

Noted War Correspondent Has Highest Praise for the Engineers Attached to Russian Forces

Percival Gibbons Tells of Trip Over Territory Which Is Now Scene of Important Conflict Between Germans and Russians—Germans Driven Back Many Times and With Heavy Losses.

Petrograd, Dec. 24.—By Percival Gibbons.—I have just come from Warsaw and from territory which the Germans are now occupying across that country which will see the next battle. My route from Skiernewice was by way of Rawa, Noho, Mias, and Grojec, where the retreating Germans in October broke up the roads. The Russian engineers, however, have done wonders. I must naturally avoid too specific a description, but I cannot emphasize too strongly my admiration for the magnificent foresight, energy and military genius which are directing the operations on this front. No one who has seen the Russians at work can be doubtful of the issue of the war. I have seen retreats before but never a retreat so deliberate and unhurried as this.

To understand conditions, one must realize that the retreat now taking place is a retreat from the southern and central portion of the line, where the Russians are not pressed by the Germans. In the north, from Sochaczew to the Vistula, where fighting is the hottest and the German attacks heaviest, retreat has not commenced and at the time of writing so far from yielding, the Russian commander of that line has caused the Germans to fall back.

On Sunday the German attack culminated in a desperate attempt to carry the trenches. Eleven times they tried to rush the positions and each time they were driven back with fearful loss. Who can comprehend the minds of leaders who order that the men, when charging, shall leave their tunics behind them in the trench so that, although the man may be lost, his uniform shall remain to clothe another victim? The men who charged the Russian trenches did so in their shirts, and all the wounded remaining on our hands tell the same story.

Before charging, a drink of spirits mixed with ether was served to every man. This fact is amply confirmed. By morning the battle had drifted to the north and the Germans were transferring their guns toward the Vistula in reply to the heavy fire from the Russian artillery. After the slaughter of the night the intensity of the attacks diminished and slowly under the Russian pressure the German right, with the Russian infantry driving them and their great guns across the river, smashing their flags swung back.

The movement of the left and centre of the Russian line towards its new positions, was accomplished as calmly and systematically as if the army was manoeuvring in times of peace. The distinguished general in command took exhaustive measures to make his retreat as effective as an advance. He leaves to the Germans nothing by the earth they walk upon. The country is as barren as a beggar's hand of the means of making war. There is not a horse or a mouthful of feed which can help the enemy forward a single yard.

The Germans, who were fully informed of the contemplated Russian retirement by means of continual

MAIL SERVICE HAS BEEN REMARKABLY EFFICIENT DURING PRESENT WAR

London, Dec. 18.—(Correspondence)—Between 300 and 400 postal clerks and sorters have just been detached from the London force and sent to France to help in the distribution of Christmas mail. These men are all enlisted in the regular army and have been drilling like other men. If needed to defend a hot corner they are expected to drop their bags and shoulder their rifles. The army postal corps has branches at the various brigade headquarters, close to the entrenched lines. Mail service has been remarkably efficient during the war.

NOTED ENGLISH ACTOR WOUNDED AT THE FRONT; ANXIOUS TO RETURN

Robert Lorraine Wounded by Shrapnel Now at His Home to Convalesce.

London, Dec. 24.—Robt. Lorraine, the actor, recently wounded by shrapnel while serving with the British forces on the continent, has returned to England to convalesce. He says he expects to go back to the front in two months with the fastest aeroplane ever built in England.

Montreal Man Killed in Action—Montreal, Dec. 24.—Francis Carbonnier, a French reservist and formerly a chauffeur in the Montreal fire department, has been killed in France.

FINES IMPOSED ON BRITISH COLLIERIES

Washington, Dec. 24.—British colliers in the canal zone have recently violated quarantine regulations to the canal record of December 14, just received here, but no mention is made of alleged infractions of American neutrality.

From Dec. 5 to Dec. 14 two British colliers and two merchant vessels arrived at Cristobal on the Atlantic without bills of health in violation of the quarantine regulations. Fines of \$25 were imposed on the Roddam and Kiriwood, which brought coal from England and Wales. They were ordered to proceed through the canal and detained at Balboa until the district court had acted. The merchant steamers Nyanza and Atlantic City, sugar laden, were fined \$25 each. The collier, Mollina, was fined \$50, the Wyllyn, also coal laden, was fined \$50 and the Lena and Boyne with coal from Wales were fined \$11 each.

