

The Season's Greetings

We wish to thank all our Friends for the generous patronage given to us during the year past, and we hope by courteous treatment, prompt and efficient news service to merit its continuance

We will try during 1918 to make The Advertiser the newest County Paper to the Province.

Wishing all our subscribers and readers a full Year of Prosperity as far as it can be obtained in such strenuous war Times

THE ADVERTISER and STAFF

THE DEATH OF "MINNIE"

"Minnie is a very forward young lady who lives as a rule in German front line trenches. She has no pretensions at all to beauty. She is for use, not for ornament. She is a trench gun and her projectiles remind one of plum puddings attached to sticks. They fly very irregularly, but burst very regularly in that part of No Man's Land farthest removed from Minnie's temporary lodging.

Just before the latest push around Ypres there was a particular Minnie located a few miles from Ypres which was more than usually a nuisance. The British trench was not well sighted, nor very well protected. Consequently, when Minnie was active she made things very uncomfortable for the occupants of that British trench. Moreover, she had no regular habits, she worked on no place, ladylike she did just about as she wished.

The young British subalterns halted her with a persistent pervading hatred, and concocted many schemes for her undoing but to no avail. But one night chance brought into the trench a very irritable old artillery officer, just as Minnie was active. One of Minnie's puddings soiled his boots and thereby aroused in him a grim determination to devote himself to her destruction.

He stayed in the trench all that night, studying Minnie's location and characteristics, and on the morrow he returned, followed by his orderly uncoiling wire as he walked. At the trench end of the wire a temporary telephone was fixed. The far end of the wire led back a mile and a half to a battery of field artillery.

Along about noon Minnie opened up for her midday strafe. Promptly the artillery officer verified his observations of the night before and spoke a few figures into the telephone. A moments later a loud boom announced the arrival of a British shell just across on the other side of No Man's Land. The British officer swore softly and spoke again into the telephone. The first shell had been perhaps 20 yards off the second side. Again the officer spoke into the telephone and for the third time the gun spoke, "Bullseye," sank the officer into the telephone and packed up his belongings in businesslike fashion Minnie was no more.

Sunday School Teacher—If you are a good boy, Willie, you will go to heaven and have a gold crown on your head.

Willie—Not for mine. I had one of them things put on a tooth once.

KILL OFF THE DOGS

"It is hard to claim the right to keep a lot of fat dogs these days," said Rev. Dr. C. F. Reinsner, preaching in Grace Methodist Ch., New York. "I cannot but remember that the money spent on these dogs would keep all the Armenian children from dying of starvation. How in the name of common sense can people coddle and pet and spend time on a dog these days when boys fighting for our flag need warm garments and children and women are starving within our very reach? I never could see much use for the thousands of expensive dogs eating food and being loved in this great city, when there are so many humans that need both. To keep a dog these days for pleasure is to lay one's self open to deserved criticism. The food it eats, the time it takes for care, even the love it consumes, are needed by countless humans these days who could be made happy by what the dog gets."

SUGAR.

About 50 per cent of the sugar consumed in North America is imported from Cuba so that the Cuban product is the dominating market factor. The international Sugar Commission, representing the Allied Countries as well as the United States Food Administration and the Food Controller for Canada, is endeavoring to secure the Cuban production at a reasonable price. By curtailing consumption in this country so that the necessity of securing the Cuban crop is not so urgent, the people of Canada will be assisting the Sugar Commission, the Allied countries and themselves in obtaining supplies for Spring and Summer at lower prices than would otherwise be possible.

Some curious results were noted. An alteration in the sex ratio of birth appeared to be established by the figures of the United Kingdom, especially by those of England, the proportion of male births having noticeably increased. Contrary to expectation, the war had produced no effect upon the figures of illegitimate births. Decline in suicides was another interesting feature.

Comparison between the natural increase or decrease of the populations showed that whereas the population of the United Kingdom was now somewhat greater than at the beginning of the war, in spite of all losses of life in the army and navy Austria-Hungary and Germany had each suffered a decrease of some 600,000 in addition to losses in the field outside of these countries—perhaps a total decrease of at least four millions

THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPORTUNITY.

