

SWISS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WILSON PEACE MANOEUVRES

President Makes Position of Little Republic Clear.

TO ENFORCE NEUTRALITY

Whole Nation, as Well as the Army, Ready To Defend It If Necessary.

Bologna, via Paris, Dec. 28.—President Schulthess of Switzerland has explained the part played by his country in the recent steps in favor of peace in an interview with Signor Quaiello, editor of the Resto del Carlino. President Schulthess is quoted as saying: "Switzerland had nothing to do with the Wilsonian peace movement. The federal council got into communication with the American Government in order to learn if the latter intended to do anything in favor of peace and simply received a copy of the note at the same time as the belligerents. The council has decided to support the note, inspired by an ardent desire to see a termination rapidly put to the suffering caused by this terrible war, which the Swiss people have daily evidence in the shape of interned invalids and civilians from places ordered evacuated."

"I do not know what will be the fate of the neutral proposals, and in any case, Switzerland has no intention of interfering with the efforts of the belligerents. But she considers it her duty to make known to them that she is ready to go to the aid of the neutral in the event of its becoming desirable."

The president said that he was astonished at the rumors of fears of the violation of Swiss neutrality. "I cannot conceive," he said, "that any of the belligerents harbor the idea of passing through our country. It would not be to their advantage. In addition to the great difficulties of terrain, they would be confronted with the vigorous resistance of the Swiss army and the whole people. My country knows only one form of neutrality—absolute neutrality."

Let there be no mistake. In the presence of external danger, no matter from what side it comes, Switzerland will be united notwithstanding differences in race and language."

SPECIAL PRICES

for Friday and Saturday

Hand Sleighs 25c up
Hockey Sticks 15c up
Skates, from 50c up
Casseroles \$1.95 up
Jardinières \$1.25 up
Carving Sets \$2.50 up
Cross-Cut Saws \$3.25 up
Buck Saws 75c up
Many other lines specially priced.

Chown Hardware Co.

Late Love Hardware Company
111 Dundas Street, Phone 588
Near Talbot.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL, WHOSE DEATH OCCURRED TODAY FROM PNEUMONIA



Hon. T. C. Casgrain.

MEDICALLY UNFIT SOLDIERS NUMBER NEARLY 8,600 NOW

A Year Ago the Number Was Less Than 3,000.

OVER 2,700 IN SANATORIA

Additional Convalescent Hospitals Opened During Year.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—A year ago something less than three thousand Canadian soldiers had been returned to Canada as medically unfit. Their number has now increased to nearly 8,600. The exact figures are given out by the militia department are:

	Dec. 31, 1915	Dec. 31, 1916
Tuberculosis	15	1916
Insanity	15	377
Wounded and gassed	495	1,840
Shell-shock	2,420	6,410
Other diseases and disabilities	2,345	3,595
Totals	2,945	8,595

The military hospitals commission, appointed by the Dominion Government six months earlier to care for soldiers returning to Canada, had about 500 men on its list at the close of 1915.

Convalescent hospitals had been opened at Sydney, N.S., St. John, N.B., Quebec, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Calgary and Esquimaut, B.C.

Over 2,700 Patients. There are today under treatment at the hospitals and sanatoria over 2,700 men. Two of the smaller hospitals have been closed during the year, the inmates being transferred to roomier premises.

Additional convalescent hospitals have been opened in Ottawa, Kingston, Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Sydney, B.C., besides the special hospital for neurasthenic cases at Cobourg, and sanatoria for consumptives at St. Agathe, Que., Kitchener, Ont., and Preak, Alta. Consumptive soldiers are also being treated at a number of sanatoria with which the commission has made special arrangements, and buildings for the exclusive use of such men have been erected as additions to the sanatoria at Kingston, Hamilton and London.

ENGLAND'S NATIONAL DEBT.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The interest on the debt created under the war loans of 1914-15 amounted during the financial year ended March 31 last, to £23,445,858 according to a white paper issued today. The total capital national debt, which on March 31, 1915, was £21,044,957,076 had increased by March 31, 1916, to £22,133,147,544 the statement shows.

HON. T. C. CASGRAIN DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Cabinet Minister Succumbs to Illness of Ten Days.

DEATH WAS UNEXPECTED

Dead Statesman Had Brilliant Career as Jurist and Politician.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, postmaster-general, died this morning of pneumonia.