All of the six coal shipments were assigned to the British admiralty.

CAPTAIN IS BLAMED FOR RECENT DISASTER AT SEA

Washington, Dec. 24.—Captain Jas. Carey, of the Steamer Hanelei, wrecked on Duxbury reef near San Francisco recently with a loss of 31 lives, has been found guilty of carelessness of navigation by federal steam boat inspectors and his license revoked for two years. The department of commerce intends to place aids to navigation on the reef.

HOSTILE AIRSHIP FLEW OVER DOVER

London, Dec. 24.—A hostile aeroplane dropped a bomb over Dover this morning and then disappeared, according to a statement made this morning by the official press bureau. The text of the statement follows: "An aeroplane of the enemy dropped a bomb while passing over Dover this morning. The missile fell in a garden and exploded but no damage was done. The aeroplane was seen for a few seconds only. It left immediately, passing out over the sea. A British aircraft went up but did not see the enemy again. The weather was cloudy and foggy."

RUSSIANS ACTIVE IN THE BLACK SEA

Petrograd, Dec. 24.—Russian destroyers in the Black Sea have bombarded coast villages in the neighborhood of Khopa, 20 miles south of Batum. Turkish troops were in occupation of these villages, and the destroyers were sent to turn them out. Four fully laden feluccas were sunk in the course of the same operations.

JACK JOHNSON TRAINING FOR FIGHT WITH WILLARD

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 24.—Jack Johnson, the colored pugilist champion, is giving exhibitions here. He has commenced training for his fight with Jess Willard, which will be held next March, either in Cuba or Mexico. Johnson will remain in Argentina republic for some time, and plans to give a series of exhibition bouts. Johnson, who left the United States on account of white slave trouble, is evidently tired of Paris, where he has been living for two years and is using a little theatrical side play to help his exhibitions, as he says he is seriously thinking of making Buenos Ayres his permanent home.

REMOUNT PURCHASER



W. I. ELDER.

Who has been appointed remount purchaser by the Dominion government for the province of Manitoba. The appointment of a Brandon man to such an important post is a fitting recognition of the location of this city as a centre for such important work.

MIDDLEMAN TO BE ELIMINATED IN THE PURCHASE OF HORSES

Sales to be Conducted in all Parts of the Province by Government Remount Officers.

Winnipeg, Dec. 24.—Lt. Col. C. D. McRae, chief remount commissioner for the Canadian government is in the city arranging for purchases of cavalry and artillery horses for the Canadian militia. He will be here for a week, leaving for Calgary next Tuesday or Wednesday.

"It is our intention," said Col. McRae, "so far as possible to give the owner of every suitable horse in Western Canada an opportunity of selling his animal direct to the government. We do not intend to buy from middlemen or speculators. This is our desire to entirely eliminate the middleman and there is no reason why any commission or any other consideration should be paid to any person account of the sale of any horse to the Canadian government."

"I am appointing several purchasing committees, of which there will be two in the Province of Manitoba, three in Saskatchewan and a similar number in Alberta. These purchasing committees will cover their districts very thoroughly and will hold sale days at sufficient points therein to relieve the farmer or horse owner of the necessity of taking his horse further than 12 or 15 miles to a sales point. To give you a more accurate idea of just how thoroughly the provinces will be covered, I might add that at the present time we contemplate holding sales days at something over sixty points in the province of Manitoba."

"These sale days will be advertised by poster or otherwise at least one week in advance of the date set thus giving the farmer ample notice of the same. The manner in which it is proposed to make the purchases as outlined above is a new departure and one that can only be successful with the full co-operation of the farmers and horse owners throughout the different provinces."

"For the second contingent we will require fully three times as many riding horses as artillery horses."

"The manner in which it is proposed to purchase these horses should result in paying the farmer or owner an amount considerably in excess of that which he would receive from the middleman. However, to make it successful, we must have the full co-operation of the farmer."

The following is the specification of requirements: (a)—Riding horses, age 5 to 9 years, height 15 to 15.3 hands, weight 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. (b)—Artillery horses, age 5 to 9 years, height 15 to 15.3 hands, weight 1,100 to 1,300 lbs.

