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OUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

A Merry Christmas? Last year, two years ago, we hoped that ere another year spun round we would have peace. Our hopes have been blasted—and today peace seems farther away than ever.

A Merry Christmas? It can hardly be. The old expressions are inadequate to meet new conditions. But the Ontario may extend to its readers the hope that their Christmas time may be fragrant with treasured memories, and enriched by the firm belief that peace will show that all has not been in vain.

It may be that still another Christmas must roll around before peace will be restored; and it behooves us to resolve that there will be no slackening of effort, and no fruitless lament. Therefore, the Ontario extends its greetings to its friends, and its sympathy to those who have said, with it, a part of the cost of the world's fight for freedom.

HANNA RESIGNS; McPHERSON SUCCEEDS; CREELMAN NOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Premier Hearst Announces Changes in Cabinet By Which Provincial Secretary Relinquishes Duties, But Remains Minister Without Portfolio; W. D. McPherson Takes the Office—Premier Will Take Charge of Agricultural Department With Prof. Creelman as Commissioner.

The following official statements were handed out from the premier's office at the parliament buildings yesterday afternoon:

"Owing to press of private business the Hon. W. J. Hanna has been compelled to relinquish the portfolio of provincial secretary and registrar-general, and his resignation has been accepted by the prime minister.

"Mr. Hanna in quitting this department leaves behind him a record of successful service during the twelve years of service unexcelled by that of any public man in Ontario. His work in connection with prison reform and for the welfare of the feeble-minded and unfortunates in the province has made a reputation for him not only on this continent but in Europe, and will stand as an enduring monument of his ability and energy as a public man.

"Mr. Hanna will still continue as a member of the government without portfolio. The cabinet will therefore have the advantage of his mature advice and assistance in public matters, and particularly in connection with all matters pertaining to his late department, in which he will continue to take the greatest possible interest.

W. D. McPherson, K.C., M.L.A., has been offered and accepted the portfolio rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Hanna. Mr. McPherson, by his ability, experience and qualifications generally is eminently fitted for this work, and the close study he has made of the many problems presented by the returned soldiers, as chairman of the soldiers' aid committee, has specially fitted him to give advice to the government on all phases of this most important subject.

"The prime minister has decided that for the present he will personally take charge of the portfolio of agriculture rendered vacant by the death of the Hon. J. S. Duff.

"In order to facilitate the work mentioned, the prime minister will call to his assistance the best advice and help available. Prof. Creelman, the able and energetic president of the agricultural college at Guelph, and recognized as one of the most progressive agriculturists in America, will be appointed commissioner of agriculture."

FORCES TRANSFERRED FROM RUMANIAN TO MACEDONIAN FRONT.

ROME, Dec. 20.—It is rumored that large German forces have been detached from the armies in Rumania for a drive at the allies in Macedonia.

ONLY 180 LUSITANIA MEDALS STRUCK, SAY THE HUNS.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 20.—A Berlin despatch admits that a medal was struck commemorating the sinking of the Lusitania, but declares that only 180 have been distributed.

BRITISH ARTILLERY FIRE INCREASES IN VIOLENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—British headquarters reports that the artillery fire of the British is increasing at many points on the western front.

It is learned that the German staff has ordered an increase of fire from German batteries in an effort to halt the continual British fire which is telling upon the spirit of the German troops.

HEAVY ARTILLERY FIGHTING AT LOUVEMONT.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The French War Office reports continued heavy artillery fighting in the region of Louvemont, Chambray.

On the Macedonian front, rain and fog are holding up operations except for some patrol fighting.

MALLOWEEN CASE ENLARGED.

The Malloween alleged theft of an automobile which was to have been tried before Judge Deroche today, has been enlarged until January 10.

HOCKEY NOTES.

There is good ice at the Arena now and early this evening both the 235th intermediates and the Belleville Juniors will have their first work-out.

PROPOSITION OF RUBBER COMPANY

Deputation to Akron, Ohio, Reported at Public Meeting Last Night

GUARANTEE OF BONDS And Other Conditions Necessary—Opinions Voiced by Aldermen and Citizens.

(From Wednesday's Daily)

The guaranteeing of bonds to the amount of \$250,000, need low assessment, low water rates and sewer extensions are the terms on which the Miller Company of Akron, Ohio, will establish in Belleville their Canadian rubber factory. This announcement was made last night by Mayor Ketcheson, Ald. Deacon and ex-Mayor Ackerman at a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting of citizens in the city hall. Mayor Ketcheson presided. The question most under discussion was the guaranteeing of the ten-year bonds. Some thought Belleville should take a chance to land this half million dollar industry, but others thought the amount could be raised by citizens willing to take a chance. Senator Corby expressed a willingness to put up one-tenth of the amount, namely \$25,000. Finally the matter was referred to the city council and board of trade to prepare a statement after an investigation.