Hon. Mr. Casgrain had been ill for several days, having contracted the disease following a chill on his way home from New York ten days ago. His condition, however, was not considered alarming, and his physicians say he passed a good night. At 10 o'clock this morning, however, he took a sudden turn for the worse and sank rapidly.

Was of Distinguished Family.

Hon. Thomas Chase Casgrain was a member of a distinguished Quebec family, son of the late Hon. Charles E. Casgrain, M. P., senator, and Charlotte Mary C., daughter of Thomas Chase of Detroit, Michigan. He was born in Detroit, July 28, 1852, and was educated in the Quebec Seminary and Laval University, where he had a brilliant career as a student, capturing the Dufferin gold medal in 1877. He held the degree of LL.D. in 1883.

One of the leaders of the Conservative party in Quebec, he sat for the County of Quebec in the Local House from 1885 to 1890, and for Montmorency from 1892 to 1896. He subsequently represented Montmorency in the House of Commons from 1896 to 1904. He was attorney-general of the Province of Quebec from 1897 to 1898 and chairman of the royal commission to revise and amend the code of civil procedure in 1894.

While attorney-general, he introduced many important reforms and carried legislation for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections which was declared to be the most advanced and thorough of the kind ever adopted in Canada. His active interest in moral reform work was further manifested in the fact that he was prominently identified with the Anti-Alcohol League of Montreal in 1907.

He was elected president of the Conservative Association of Quebec Province in 1909, succeeding Sir A. Lacoste. For some years he was identified with Le Journal Canadien as a director. A member of the Societe du Parler Franchais au Canada, he was president of the Club Lafontaine, Montreal, 1908-09.

He was presented to His Majesty King Edward at St. James' Palace, London, England, in 1908.

Postmaster-General in 1914. He was made postmaster-general in October, 1914.

The attitude of this foremost Quebec statesman toward the war is summed up in the following quotation from the Canadian Annual: "He has sought to impress the country and especially Quebec with the truth that Canada's first business in the present crisis is war."

Through his long public career the late postmaster-general has been recognized as a gentleman of unimpeachable integrity, whose work has been conspicuously good for his province and country.

He was twice married, the first time in May, 1879, to Marie Louise, daughter of the late Alex. Le Moine of Quebec.

He is survived by his second wife to whom he was married within the past two years.

Lieut.-Col. Casgrain's Brother, Lieut.-Col. Casgrain of Windsor, who went overseas in command of No. 3 Stationary Hospital, is a brother.

BRILLIANT CANADIAN DASH INTO TRENCHES NOW IN WAR RECORD

One of Most Successful Feats of War.

FILMS WILL PICTURE IT

Cinematograph Catches Notable Attack for Historic Purposes.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—The following communiqué is issued from the Canadian military press office: "One of the most successful raids ever carried out on the western front was executed this week by the Canadian troops. The raid was made in the early afternoon, while the low winter sun was still shining. From several points of observation it was possible to witness the whole process of the operation and successful cinematograph films for historical purposes were even obtained within a short distance of the attack."

"Preliminary bombardments had skillfully destroyed the heavy enemy entanglements, and generally weakened the German defenses."

"Shortly before the hour of the assault the attackers, consisting of picked men, carefully trained for this special occasion, filed into the trenches and took up a position along the tip of an advanced crater. The enemy remarked the unusual movement, because a few hours before the advance an active fire had been opened. Several colored rockets were fired from the German trenches."

"Nevertheless, at the appointed moment our artillery barrage opened with a sudden crash of dense smoke. Clouds of smoke were also liberated, isolating the area to be attacked. A covering fire from our machine guns added a deafening rattle to the stupendous medley of noise."

"At the given signal the lines of our men advanced, slowly and deliberately and in perfect order. Little resistance was met with in crossing 'no man's land.' The German garrison were seeking safety from our avalanche of shells in their deep dugouts. A number of them were killed. One of the German trenches was captured and the survivors were sent back as prisoners."

"Swiftly into Attack. 'Swiftly our men went about their allotted tasks, following the communicating trenches back to the German supports and establishing protective blocks. Snatching and overrunning the guards and sentries. Special attention was paid to the dugouts, from which many Germans came out to surrender. Bombs and igniting explosives were thrown into the dugouts and setting on fire the wooden supports. This was done so thoroughly and methodically that the progress of the attack could be followed by the fires as they broke out one after the other. Machine gun emplacements were also destroyed, and the total damage done to the German trench was very considerable. Many of the enemy were killed and some prisoners, including two officers, were captured and taken back to our lines. Our own casualties were remarkably light."

