night, and I would faint at the slightest fright. I tried several doctors, but they did me practically no good. I noticed your advertisement, and immediately tried Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. I am proud to say they cured me."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are a box of 24 tablets for \$1.25, at all druggists. Mailed direct for \$1.50, by price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

SAYS HOT WATER EACH DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY

Drink glass of hot water before
breakfast to wash
out the poisons.

Life is not merely to live, but to live well, eat well, digest well, work well, sleep well, and be well. What a glorious condition to attain, and how very easy it is if one will only adopt the morning inside bath.

Points who are accustomed to feel dull and heavy, who have indigestion, splitting headache, stuffy nose, cold, foul tongue, nasty breath, acid stomach, can, instead, feel as fresh as a daisy by opening the sluices of the system each morning and flushing out the whole of the internal poisons, stagnant matter.

Everyone, whether ailing, sick or well, should, each morning, before breakfast, drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour bile and poisonous toxins, thus cleansing, sweetening, and purifying the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach. The action of hot water and limestone phosphate on an empty stomach is wonderfully invigorating. It cleans out all the sour fermentations, gases, waste and acidity and gives one a splendid appetite for breakfast. While you are enjoying your breakfast the water and phosphate is quietly extracting a large volume of water from the blood and getting ready for a thorough flushing of all the inside organs.

The millions of people who are bothered with constipation, biliousness, stomach trouble, rheumatism, sour bile and painful skins, blood disorders and sickly complexions are urged to get a quarter pound of limestone phosphate from the drug store which will cost very little, but is sufficient to make anyone a prodigy in the art of the subject of internal sanitation.

RABID PRO-GERMAN "CALLED" IN BRANT TP.

Government Official Gives Him "One More Chance."

[Special to The Advertiser.]
WALKERTON, Dec. 6.—There are so many German sympathizers in Brant and Carleton Place townships that the enemy achieves an apparent victory it is with difficulty that they restrain their feelings.

A young school teacher who boards with a German family in Brant Township, after hearing considerable pro-German talk recently could stand it no longer and reported the matter to the authorities.

A few days later an officer from Ottawa arrived and after a consultation with the teacher, visited the teacher and informed him that the limit of forbearance had about been reached. The farmer made many promises of amends and was given one last chance. It is needless to say that the young lady teacher found it necessary to procure another boarding house.

DEATH OF DORCHESTER GIRL.

DORCHESTER STATION, Dec. 6.—Miss Cora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farquhar, succumbed on Monday to an acute attack of tuberculosis, aged 15 years and 10 months.

26 WOMEN MUNITIONS WORKERS ARE KILLED

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Twenty-six women were killed and about 30 injured by an explosion in a munitions factory last night, according to an official announcement, which adds that the effect of the accident upon the munitions output will be negligible.

OWEN SOUND COUNCIL DEMANDS H. C. OF L. PROBE

OWEN SOUND, Dec. 5.—At last night's council meeting a committee appointed to inquire into the high cost of living conditions brought in the following resolution, which was passed:

"In view of the high cost of living, it is advisable that we petition the Government to investigate the Dominion Canners' Holding Company; also to permit the manufacture and importation of oleomargarine."

It was decided to grant a bonus of \$20,000 to Messrs. Keenan Bros. for purposes of adding further extensions to their building here.

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DEWART AGAIN FLAYS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR NICKEL FAILURE

Reiterates Charges That Proper
Control Not Exercised.

SUSPICIOUS OF MERTONS

Australia's Refusal to Recognize
Firm Is Echoed at
Belleville Meeting.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

CHATHAM, Dec. 6.—The good roads question came before the Kent County Council when the session resumed this morning. The committee appointed to investigate the general improvement of the roads of the county recommended that the Government should under the Highway Improvement Act be adopted, and a bylaw providing for such improvements was given its first reading. Provision is made for the remodeling of some two hundred miles of roads in the county, which will link up five important market centres in the county.

Considerable discussion followed, but the matter was left in abeyance until Thursday next, when this bylaw will receive special discussion.