General requirements: All horses must be tested for wind by being galloped and punched; all riding horses must be "ridden for pace"; special attention must be paid to eyes and wind. The remount purchaser is the sole judge as to suitability.

MANY FRENCH GENERALS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED AT THEIR OWN REQUEST

Paris, Dec. 24.—A number of generals, according to a headquarters report, have been transferred at their own request from the active army to the reserve forces. Most of them are green in health owing to the hardships they have endured. It is said that none of them has been retired.

CHRISTMAS WEDDINGS

PULST-GEHRMAN.

A quiet wedding was solemnized at the Victoria avenue Methodist parsonage on Tuesday afternoon at 5.00 o'clock, when Miss Martha Gehrmann and Mr. Louis Pulst, both of Garske, N.D., were united in marriage by the Rev. S. Wilkinson. The young couple who were unattended, will reside in Garske.

MORRIS-HEATH.

Victoria avenue Methodist parsonage was the scene of a quiet wedding Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock when Miss Gladys Heath of this city and Mr. Alfred Morris of Winnipeg, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony by Rev. S. Wilkinson. The young couple were attended by the bride's father and brother.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris will reside in Winnipeg where Mr. Morris holds a position as railway clerk.

EVANS-PYE.

In the presence of a few intimate friends at the residence of the bride's parents, 841 Fourth street, the wedding was solemnized last evening of Miss Florence Pye to Mr. Frederick Grant Evans. Rev. S. R. Hammond of St. George's church performed the ceremony. The bride entered the drawing room on the arm of her father attired in midnight blue broad velvet with trimmings of shadow lace and touches of gold. Miss Grace Brown, who acted as bridesmaid, was daintily gowned in pale blue. The groom was attended by Mr. G. Quigley. Mr. Jas. Moffatt played Mendelssohn's wedding march. The flower girls were the misses, Elsie and Doris Pye, little sisters of the bride, prettily attired in pink crepe de chene. Following the signing of the register the guests sat down to a sumptuous supper, the health of the bride and bridegroom being proposed and responded to. The table decorations were very pretty and a beautiful array of presents was greatly admired.

The bride was for several years a very popular member of the Manitoba Govt. Telephone staff, while the groom is among the best known hotel men in the West. Mr. and Mrs. Evans will be at home to their friends at Room 24, Empire Hotel, after Jan. 1st.

IMLACH-PATTERSON.

Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Barnwell, 221 1st street, was the scene of a very pretty wedding when Margaret, daughter of Mrs. Patterson, St. Clair, Man., became the wife of Mr. Chas. O. Imlach, son of the late Mr. C. G. Imlach, of Brandon, the Rev. R. S. Laidlaw officiating.

The bride looked charming in a maxine crepe charmeuse silk trimmed with Brussels net. She wore a coronet of orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of bridal roses. Mrs. G. McFarlane, sister of the bride, who was maid of honor, wore a pale blue silk gown trimmed with lace. The Misses Kathleen and Jean Barnwell made sweet little flower girls and wore their gifts from the groom. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. G. McFarlane. Mrs. E. Barnwell acted as matron of honor and was becomingly attired in a pearl silk gown, trimmed with sable fur.

After the ceremony the happy couple received the best wishes of those present and proceeded to the bride's table which was centered with the wedding cake and decorated with white roses and holly. The wedding dinner completed the bride appeared in a checked suit with black picture hat to match. The happy couple received many handsome and useful presents and all good wishes to follow them to their future home near Brandon.

TAX ON TEA LIKELY AT NEXT SESSION OF FEDERAL HOUSE

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, is spending a week or so holidaying in the Laurentians near Montreal. He will not return to the capital until the end of the month. Mr. White will have the burden of sponsoring most of the legislation to be submitted to parliament next session. He is taking a needed rest in preparation for the work ahead of him.

Financial measures to meet the falling revenues and enable the government to meet the war expenditures and the cost of administration will be the chief subject of legislation. The deficit of the current fiscal year is likely to be nearly sixty millions, and in addition, a war loan of probably one hundred millions will have to be provided. The latter will be met through a loan from the Bank of England under arrangements with the British government. The deficit between revenue and expenditures apart from the war will be met in part by borrowings in the New York market and by increased taxation.

One of the likely methods of raising additional revenue is a tax on tea, which is now admitted free.

Buy goods made in Canada or in Great Britain, and thus employ Canadian and British workmen.