"Considering the number of men employed in the attack, the extent of the frontage captured, the depth to which the parties penetrated and the fact that we remained in possession of the German trenches for over two hours before withdrawing, this so-called raid really assumed the character of a very successful local offensive. Some time after our men had returned to the cover of darkness to their own line the enemy could be heard counter attacking and bombing energetically, but our own position was so well defended that the attack was repulsed."

A similar account of the raid was reported in an Associated Press story, on Tuesday, the only difference being the eyewitness reported 59 prisoners, including one officer.

CHARLES CROWLEY ADMITS MAKING TRIPS TO CANADA

Declares He Was Investigating Violations of U. S. Neutrality.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 28.—Charles C. Crowley, a private detective, charged by Louis J. Smith, the Government's chief witness, with conspiracy to blow up ships and railroads carrying munitions to the Entente Allies, to which Smith confessed on the witness stand, denied Smith's charges today in the Government's prosecution of Franz Bopp, German consul-general here, and six others for alleged violation of American neutrality.

Crowley, who is a defendant, admitted the trips into Canada and along the border, which the prosecution introduced in evidence, but said his activities had been confined to investigation of alleged violation of the neutrality of the United States.

Among other important facts uncovered, Crowley said, and duly reported to his employer, Consul-General Bopp, were that a Lieut. Johnston of the United States navy had resigned to become a submarine assembling expert for Russia and that parts of American-made airplanes destined for British use, were at one time stored in the New York militia armory at Buffalo.

400 TRAINS CUT FROM BRITISH SCHEDULES

Clock of Railway Development Being Moved Back 25 Years.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—With the New Year it is calculated that 400 passenger trains will disappear from the British railway timetables. Many of the remaining trains will run more slowly, and with a larger number of stops.

Long distance non-stop expresses will be as rare as they were thirty years ago. The Daily News says, so far as comfort and speed are concerned, the clock will be put back a quarter of a century.

PAROLE-BREAKERS FINED. NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Dec. 28.—Two Austrians, John Bindas of Windsor, and Matthew Penic of Thorold, who broke parole, were fined \$25 and costs each today. Bindas tried to go over the river, while Penic was arrested on the way back. He had gone for whisky, which was found on him.

OXFORD POULTRY SHOW. INGERSOLL, Dec. 28.—This was the opening day of the annual show of the Oxford and South Oxford Poultry Association. The secretary reports a very large entry list, and the indications generally point to a most successful exhibition.

THERE'LL BE A BIG YEAR-END BARGAIN LIST AT DOWLER STORES LONDON SATURDAY ST. THOMAS

Overcoats \$13.50

UNDERWEAR, HEAVY WOOL AND CASHMERE SOCKS, SHIRTS, SWEATERS AND SWEATER COATS, CAPS, TROUSERS, BOYS' SUITS AND OVERCOATS AND BLOOMERS, WORK SHIRTS, MITTS, GLOVES AND OVERALLS.

Suits \$13.50

Greys Browns, Blacks, Navys and Tweeds, Mixtures, some swaggar snapping Slip-ons, Chesterfields, form-fitting, for street and dress wear; big warm Ulsters and Raglans, two-way and shawl collars for driving and motor wear Overcoats, right up to \$22.00. All sizes in the lot, but only a few of each line. It will pay well to buy these for next winter.

\$24.00 BRITISH MELTON OVERCOATS \$18.00

Pure wool, black and three shades of greys, handsome gentlemanly coats, with and without velvet collars; some serge twill and some satin lined. Sizes 35 to 42. All this season's make and below before-the-war prices.

A SPECIAL CLEARING OF OVERCOATS AT \$8.90.

Warm, Comfortable Big Shawl Collar D. B. Overcoats, sizes 35 to 42.

SWEATER COAT SPECIALS.

Men's Sweater Coats, with collars; Grey and Tan shades. Special \$1.48

Men's extra heavy double weight Sweater Coats in Grey \$3.90

BOYS' JERSEYS.