The Minister of Immigration and Colonization, Hon. Mr. Calder, says that the Union Government must do things in "a big, aggressive way" if it is to hold the confidence of the people. Mr. Calder is right. The Government has a national, not a party, mandate, and will be expected to administer the country with a national purpose and breadth of view. No Administration since Confederation has had so free a hand. It is not fettered by obligations to party friends and party interests. In no other Federal election have so many Canadians set aside partisanship pre-possessions or selfish motives and fixed their minds on a single issue.

First and foremost the Government must enforce the Military Service Act without fear of favor. This is the specific and supreme duty laid upon it by the popular will expressed at the polls. But it has made other pledges which it must fulfill, and it must do "big and aggressive things" to justify coalition and the postponement of a decision on certain questions, such as the tariff, which are highly controversial, and which Liberal and Conservative Unionists have argued not to reopen while the war claims their joint endeavors.

The country has been told that in order to mobilize all its strength for the cause, all parties should unite their forces and concentrate their energies on war problems. Complete co-operation has not been possible because of a cleavage on the issue of conscription, but the popular vote proves that the Administration rests on a genuinely non-partisan majority of the Canadian electors—while the Cabinet itself, when completed, will not be open to the reproach of one-sidedness, and will adequately represent the highest ability in the public life of the country. Liberal, Conservative, and Labor. A Government built on this foundation owes much to the people, and it has the power to discharge the debt if it has courage, seriousness, and vision. It has promised to abolish the patronage system, to reform the civil service, to lay a heavier share of the financial burdens of the war upon wealth, to prevent excessive profits and combinations to raise prices, to bring about the co-operative management of railways, to devise a strong and progressive policy of immigration, and colonization, to promote land settlement and co-operation among those engaged in agricultural production; and to provide for the care and vocational training of soldiers. It is a comprehensive programme, and the Government should proceed with it, immediately and resolutely "in a big and aggressive way."

Canadians have broken with their political habits of half a century to give the Administration its unique opportunity. They will look for results worth of that uprising of the national spirit.—Toronto Globe.

COLLISION IN AIR; THREE ARE KILLED.

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 21—Three British aviators in training here were killed this morning when two machines collided in the air. Two of the men were in one machine. The collision occurred at a low altitude and less than half a mile from the landing field.

The dead are: Arthur Edon Webster, 19, Kingston (N. Y.); Lieutenant Russell Jenner, 19, Kengsville (Ont.); Cyril Albert Baker, 20, Kent, England.

"People should marry their opposites."
"Most people are convinced that they did."

10,118 EXEMPTIONS ARE ALLOWED IN N. B.

St. John, Dec. 27—The Provincial Register yesterday said that to date there had been 10,118 exemptions allowed in the city alone, and 2,508 disallowed. A number of those cases, totalling 12,628, have been appealed including appeals on the part of the applicant and also appeals made on behalf authorities. The appeal courts are still holding sessions but the number of cases and how they are divided have not as yet been made up by the register. Already orders have been sent out calling the men of Class A under the Military Service Act to arms on January 3. Everything is in readiness at the Agricultural Building for the reception of the men drafted, who, it is said, will be called out at a rate of between fifty to seventy-five a day. It is understood that facilities here can deal effectively with about seventy-five a day. The men will upon reporting receive their clothing and be quartered. It is said that by the evening of January 3 about seventy-five men will be in quarters here under the M. S. A.

During Harry Lauder's visit to Montreal he told a number of very excellent stories, but the one which won the greatest popularity with the audience at His Majesty's was the old yarn regarding an argument between the Scotchman and the Jew as to which race had produced the greatest number of famous men. The argument became somewhat heated until the two men argued that as they named great men belonging to their particular race they would pull a hair from the head of the other individual. The Jew was given the first opportunity to name his man so, reaching out, he shouted, "Abraham," and pulled a hair from the head of the Scot. "Robbie Burns," answered the Scotchman as he countered on the Jew's head. "Solomon," said the Jew, as he pulled out a hair from the Scotchman. "Sir Walter Scott," came the reply of the Scotchman as he pulled another hair from the Jew's head. "Joseph and his brethren," shouted the Jew, as he grabbed a handful from the Scotchman's woolly top. Reaching over with both hands the Celt seized the Jew by the whiskers and, giving a terrific yank, shouted, "The Highland Brigade."

