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Patricias In Action

The Canadians Win Praise on The Firing Line

A Few Casualties Reported

One Commissioned Officer Among Number—Dominion Fighters Account For German Snipers—Expected Rest of Contingent Soon Will be at Front

(Times' Special Cable) London, Dec. 31—A despatch from Northern France says: The Princess Patricia's regiment during the last two days have been in the advanced trenches along with the British Guards regiments and have acquitted themselves well. There have been few casualties, one being a commissioned officer, but to use the words of my informant, a wounded British Guardsman, "they are all old soldiers and know as much about the game as we did and a blooming sight more than the enemy's infantry."

I am told that the Canadians went into action at one of those ticklish spots where yards count. The advanced trench of the British ended at a village which was vigorously shelled by Germans. Another trench on the right of the little town is believed by my informant, to be held by unmounted French cavalry, and it is impossible for the Germans to reach the village, but their snipers had evaded themselves in farm buildings to the northeast, making it extremely hazardous for supplies to reach the allies' advanced posts.

About twenty of the Canadians, continued my informant, "managed to gain a ruin at the extreme end of the village during Christmas night and when daylight came they accounted for practically all the German snipers and dashed back into safety before the German artillery fire was directed to the stronghold." My guardsman thought that there was only a section of the regiment actually in the trenches and that the main portion was still in reserve when he was wounded.

"There are many of our old pals among them," he said, and they were given a tremendous reception when they arrived at a large hall that had once been part of a factory, and the officers with those French families who had returned on retirement of the Germans. The French people had arranged special Christmas festivities for the Canadians, but the order came that they were to march northward in support of certain guard regiments as it was feared the Germans might take advantage of the fog to make a Christmas day attack. The Canadians cheerfully abandoned the hope of Christmas dinner in practically a peaceful village for a chance to get into the trenches. As it happened, however, there were no shots and no fighting before in the dug-outs where they rested and got their first sight of the enemy.

Another thing my informant emphasizes was the coolness and carefulness of the Canadians. He declared they all seemed to be picked shots and that the men had been served with British goatskin coats, so it was almost impossible to distinguish them from the British regulars.

In my wanderings in the last few days along the British lines of communication I have seen many parts of Canadian ammunition and have been told that the main body of Canadian is expected any day. One thing seems certain and that is so fine an impression have the Princess Patricia's created by the bearing and discipline and condition that the rest of the contingent will be doubly welcomed by the rest of the empire's army.

Phelix and Phredford WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturpar, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—A depression has spread into the western provinces from the Pacific Ocean, while pressure is now highest over the central states. Fair weather prevails in Canada and it is for the most part moderately cold, except in northern localities where the temperature is decidedly low.

Moderately Cold Maritime—Fresh northwest to west winds, fair and moderately cold today and on Friday. New England Forecasts—Fair tonight and Friday, not much change in temperature; moderate variable winds.

BATTALION OF BRITISH FOOTBALL PLAYERS JOINING THE "DIE HARDS"

New York, Dec. 31—A Herald cable from London says that professional football players from all parts of the country have at least made a strong rally to the colors and will go on active service when the soccer season is ended. A battalion of players has been formed and permission given by Lord Kitchener to all professional players joining who are under contract, for time off for their engagements until the end of the season. All expenses for traveling from their training centres to their Saturday games will be paid by their clubs. That they might be induced to join at once, their army pay starts from the time they are attested and this pay is in addition to the salaries received from their clubs.

MR. BAXTER ELECTED SOME IN TOKIO FAVOR SENDING JAPANESE TROOPS TO THE WAR

Tokio, Dec. 31—In its denial of reports that Japanese troops had been landed at Vladivostok or any other place en route to Europe, the foreign office adds that Japan has not been approached by Great Britain or any other country to send an army to Europe. It is learned from other sources here that France and possibly Russia are favorable to the project of sending Japanese troops to Europe, but that England declines to do so. The financial phase of the matter, it is said, could be arranged, but the economic and political questions involved are difficult.

Meaning, frequent meetings are called in Tokyo by partisans of the project to awaken public enthusiasm in this direction, and there is an active newspaper discussion, supporting the plan to despatch volunteers. It is said that the assistance of Count Okuma, the premier, has been solicited by supporters of the project.

CONDENSED DESPATCHES Duncan E. McKinlay, a former congressman, died yesterday in Berkeley, California, aged 56 years. He was born in Canada.

Lucien J. Irwin, a railroad president, died in Louisville, Kentucky, aged 45 years.

Two men were killed and four injured by a mine explosion at Flagler, Iowa, last night.

Miss Ellaline Terrie, who has been singing to the wounded soldiers in the hospitals, has returned to London and describes the injured soldiers as wonderfully cheerful.

The safety of the convention drafted after the Titanic disaster, has not been ratified. The time limit expired today. It may be taken up again after the war.