Boys' Pullover Jerseys, with and without buttons on shoulders \$1.20

The Underwear Firm of Ontario

Over half a carload of warm winter underwear in combinations and two-piece, natural wools, fine wools, cashmeres, heavy pure wool, rib, lambswool and wool fleece. Stanfield's heavy rib \$1.25 Penman's 70c wool fleece Stanfield's pure wool heavy rib unshrinkable \$4.80 Combinations \$1.50 to \$4.50 \$1.75 and \$2.00 All the best makers' goods 45 dozen Standard 50c Neckwear. Special 25c

R. H. & J. DOWLER, LIMITED

176 AND 178 DUNDAS STREET.

176 AND 178 DUNDAS STREET.

WEATHER AND FOGS HALT OFFENSIVE IN SECTOR OF SOMME

British Activities Interfered With by Conditions.

RELIEVE FRENCH FORCES

Take Over Section of Their Line Held Before by Allies.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The continuation of the British offensive along the Somme front is impossible so long as the present weather lasts. Major-General Frederick P. Maurice, chief director of military operations, said in a statement issued by the Associated Press today, "I told you some time ago," he said, "that our offensive would not cease during the winter, but it must be apparent from the daily reports that no real battle has been offered in that sector since October. In the first place we under-estimated the effect of the fog in the valley of the Somme. There have been frequent frosts, not severe enough to harden the ground, but sufficient to form fogs, making artillery observation fire practically useless and also preventing the drying of the ground."

"The French arrived at the same decision and transferred their attack to Verdun, with results which you know. We may be able to resume in March, as we found the ground at Neuve Chapelle in fairly good shape in March, 1915, although it had been hard during the winter. Unable to continue the offensive for the present, we have done the next best thing. The taking over of a section of the French line has kept us busy during the last ten days. The operation has been successful, and I will be glad to tell you the exact extent of the line taken over when I am sure the Germans know the point of junction."

Rumanians Reforming. "In Rumania the first Rumanian army, which has borne the brunt of the fighting, has been entirely withdrawn, and is now reforming in Moldavia, while its place has been taken by the Russian 10th Army. The line has been moved back in alignment with the Russian allies and the enemy are suffering from adverse weather conditions."

STEAMER BARGANY SUNK. LONDON, Dec. 28.—A Lloyd's report says the British steamer Bargany, 572 tons gross, sunk. Some of the crew have landed.

Emblem of German Shame Is Replica Of Lusitania Medal

Struck Off to Honor Frightfulness—Now Benefits Red Cross.

[Special to The Advertiser.] OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—A replica of the Lusitania medal has reached Canada. The Germans, after striking and distributing this medal to celebrate the drowning of 1,195 men, women and children, tried to prevent any getting out of Germany. However, one reached England, where a syndicate formed to reproduce this emblem of German shame, and sell them for the benefit of Red Cross funds.

On the obverse side appears the legend, "No contraband," with a representation of the Lusitania sinking, and with guns and aeroplanes, which were not there, but without the women and children who were there. On the reverse side are in German words, "Hush above all," with a figure of death at the booking office of the Cunard Line, giving out tickets to passengers.

DIED OF WOUNDS. NEW HAMBURG. Pte. John E. Spahr.

SERIOUSLY ILL. WOODSTOCK. Pte. Stuart McDonald.

WOUNDED. GALT. Pte. Herbert Hobson. Pte. Joseph Warman. LANCE-CORP. OSCAR WILLIAMS. ST. GEORGE. Lieut. E. G. Richards. PARIS. Pte. Joseph Warman.

DIED. OWEN SOUND. Pte. G. W. Day.

QUAKER OATS FIRE DEAD NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

PETERBORO, Dec. 28.—The death of William Walsh at St. Joseph's Hospital brings the total of known dead from the Quaker Oats fire to twenty-one.

HAMELY—MCNABB. KINCARDINE, Dec. 28.—The marriage of Miss Lucy Jean Hambley to John McNabb took place in Drayton on Christmas Day.

BRITISH STRIKE BLOW AT COMMUNICATIONS VITAL TO THE TURKS

Destroy Bridge, Cutting Off Bagdad and Syrian Lines.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The claim by British war office that a squadron of seaplanes on Wednesday destroyed the Chicalard bridge across the Danubian River, is commented on this morning as being an important one.

The bridge constituted a vital link in the Turkish railroad communications, and its destruction would cut off not only the Bagdad main line but the Syrian line from railroad connection with western Asia Minor and the supply centres for the Turkish armies in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Arabia.

DESTRUCTION OF FIELDS SYSTEMATICALLY DONE

Rumanian Oil District Wiped Out Before Fore Arrived.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Dec. 28.—5:05 p.m.—The Volks Zeitung of Cologne, reproduces the narrative of an officer of the German general staff in regard to the Rumanian campaign, in which it is said the destruction wrought in the Rumanian oil fields was "veritable," surpassing everything of the kind during the war.

