

## GETTING READY FOR NEXT WAR

Vast Experiments in Mesopotamia With Airplanes and Chemical Weapons

### DISTRICT SEALED AREA

Correspondent Tells of the Mystery of British Operations on Euphrates

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The activities of the British War Office in Mesopotamia are to-day giving rise to serious reports in diplomatic circles in both London and Paris. It is stated as a fact, although it cannot be substantiated or denied officially, that the British War Office is using Mesopotamia as a secret base for intensive experiments with airplanes, aerial torpedoes and poison gas bombs in preparation for the next great war.

Not Allowed Outside Bagdad.

I heard this report first about two weeks ago and began to make inquiries. My informant was a responsible official of a foreign Government, temporarily in London. While in Geneva attending the first meetings of the League of Nations Assembly I heard reports about military experiments in Mesopotamia, but they were not in a form to be reported, because everything surrounding the activities of the British in Mesopotamia was vague. No foreigners were allowed outside Bagdad, and no official observers of foreign Governments were permitted to enter Mesopotamia, so that it was impossible to obtain the information from any travellers or officials.

### American Interests.

I shall report the story to-day with all the facts which have come into my possession for two reasons; one is that if the report is authentic, then this may be one of the reasons why the American Government, particularly the Navy Department, is following the policy of building a larger navy and making extensive preparations for another world conflict; the other reason is that if the report is not true, then the question arises, why the British Government has refused the request of the American Government to send observers into Mesopotamia, and why the British authorities in Mesopotamia have refused permission to representatives of American oil interests to visit the oil fields of that country.

### Sealed to Observation.

Whatever the outcome of the publication of these alleged military experiments of the British in Mesopotamia may be, the fact remains, that the mystery of Mesopotamia is to-day engaging the serious attention of more than one foreign Government, for, as far as is known, Mesopotamia is the only spot in the British Empire which is sealed to all foreign observation.

### The mystery of Mesopotamia first

engaged the attention of the diplomatic world during the summer when the Rolls Royce Automobile Company announced that it would be unable to deliver cars as ordered. Then explanation given a few days later was that the British War Department had commandeered all of the output of that company for the use of the British army in Mesopotamia. The assumption of the public was that the automobiles were being sent to "Mesopot," as Mesopotamia is called by the public.

### Expedition Coastly.

But it now develops that instead of cars being sent there, airplanes were shipped. A further assumption was that all the war material sent to Mesopotamia was not used in subduing the Arabs. Still the public, and particularly the British Press, could not understand why it cost the British Government nearly £100,000,000 (normally about \$500,000,000) annually to pacify Mesopotamia. Although there were frequent debates in both Houses of Parliament, the War Department never explained why the Mesopotamia expedition was so costly.

When the American State Department, however, questioned the secret oil agreement between France and England, made in San Remo, there were other reasons which actuated the Government, and it is not unlikely that the British military experiments were as much in the mind of Secretary Colby as the oil agreement.

### Experiments on Vest Scaled.

Although no reference was made publicly to war preparations there, the charges which have arisen and

which the British have not denied, are that the War Office has been concentrating a large number of staff officers—air experts and experts in chemical warfare in Mesopotamia, and that these officers, with a vast amount of equipment, have been experimenting on a large scale with gas bombs and manoeuvring with airplanes.

For such experiments Mesopotamia is an excellent location because it is one spot in the world where such experiments could be conducted with absolute secrecy, so long as the Government prohibited foreigners from visiting that country during the British occupation.

### Experiments Ended.

That there have been military activities with airplanes and poison gas is substantiated by the fact that until very recently the War Department has been sending only officers experienced in these forms of warfare to Mesopotamia.

Last week was the first week in which the War Office is known to have cancelled orders already issued to certain officers in London to proceed to that country.

This latest action of the War Office has given rise to the rumor that the experiments have ended, and that, at a future date, Mesopotamia may again be opened to the outside world; but meanwhile Mesopotamia is blocked.

### RED IN U.S. DEPORTED

Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, Ordered From Moscow, to Return to Russia

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, Russian Soviet "Ambassador" to the United States, to-day notified the Department of Labor that upon instruction from the Moscow Government just received by cable he will surrender himself for deportation Jan. 3.

The Moscow advices directed Martens not to appeal from the order for his deportation, signed by Secretary of Labor Wilson recently, but to return to Russia as soon as possible with his entire Russian staff.

Cancellation of all contracts negotiated for the Russian Government with United States firms, said by Martens to amount to some \$50,000,000, was ordered.

The cable from Moscow was a reply to Martens' report of his deportation order, and was sent by George Tchitcherin, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, who denounced the present United States Administration for its "hostility."

"We must resign ourselves to the fact that Russia, for the time being, due to the hostile attitude of the present American Administration, will have to get along without its co-operation," the message said.

"You are instructed to return to Russia without delay, together with the Russian citizens who are members of your staff, and to cancel and liquidate, in accordance with instructions you will receive from the Commissariat of Foreign Trade, all orders placed with American firms."