Ald. Deacon, the first of the Akron delegation to speak told of the phenomenal growth of that city and of its importance which is due to its rubber industries, twenty-eight rubber companies, the largest employing 16,000 hands. Belleville is better situated than Akron because of its railroads and the president of the Miller Company was impressed with Belleville. Mr. Long stated that the Maple Leaf Tires Ltd., but he thought it better if he could get associated with the Miller Co., employing 2,300 or 2500 people.

They are prepared to come to Belleville on a small, fixed assessment, cheap water, co-operation with the citizens and want to do business with Britain and her allies after the war. Individually I am satisfied that it has a real organization which would shortly be employing 250 to 300 people here.

They use a great deal of talc which we will supply from Madoc. We must get cheap water, improve the roads and sewers in that part of the city. If this plant comes to Belleville we will double our population in a few years. The city council cannot do everything. We must have the active support of the people."

Ex-Mayor H. W. Ackerman believed the Miller Company was an up-to-date company. The British inspector of rubber goods says the Miller products are first class.

The Proposition Mayor Ketcheson gave a few facts of the Miller Rubber Co. It has been in business 24 years, starting in a building less than \$600. Mr. Pfeiffer started making tires by hand process. In 1912 they had a turn over of \$1,274,000 and is estimated that in 1916 it will surpass \$6,500,000. The company is capitalized at twenty millions, 10 million preferred and 10 million common stock. Of this however only two million of each has been issued and issue of further stock is very restricted. The present floor space is 22 acres which will soon be doubled.

The directors stated their opinions in some such words as these: "If we can get things as we want them, we will go to Canada now, we did not intend to come so soon. If your people in Belleville are willing to give us financial aid as we want it, we will come to Belleville and we will arrange all our export trade from Canada." They agreed to put into the Belleville factory all their knowledge of rubber. "We want Belleville or some citizens to buy \$250,000 of our ten-year bonds, or the city to guarantee the \$250,000 bonds. We want the right to commence to pay off in three years."

Belleville has brought the Wilson Foundry here, the first outside plant in 20 years. It is now in operation. "We don't realize now good business conditions are in Belleville. Outsiders see it better than we do.

A City out of a Village Mr. Long, president of the Maple Leaf Tires Ltd., said that Akron had nothing of the situation of Belleville yet it had eight times our population. The rubber business has made Akron a city out of a village. Practically the whole business of Akron is rubber making. Canada has no rubber centre. Britain controls the rubber business. The Americans must come over. "You have a lot of good people here, but you have some dead ones (laughter). Property is not expensive in Belleville, as I bought a block of land for little more than my automobile cost. We have a grand country here. Every little town has to do what Belleville ought to do. I find that my company could not begin to handle the business that will come my way. Canada looks a good proposition to the Americans. They are coming in. The company simply asks the guarantee of its bonds. Their common stock is worth \$250,000 per share. About 25 or 30 per cent of their output goes out of the U. S. to English speaking countries. Why should rubber articles not be manufactured in Belleville? The company would employ from 700 to 1000. Taxes are high in Belleville because you have not enough houses. Get a few factories and taxes will go down. The Miller firm is a firm that impresses you.

"They will, if they come take over our factory and will want 50 acres extra. They would mean to build many more buildings."

Mr. Long said there were only four rubber concerns in Canada.

The Mayor announced that the buildings would be worth \$500,000. Col. Marsh was asked to say a few words. "The more industries we can get the better for the community. The proposition would have to be worked out in detail by the council and the board of trade. If the security were ample, I think we ought to go into it. If we are after big things, we want to do big things."

Belleville in Belleville Adequate support of new industries, by such means as a fixed assessment, and water rates, was Ald. Woodley's attitude. He praised the mayor for his indefatigable efforts in the city's behalf. "I am a firm believer tonight that things are coming to Belleville. If properly handled, it should have a population of 20,000 or 25,000 in five years. Our properties are too cheap here."

Mr. J. T. B. Flint stated: "A proposition of this kind is a very serious one. The city's credit would be pledged to a large amount. The security would be the plant. We would have to accept a first mortgage on the assets of the company, which would be double the amount of the bonds. This request seems to be a very reasonable proposition.