Remount Purchaser and Inspector are Appointed

Col. McRae, of Winnipeg, chief remount commissioner for Western Canada, has appointed Mr. W. I. Elder remount purchaser for Manitoba, with Dr. S. Robinson as inspector. If the winter and summer fair stable buildings can be secured, the mobilization of 1,500 horses will be made here. The permission of Col. Clark for the winter fair stables has been secured and it is expected that the summer fair directors will adopt a similar attitude. Mr. Elder visited Russell and Binscarth on Tuesday and Wednesday and purchased three carloads, about 50 head of horses, which will arrive in Brandon at five o'clock this afternoon.

GERMAN DEMANDS ON PEOPLE OF GHENT FOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Rotterdam, Dec. 23.—In order to celebrate Christmas the Germans have ordered Ghent to supply one million cigars, one million cigarettes and ninety thousand pounds of tobacco. They also have taken complete control of every wine cellar in town. One proprietor was ordered to supply 800 bottles of brandy, but the order taking his breath away he asked the soldier if a mistake had not been made. The soldier answered yes, and increased the demand to 1,600 bottles. The Germans have even requisitioned musical instruments.

KING GEORGE AWARDS MEDALS TO CANADIANS

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 23.—King George has awarded to Wm. Hughes, Chas. Fuller, of Ayonport, N.S., medals for gallantry in saving life at sea off Ayonport on October 4, 1913, when a small rowboat upset and the occupants, Captain Westley Munroe, Jas. Berk and John G. Thompson, two of the crew of the tug Chester, of Windsor, were thrown into the water. Capt. Munroe and Berk were saved through efforts of Hughes and Fuller, but Thompson sank before help came. The Lieutenant-governor will publicly present the medals.

"WILD BILL" DONOVAN TO MANAGE NEW YORK AMERICANS NEXT YEAR

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Wild Bill Donovan, whose pitching helped make Detroit champions of the American league several years ago and who of late has been turning out championship teams at Providence in the international league, will manage the New York Americans if the deal for the sale of that club is consummated. This was the most definite news today on the subject.

With the managership question practically settled, the American League leaders who met here in special session yesterday, felt that other conditions precedent to the sale of the New York club could be met. These included an adjustment of the price for the club and a chance for the new owners to purchase players who ordinarily would not be for sale.

It was learned that none of the club owners was willing to part with real stars of the organizations and rumors that men of the highest grade were to be "turned over" to Ruppert and Huston were squelched by the men most interested.

Canadian Died in Hospital

London, Dec. 24.—Hugh Alexander Peden, of the Canadian Seaforth Highlanders, who died in the Bedford hospital as the result of an accident at Salisbury Plains, came from Vancouver, B.C.

FIVE PERSONS DEAD IN TENEMENT HOUSE FIRE AT NEW YORK

Blaze Started in Basement and Spread Rapidly Up Elevator Shaft.

TRAPPED ON TOP FLOOR

Whole of the Five Victims Belong To One Family—Other Persons Suffer.

New York, Dec. 24.—Five members of a family occupying an apartment on the top floor of a five story tenement house at 16 West 49th street were trapped in a fire early today that started in the basement and spread rapidly up the elevator shaft. Four members of the family were suffocated before aid could reach them, the fifth dying soon after being taken to a hospital. The dead are:

Mrs. Mary Corso, 48 years old; her three sons, Charles, 21; Frank, 19 and Harry, 7, and her niece Grace, 8 years old.

The only surviving member of the family, Arthur Corso, a telephone operator at the polytechnic hospital, was on duty when the fire started and ordered out ambulances and surgeons to the scene. He did not learn of the deaths of his relatives until his mother was brought into the hospital, where she died.

Scores of other tenements in the building suffered from inhaling smoke and minor injuries in escaping from the building. The loss on the building was small.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS

The sole head of a family or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

Duties.—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within five miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the field. In certain districts a homesteader, in good standing, may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$2.00 per acre.

Duties.—Six months residence in each of three years after leaving homestead. Applicant also 50 acres extra cultivation. The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be submitted for cultivation under certain conditions.

Settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead right in certain districts. Price \$5.00 per acre. Duties.—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth \$200.

The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be submitted for cultivation under certain conditions.

W. W. CORY, C.M.G., Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—44585

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