UTTERLY USELESS.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Speaking today at a meeting of the Rumanian Consolidated Oil Fields, William W. Rutherford, member of Parliament from the West Derby division of Liverpool, said that probably the value of the oil fields destroyed by the Allies in the Rumanian retreat amounted to £30,000,000. It was a wholesale destruction, he remarked, carried out by a British military mission acting under the instruction of headquarters. This work, he added, rendered the property and the stock utterly useless to the foe. The oil wells of German companies met a similar fate, he said.

Conference Now On?

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—There was a rumor on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange today that there is now being held a conference in Copenhagen between representatives from England, Russia and Germany.

ALLIES' MONITORS SHELL TOWNS ON THE DANUBE

BERLIN, Dec. 28, via Saville.—Bulgarian headquarters report of December 27, as received here, says: "Hostile monitors have shelled Iskische, Tutchev and St. Ivan (on the Danube in Dobruja). The fourth Bulgarian division, under the command of General Todoroff, is engaged in fighting, conquering the heights at Todoroff, and were able to seize the woods to Luncavitz (on the river north of Matchin)."

During the last combats the fourth division has captured 1,200 Russians, four machine guns, and more than 2,500 rifles."

BREWERY CLOSING DOWN. PETERBORO, Dec. 28.—Calcutt's brewery, established in Cobourg in 1855 and removed to Peterboro 35 years ago, and since continually operating successfully, has closed down, owing to the effect of the temperance act.

NEW STRENGTH FOR LAME BACK

Letter Tells of Long-looked-For Prescription.

Dear Mr. Editor—I suffered from lamina back and a constant tired, worn-out feeling. At times I was unable to stand erect and scarcely able to get around. It would usually come on at first with a crick in small of my back. I took one box of Dr. Pierce's Anuric Tablets and my back commenced to get better soon after starting to take them. I did not have to walk doubled over, as I did before using the "Anuric." It is the best remedy I have ever taken for what it is intended to relieve.

I hope those who are in need of such a remedy will give the "Anuric Tablets" a trial.

(Signed) A. G. DRAKE.

Note—Up to this time, "Anuric" has not been on sale to the public, but by the persuasion of many patients and the increasing demand for this wonderful healing tablet, Doctor Pierce has finally decided to put it into the drug stores of this country within immediate reach of all sufferers.

Simply ask for Doctor Pierce's Anuric Tablets. There can be no imitation. Every package of "Anuric" is sure to be Doctor Pierce's. You will find his signature on the package just as you do on Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, the ever-famous friend to the public, but by the persuasion of many patients and the increasing demand for this wonderful healing tablet, Doctor Pierce has finally decided to put it into the drug stores of this country within immediate reach of all sufferers.

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At any rate don't give up hope of being cured of your malady until just a few doses of "Anuric" have proven that it will make you feel like a different person.

Editor—Please insert this letter in some conspicuous place in your paper.

Hotel Harrison

Corner Talbot and King Streets.
O. L. ROMER, Proprietor.



SEE THE OLD YEAR OUT. THE NEW YEAR IN.
With Good Things to Eat. Good Beer to Drink, at

Our New-Year's Eve Dinner, \$1

11 p.m. Sunday, December 31, to 2 a.m., Monday, January 1.

Cabaret performance and orchestra for the evening. Kindly reserve tables early. Phone 345.

Menu

Blue Point Cocktail.
Celery Hearts.
Chicken, with okra Consomme a la Colbert.
Dame of British Columbia Salmon.
Pomme de Terre Chateau.
Lea & Perrin's Sauce.
Frogs' Legs in Crumbs.
Calves' Sweetbread.
Beignets Souffle au Kirsch.
Turkey, with Dressing and Cranberry Sauce.
Merry Widow Salad.
Baked Sweet Potatoes.
English Plum Pudding, Hard and Nutmeg Sauce.
Deep Apple Pie and Whipped Cream.
Neapolitan Ice Cream.
Table Apples.
McLaren's Imperial Cheese.
Oka Cheese.
Radishes.
Diplomatic Sauce.
Stuffed Olives.
Purée Tomato.
Glacé Bordelaise.
Canadian Peas.
Charlotte Russe.
Fancy Cakes.
Navel Oranges.
Reception Wafers.
Coffee.
Imported Frontenac Beer on Draught.
God Save the King.