Mr. Flint had the highest confidence in the judgment of Mayor Ketcheson, Ex-Mayor Ackerman and Ald. Deacon, who had made a success of their businesses and who are familiar with the details of companies. "So far as I see, I am most heartily in accord with the proposition. The reason we have high taxes is because we have not such factories. Belleville is a nice place for people to live in, with many advantages but we cannot grow without factories." He cited the success of The Graham Company, Marsh and Henthorn and Wilson and Sons to show how they were causing a growth. As far as he knew, there was not a vacant house in town. "I am heartily in accord with the proposition but before we enter into it, I think the council should see

that we are properly protected." Mayor Ketcheson said "The council cannot do it. It would have to be put to the people. If the people do not think it worth while to negotiate further we can drop the proposition. To put it to the people will cost perhaps \$400 or \$500."

Opinions by Representative Citizens Dr. J. J. Farley thought that the four companies now in Canada could supply the demand as far as export was concerned. Britain makes better rubber articles than are made in America. "I don't think we could afford to go into a speculation of this sort for export trade. It would be lifting off more than we can chew."

Dr. Farley suggested agreeing to all the terms except the guaranteeing of the bonds and extending an invitation to the Miller Company to come to Belleville.

Ald. Duckworth declared "we have need for all the industries possible. To guarantee bonds for \$250,000 seems a very great proposition for a city of this size. If it should turn out a success, it would make no difference whether the bonds were a million or not. But if it could be arranged that Belleville would suffer no loss by guaranteeing the bonds, I would hold up both hands. I would hate to see Belleville lose."

Mr. W. C. Springer said: "Anything in the shape of a factory for Belleville is a good thing. I think Belleville is slow. We have not got as many factories as we should have got. I am pleased with the report brought back. If the assets of the company are sufficient to guarantee the bonds, I don't think the city could stand to lose anything."

Mayor Ketcheson said in Canada we are not manufacturing 50 per cent of the tires used in Canada. Tires are 42 1/2 per cent dearer in Canada than in the States. They should be made cheaper in Canada than in the U. S. and also escape the customs duty. Our purchases from the U. S. show we have not factories enough. Why should we not manufacture here? Outside of Belleville there is one factory. They say "you have a fine town, but you have more knockers to the square inch than any place in Ontario." Let the knockers pry here and grow rich. We want quiet knocking the city and take a chance and make an effort. This is a fair sized meeting. But there is not enough to give a representative opinion. The people should be interested enough to attend.

Senator Corby Willing to Subscribe. Hon. Senator Harry Corby said if the city decided in favor of it, petitions could be circulated among the 800 property owners before a vote is taken. "You know that to get business you must take a chance. The citizens have to say 'Are we willing to go behind these bonds or if it fails, put up \$15,000 a year in taxes?'"

"I am prepared tonight to take one-tenth of the bonds or \$25,000 to show my patriotism (cheers) and take my chances in that deal. If the city guarantees the bonds I will take more. But don't say I told you to guarantee the bonds."

"I am glad to see the mayor in the place he is in. I think today we have a council and a mayor who are worthy of the city of Belleville"—cheers

Ald. Deacon said it might not be necessary for the city to guarantee bonds. "If 150,000 or \$200,700 were

birth it celebrates. He came an arbitrator for peace. In the "inn" for Him there was "no room." In this time of the world's awful crisis, He is come! Shall we not cast out all that makes for war, and give Him room in the heart and life, that He might fill us with His perfect peace? Then shall our eyes see beyond the battle smoke; our ears shall hear, above the roar of warring strife, the "Angels' Song," then shall we love, as He hath loved, even those who hate us.

"The Christmas spirit," in its unity, and bond of peace, will widen the sphere of our spiritual fellowship of comforting joy. We shall think of our soldier boys away from the home and mother. We shall think with sympathy, of the mothers, sweethearts, wives and sisters whose eyes look across the sea to far off trenches.

And so we sing:— "Where deeper glows the holy By lonely hearths afar, Or camp-fires challenge night and rain, Red sentinels of war, On shore or sea, or severed By ocean shoreless wide, We claim our own once more and keep With them the Christmas-tide, Clear ring the bells for fairer dawns, Yet fair, O Christ, this day— Thy gift hold, Thy heart enfold Our loved ones far away."

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT By Rev. A. M. Hubly.

As surely as the Christmas season has visited our world again, so surely does its sweet spirit of good will pervade the hearts and homes of all people, except perhaps where Herod-like hatred still slays the innocents, in order to perpetuate the reign of sensual pleasure, lust and pride.

Let those who feel the loss of loved ones, and cannot dry the tears, nor calm the throbbing heart, ache remember "Christ is born!" Through the light of life which shineth from His outspread wings be obscured by the dust of death, and smoke of battle, yet the vision of faith faded not.

"The Lord is born!" Through the joy of the multitude of the just be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about Him; Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne."