The increase in cotton rates from Galveston to European ports, as a result of the war, ranges from 56 cents to \$2.55 per hundred pounds.

A Montreal despatch says it is again rumored that the G. T. P. is opposed to taking over the line from Winnipeg to Moncton. President Chamberlain denies that there is any difficulty between the government and the company.

MAYOR HEARS FROM THE VICTORIA LEAGUE The Victoria League, a British organization with headquarters in London which object it is to promote more extensive knowledge of the empire and to encourage friendships among individuals and members in all parts of the British possessions, has written to Mayor Frink regarding the scheme.

One of their principal methods is the distribution and exchange of newspapers and magazines which is carried on direct by the members. With the letter was sent to Mayor Frink a sample parcel of English papers such as are sent, free of charge, to those who would appreciate them. His worship has been asked to furnish the names of any in his district who would appreciate such papers and magazines and will be glad to forward the names.

SHIPPING NOTES The Scottish Monarch shifted from No. 6 berth to No. 2 berth this morning. The three masted schooner E. M. Roberts sailed this morning for New York.

ST. JOHN CAPTAIN THROUGH STRIPING EXPERIENCES

His Steamer Sunk By a German Cruiser

HIMSELF TAKEN TO AFRICA

There He Gets Another Vessel But it Founders in Mid-Ocean and Only Two Lives Saved—Letters From B. H. McLeod Tell of Thrilling Adventures

During the many long years in which he has been following the sea in all parts of the globe, Captain B. H. McLeod, of North End, one of the best known navigators sailing from St. John, has had some exciting and varied experiences, but the last few months of his command have probably formed the most eventful chapter. With one ship of his command sunk by a German cruiser, another lost in mid-ocean, and himself and one other of the crew the only survivors, and now confined to hospital in San Juan, Porto Rico, which has been his fortune since the outbreak of war, briefly, even niggardly, outlined in letters received yesterday by his wife at her home in Metcalfe street, and daughter, Mrs. Edward S. Waters, Victoria street.

With Captain McLeod from his earliest days on the sea, life has been just one adventure after another, so that what he has just passed through, he writes in a matter of fact manner touching as lightly on them as would a landlubber trying to take a short cruise up the river.

Early last spring he sailed from St. John on the schooner W. E. and W. L. Luck, bound for New York. Arrived there he took command of a large steamer sailing between that port and southern waters. He was in Mexican waters when the great conflict of nations broke out, and he was overhauled by a big German man-of-war which made short work of the oil-tank steamer which he had in charge. The enemy's crew set fire to the steamer, and Captain McLeod and his men were prisoners.

Taken to Africa. The younger members of the crew were set ashore in German Africa, but the captain, who despite his remarkable activities, is as well advanced in years, was sent to Capetown. There he secured command of another vessel and sailed for Turk's Island to load a cargo of salt for Providence, B. I. In a fearful storm which arose this vessel was doomed to the mercy of the elements, and he was overhauled by a big German man-of-war which made short work of the oil-tank steamer which he had in charge. The enemy's crew set fire to the steamer, and Captain McLeod and his men were prisoners.

STEARER AFIRE Crew Gets to Seat of Trouble and Perigee Proceeds. London, Dec. 31—A Lloyd's despatch from Ponta Delgada, Azores, states that the steamer Perigee, from Leghorn to New York, was ashore yesterday, but is now proceeding on her voyage after the crew had rescued the seat of the flames.

The Perigee is of 2,566 tons, and according to the records, belongs to the Anchor Line.

Turning Point Reached in Battles Along The Rivers of Poland

Russian Victory Over Austrians Most Far Reaching Event in Recent War Happenings—German and Austrian Losses Since War Placed at 600,000

New York, Dec. 31—A London cable to the Herald says: The most important and probably the most far-reaching event in the recent history of the war is the overwhelming defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and the complete collapse of that offensive. The news of the great Russian victory received additional confirmation yesterday in the official statements from Vienna.

All messages from Petrograd show a confident belief that, with the Austrian defeat and the retirement of the Germans across the Brura River, west of Warsaw, the turning point has been reached in the battles along the Polish rivers. The chief fighting is occurring along the Pilica, where the Germans have brought up heavy guns, and are pressing on the offensive.

The losses in these battles have reached enormous figures in dead, wounded, and prisoners and must have been largely added to disease, for the men have fought under dreadful climatic conditions and in mud for which Poland is notorious.

HAS AUSTRIA MADE LAST RALLY. London, Dec. 31—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd: "There are sanguine persons who believe this is the last time the Austrian army will be able to rebound, as it has already used all its material for recuperation."