HON. N. W. ROWELL IS ACTING PREMIER

Ottawa, Dec. 23—Sir Robert Borden after several months of strenuous labor, has left for the south, where he will enjoy at least a fortnight's holiday. He left today, accompanied by Lady Borden. Immediately after his return to the capital, when all the members of the government will be here, work will be commenced on the programme which will engage the attention of parliament when it meets in March. The expectations is that some legislation of exceptional importance will be dealt with, although the session is not expected to be a lengthy one. During the absence of the prime minister the question of French representation in the cabinet will remain in abeyance. Hon. N. W. Rowell will be acting prime minister.

GERMAN PEACE TERMS MADE KNOWN TONIGHT

Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 21—According to a report in diplomatic circles in Berne, the German representatives in neutral countries have already received the German emperor's Christmas proposals for peace, which will be divulged to the world, Christmas Eve. The conditions reported in the proposals are reported to be far more conciliatory than have been former documents on the subject, but vague and elastic, and with no explicit declarations of Germany's terms.

FOOD FROM RUSSIA

If This Report Is True German Propaganda Already Having Intended Effect.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23—A Vienna despatch to the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger says that Field Marshal Von Hofer, the Austrian minister of public subsistence, has announced that the Austrian food supply would shortly be improved by the arrival of supplies from Russia. According to Von Hofer, the governments of Berlin, Vienna and Budapest are already rushing transport facilities.

The Danube will soon be frozen over but wholesale supplies that source may be expected by March.

Vorwaerts Suspended.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23—The Berlin Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts has been obliged by the government to suspend publication for three days.

Vorwaerts, in a recent article, attacked the German food controller Von Waldow declaring that great masses of German people were not only hungry, but were literally starving. It also accused the "war profiteers and millionaires" of hoarding great supplies of food.

OUT OF 53 ZEPPELINS FOURTY ARE DESTROYED

With the French Armies in the Field, Dec. 28—Germany's Zeppelins programme, announced with boastful pride in 1914, stands a dreary failure today.

Accurate figures available to the United Press show that of fifty-three Zeppelins put into commission since 1914, thirty-five have been totally destroyed, two have been badly damaged and put permanently out of commission, two possibly destroyed, now missing, one badly damaged, temporarily out of commission in December and thirteen remaining in service, eight of which are detailed to the North Sea, two to the Baltic, and three as experimental or school ships.

Raids over France, England and Belgium have cost the Germans seventeen Zeppelins, eight having been accounted for in England, five in France and four in Belgium. Accidents by fire, wind and lightning have destroyed at least eight in Germany.

Zeppelins numbers according to accurate calculation, started with the "L-1" and ended with "L-57." Numbers between twenty-five and thirty have not been employed, leaving fifty-three to be accounted for. "L-1" and "L-2" were destroyed before the war. The first fell in the North Sea and the second was accidentally burned at Fuhlsbuttel.

In addition to her Zeppelins, Germany has had in commission since beginning of the war at least thirteen airships of the "Schutte Lanz," "Cross" and "Parseval" types. Of these possibly seven remain in service, two, however, as non-combatant instruction ships.

Says a Boston paper: "We should all know and we should all remember that at the time of our war with Spain the German Empire secretly proposed to England that the English and the German fleets should place themselves between our fleet and Cuba, and that England not merely said no but added that, if the English ships placed themselves anywhere, it would be between the American fleet and the fleets of Europe. "If I had had a larger fleet," said the disappointed Kaiser, "I'd have taken Uncle Sam by the scruff of the neck."

"Is you gwine ter let dat mevel do as he please?" asked Uncle Ephraim's wife. "Wha's you will power?" "My will power's all right," he answered. "You jest want ter come out hyar an' measure dis here mevel's won't power."