All day the heavens were black with beetling cloud monsters, like warring battalions charging one another. At eve, shattered fragments of cloud, and mist, and storm were piled upon the horizon. Upon this confused and turbulent wreck of warring elements, the hidden sun threw back his light, kindling and transfiguring it all into a scene of splendor far surpassing anything which could be witnessed in unclouded morning, or meridian day. "The Christmas spirit" gives the light of love and peace. It casts upon the heart a spiritual sun which animates the soul to deeds of kindness in honor, and for the sake of Him whose lowly

WAR IS TO BE PRESSED SAYS LLOYD GEORGE

Clear and definite support will be given France and Russia in their refusal to accept peace, save on the Entente Powers' terms.

Britain will insist on complete guarantees against the menace of Prussian militarism.

Peace without reparation is impossible, and to enter into peace proposals without knowledge of what they are would be putting the Allies' head into the German noose.

Abandonment of the fight without gaining the objective would be a worse crime than wantonly to continue the struggle. The Rumanian blunder, at the worst, can only prolong the war.

A strong policy will be taken toward Greece, including the recognition of agents of former Premier Venizelos.

The Irish question is due to a misunderstanding, and its solution would be a great victory for the allied cause.

The cabinet, as reconstructed, is best adapted for war purposes, and will ensure prompt decisions, lack of which has brought disaster in the past.

Universal national service under direction of Lieut.-Col. Sir Neville Chamberlain will be a great answer to Germany's man-power bill. This will involve a great system of compulsory enrolment for industrial purposes and classification of industries as essential or otherwise.

The government will control all shipping, as it now controls the railways.

A conference with representatives of the overseas dominions to be held soon on war matters.

Active building program, to replace merchantmen sunk by the enemy, will be begun.

A food controller is needed, because the harvests of Canada and the United States have been failures and that of Britain poor.

Appeal is made to the nation to assist the government in distributing its resources equably. The people as a whole must shoulder part of the burden of victory.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The announcement in the House of Commons today by David Lloyd George, the new Prime Minister that the first act of his administration was the rejection of the proposal of the central powers for a peace conference constituted one of the most momentous scenes which the oldest parliamentary veteran had ever witnessed.

The new premier declared that before the Allies could give favorable consideration to such an invitation, they must know that Germany was prepared to accede to the Allies' terms, giving "complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees," and "to enter a conference upon the invitation of Germany, proclaiming herself victorious without any knowledge of her proposals would be putting our heads into a noose with the end of the rope in Germany's hands."

Mr. Lloyd George asserted that at the moment Germany was penning the note, asserting her convictions as to the rights of other nations, she was dragging Belgians into slavery. He announced that the note presented through Washington contained no proposals of terms, but was a paraphrase of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech, and that the allies had separately concluded to reject it, although they had informally exchanged views, and would within a few days present a joint reply.

Mr. Asquith, the former premier, seconded Lloyd George's decision with even stronger words; and almost at the same moment Earl Curzon was informing the lords that the government would enter no conference that did not guarantee for Europe the free and independent existence of nations great and small. The Marquis of Crewe affirmed the approval of the members of the late government.

The day was a doubly important one for the commons because the new premier unfolded his program for wide reaching war measures, and Mr. Asquith closed the last chapter of his nine years of leadership with an accounting of his war stewardship.

The principal feature of Mr. Lloyd George's program is a measure for national service matching Germany's latest scheme, whereby every citizen will be liable for enrolment, to perform work for which the authorities consider him best equipped.

Arthur Neville Chamberlain, mayor of Birmingham, and a member of the famous family whose energy and business capacity are rated high, will be director of the national service, with civil and military directors responsible to him.

The premier prefaced his review of the situation by the statement that Britons did their best in time of danger; that the country should be told unpleasant facts, and that would give, not a dark, but a stern view of the outlook.

He deplored the mistakes that had been made regarding Rumania. He said the government had decided to deal firmly with Greece and would recognize the agents of former Premier Venizelos.

subscribed you could bring it here. I don't believe Belleville can gamble with one industry to extent of a quarter of a million. We might go as far as \$50,000. I believe we have fifty or sixty men in this city who will subscribe to \$150,000 or \$200,000. I don't think we could pass a bylaw in Belleville for \$250,000 guarantee of bonds.

"I am satisfied that this is a good thing for Belleville, as we don't get up, it will take the backbone out of the citizens. But our bonds sell high. We don't want to hurt that credit." Mayor Ketcheson said he was not

recommending the guarantee but merely placing the proposition before the citizens.

Ald. Whelan voiced his opinions. He looked to a larger Belleville and urged the securing of new industries. On motion of Senator Corby and Col. Marsh, it was unanimously decided that the city council and the board of trade investigate and draw up an agreement that might be submitted to the electors before submitting a bylaw.

The gathering broke up after the singing of the National Anthem.