"Slav prisoners say that before they debouched from the Carpathians they were told by the commanding officers that their advance was to be decisive and final, and bring the war to an end. Its results, they were assured, would be the capture of Warsaw, Lwow and Lemberg, and when these towns were once in their hands, peace would be made. When they were compelled once more to turn their backs and face the Carpathians and Cracow, a spirit of depression took hold of the army and this, no doubt, accounts in no slight degree for the large number of surrenders reported daily from Galicia."

"According to a statement printed in the Suit, the Germans and Austrians together lost 600,000 men in their engagements with the Russians since November 9. Near End at Przemysl. London, Dec. 31—A Budapest correspondent writes: "I had an interview with an officer who returned wounded from Przemysl. He says that every night for a fortnight two regiments have been called upon to deliver attacks on the besiegers at different points, and usually only half of the party returns. The garrison has lost during these sorties more than 30,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. Every available place in the city and fortress is packed with wounded. He says the garrison may hold out three weeks, but in no circumstances can it resist longer, for the food supply is coming to an end."

French and Germans Both In This Village

Former Capture One Half of St. Bach and Still Fight For the Remainder—Further Advances Made By the Allies

Paris, Dec. 31—The French War Office reports: "From the sea, as far as the Aisne yesterday passed with relative calm. There were artillery exchanges on some points of the front. In Champagne to the west of the Alger farm the enemy, during the night, blew up two of our trenches and then delivered against these positions an attack which our men repulsed."

"To the north of Meuzil-Les-Hardus, we occupied certain positions on the enemy's second line of defense. In this same region at a point to the north of the farm of Beaussejour we also occupied some trenches. The enemy delivered a counter attack, but he was driven back. We then resumed the offensive and were successful in gaining some more ground."

"In this same zone and further to the east, certain German forces which were advancing to deliver a counter attack against us, were brought under the fire of our artillery and dispersed."

"In the Argonne, in the vicinity of Fontaine Madame, we exploded a mine and occupied the resultant excavation; this gave us a slight advance."

"Between the Meuse and the Moselle, in the region of the Forest of Mortemart, about 150 yards of German trenches fell into our hands."

"In Upper Alsace French troops have entered the village of St. Bach and have occupied, with house to house fighting, one half of the community."

SERVIANS PLAN TO INVADE HUNGARY. Paris, Dec. 31—The Servians will not march on Sarajevo "said Dr. M. R. Venitch, Servian minister to France. "They will penetrate either to Smyrna, the easternmost county of Slavonia, Hungary, by way of Semlin, or Banat, a region of Southern Hungary, by way of Pancsova."

"The invasion of Bosnia and Herzegovina, populated by Slavs, and which are destined to become Servian, would leave the Hungarians indifferent. An Italian made by way of the region north of the Danube, would greatly increase the apprehension now reigning in that country."

KAISERS' NEW ARMY FOR SPRING. New York, Dec. 31—A London Daily Express despatch to the Herald says that a large number of young recruits for Germany's new army, which is being organized for the spring campaign, are being trained in Eastern Belgium for training. Youths of eighteen to twenty, some of whom have not finished their school studies, seem to comprise the bulk of this army.

A German View. Berlin, via London, Dec. 31—Major Morath, a military expert, discussing in the "Tagblatt," the eastern war situation says: "All the military authorities are agreed that the Polish capital must soon be evacuated. Its value as a fortress, as is well known, is slight, but the strongly fortified positions in front of the city, it must be expected, will be well defended. Nevertheless it would require strong forces to hold them."

"It appears, moreover, as if the Russian general staff attaches greater importance in bringing its main forces up to the front."

SOME COMPARISONS Immigration, Meat Prices and Apple Crop of the United States

New York, Dec. 31—Immigration through this port for 1914, fell off to the extent of 601,410 persons, or 45 per cent as compared with 1913. During 1913 arrivals numbered 1,334,914 persons of whom 1,038,968 were aliens and 295,946 were returning American citizens. In 1914 arrivals were only 733,504, of these 573,675 were aliens and 159,829 were citizens. The number of departing aliens was greater by 37,818.

The war was the chief factor, but curtailing of work in the United States and an effort on the part of foreign countries to restrict emigration had also effect.

Washington, Dec. 31—Although the European war has enormously increased the value of food products exported by the United States in the last few months the level of prices of meat animals in this country has declined as compared with prices a year ago.

On November 15, the average price of meat animals, including hogs, cattle, sheep, and chickens, was \$6.90 per hundred pounds, a decrease of fourteen cents a hundred from the prices of November 15, last year.

During the month from October 15 to November 15, 1914, the prices paid producers for meat animals, decreased 4.9 per cent against an average decline of four per cent for the same period for the last four years.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 31—This year's apple crop was the largest ever produced in the United States. Estimates place the 1914 yield at 239,000,000 bushels, or 114,000,000 more than last year.

NO TIMES TOMORROW On tomorrow, New Year's Day, the Times will not be published