At this afternoon's session, Dr. R. V. Bray was recommended to the post office county jail surgeon, and a physician for the house of refuge, now vacant as a result of the death of Dr. C. R. Charteris.

NEARLY \$2,000 FOR BELGIANS.
CHATHAM, Dec. 6.—The Women's Canadian Club, under whose auspices a canvass for funds for the Belgian relief was conducted, the city yesterday, announces that a sum of \$1,651 was subscribed. In addition to this amount there are a number of promised donations which have yet to be received.

No inclusion has been made as to the result of the canvass in the county towns.

Refining Was Possible.
Refining in Canada could have been enforced by the transfer of a unit of the New York industry within nine months after the war began, by proper negotiations and pressure.

Mr. Dewart quoted Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil, who said that the arrangements regarding Canadian nickel had been made by the Canadian Government, and declared that the control of the nickel industry was in the hands of the Merton firm, acting as agents for the International Company.

He stated that Premier Hughes of Australia had been discovered on the line of the new railway industry within nine months after the war began, by proper negotiations and pressure.

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Among speakers on the line of the recent Toronto conference was one providing for the formation of a Central Ontario Liberal Association, to work in co-operation with the central, provincial and federal party organizations. Mr. Nelson Parliament was appointed convener.

ST. THOMAS MAN BROUGHT FROM WINDSOR ON OLD WIFE-BEATING CHARGE

C. B. New Apprehended When Departed
From United States.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 6.—C. B. New, formerly of the Pere Marquette stores department, this city, was brought to St. Thomas tonight from Windsor, where he was arrested on an old charge of assaulting his wife.

New was arrested when the U. S. immigration authorities deported him.

BLIND-PIG RAIDED.
ST. THOMAS, Dec. 6.—Paul Staden, John Dooda, Millan Marsh, Mosey Mazur and Wm. Holden, Russians, were arrested on Monday night, the first named charged with keeping a blind-pig, and the others with being inmates.

The place is a foreign boarding-house at the rear of the city. The magistrate found all guilty and fined the proprietors \$20 and costs, and the inmates \$10 and costs.

OLD THEATRE CLOSED.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 6.—The Royal Theatre, a moving picture place in the Duncombe building, has closed its doors. The place was taken over by the Duncombe Opera House to the Royal. The theatre was opened by T. H. Duncombe, who has been in the theatre business for many years. He had been operating the theatre for the past couple of years.

PERTH COUNTY COUNCIL TO VISIT WINTER FAIR

STRATFORD, Dec. 6.—Perth county council will pay off on Thursday and attend the winter fair at Guelph in a body. The invitation of the fair board was accepted at the council's session. Wardens are announcing their willingness to provide the transportation for the members.

Reeve J. McCallum of North Easthope, took his seat at the council board for the first time. He succeeded J. A. Makins, now police magistrate.

A grant of \$150 was made to each of the North and South Perth agricultural societies, and of \$25 to each of the boards of agriculture.

WATERWORKS CARETAKER EXONERATED IN WINDSOR

[Special to The Advertiser.]
WINDSOR, Dec. 6.—The water board has exonerated the caretaker of the waterworks of blame for the presence of typhoid in the city. The caretaker had been criticized, or rather attacked, by Dr. Crickhead, who was reported to have remarked that the caretaker should be arrested on a manslaughter charge.

CHESLEY PRIVATE IS SERIOUSLY ILL

[Special to The Advertiser.]
CHESLEY, Dec. 6.—Matthew C. Johnson, of this town, received word that his son, Pte. Thomas P. Johnson, who was wounded November 21 with a gunshot wound in the knee, is seriously ill at No. 1 General Hospital, Elstir, France. He went overseas with the 71st last spring, but was later transferred to another unit. Another brother, Herbert, is in the 147th, now in England.

BIG ROADS SYSTEM FOR KENT COUNTY IS BEFORE COUNCIL

Two Hundred Miles. Linking
Up Five Market Centres.

DR. BRAY JAIL SURGEON

Nearly \$2,000 Received For
Belgians in Chatham—Oil
Strike in Raleigh.

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