### WAITED TWO DAYS FOR LAND OFFICE TO OPEN; LOSES OUT

EDMONTON, Alta., Dec. 29.—For two days and three nights there sat in front of the Dominion land office front door here a man who wanted to be on hand when the time came. It was cold work some of the time, but he hung to it with occasional relief, and the old boom days of the Edmonton land rush were lived over again by at least one faithful watcher. And then at the last moment, after a hard night and a cold one, he left his place to get warmed up, and somebody else got ahead of him for first turn at the land office.

It was all because a block of land in the Rocky Mountain forest reserve was to be thrown open. A lease on the land had expired and it was to be available for oil lease. The man who watched and waited so long, only to lose out at the last, wouldn't say whom he represented, but it was understood that he was acting for some of the interests already connected with the oil industry developments in central and northern Alberta.

### BARRISTER IS INJURED.

While shovelling snow from the steps of his house in Morrisburg last week, E. F. Lyle, barrister, was struck on the shoulder and face by several large cakes of ice which fell from the roof without warning. Fortunately no bones were fractured although Mr. Lyle is still undergoing medical treatment.

### POSTMISTRESS RESIGNS.

Owing to the state of her health, Mrs. Leacy has been obliged to resign as postmistress of Cardinal. She has accepted that position for many years.

## Belleville's Christmas Decorations

During the last and most busy week of Christmas, Front Street shops have had on their festive clothes and have looked exceptionally attractive.

Many a tempting article has been sighted amidst frothing and snow. Amongst the many quaint designs was one where King Doll sat in state in all his glittering gowns and crimson robes welcoming the Cupid Queen in the Palace of Gift Suggestions, displayed by the McIntosh Bros. Another design was Queen Dolly greeting three new-born cupid dolls with fairies flying over their heads. Teddy bears and life size baby dolls formed the audience.

Vermilyea's Shoe Store showed that the window had been studied in view of the forthcoming season and exhibited some very dainty Christmas presents in the way of cosy slippers, etc.

The Belleville Pharmacy showed nice taste in their selected gift suggestions and the stock was soon reduced. Belleville merchants do not hesitate over their windows, they have been known to be the best and neatest show windows in the province and they intend to uphold their reputation.

Mr. D. C. Sinclair of the Belleville Show Card Company says he has been kept on the move this season and many of the gaily decorated windows of Belleville have been due to him.

Windows should always pay their way and that is what they have been fitted for. Never neglect displays. The public want to see some of the goods without having to come in and ask. Study your windows and change often, says Mr. Sinclair, and then the business comes. Remember the verse that was published a short while ago:—

"The man who tries to advertise in short and sudden jerks is the man who's always kicking because it never works." Advertise, display and then sell.

### JAPAN IS READY NOW TO LIMIT ARMAMENTS

Naval Program Explained By Japanese Ambassador in London.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Supplementing the statement issued through a press agency that the Japanese policy had always been directed to maintaining friendly relations with China and the United States, Baron Hiyashi, the Japanese ambassador in London, who attended the League of Nations conference at Geneva, says in an interview with the Evening Standard:

"The value of the work done at Geneva is not doubted. Just think of the international court that has been established. I do not believe we should ever have been able to bring that court into existence without the League of Nations. There are so many international questions that can be considered by such a body with beneficial results that otherwise would be absent. The more expressions of views on disarmament will be of great value. This question of disarmament is, of course, one of the most important questions of the world. There is no fear of course, for any immediate war. I don't think that in the near future any power on earth will be prepared to go to war, if one excepts the Soviet government."

"Under these circumstances there are people who regard merely as foolish any increase at the present time in war vessels. As to Japan, it should be remembered that our naval programme was produced even before the war, but from the time of its inception it has been checked again and again on account of internal conditions. I am quite sure Japan, in common with all other nations who see the advantage from the extremely important financial point of view of limiting armaments would be ready to do anything that lies in its power with that object in view."

### CHANGED HANDS.

The Thomas Cowan farm, west side of Orono, has changed ownership. Mr. William Sherwin, of Rossenath, near Cobourg, being the purchaser. Mr. Sherwin gets the 700 acres north of the C.N.E. tracks, and the fine residence (built about 25 years ago by Mr. Andy Pollard, then owner) one of the finest in the township of Clarke, also other buildings.

### TWELVE GEESSE STOLEN.

Mr. James Dickson, Orono, had twelve fine geese stolen from his farm during the past week. After the first raid the door was padlocked but this was easily burst open with a bar.

## OBITUARY

### MRS. McLEAN

Emilie Berford, widow of the late Neil McLean, of this city, passed away on December 28th, 1920 at eight o'clock in the morning. She had been ill for some time and her death was not unexpected, though it came suddenly at the end. The late Mrs. McLean was a daughter of William Rutherford, of Pittsfield, Berford, Eng., who was born in Dublin, Ireland, but settled at Perth, Ont., and of Susan, his wife, daughter of James Hamilton Powell, late Colonel of the 103rd Regiment and High Sheriff of the Bathurst District.

In 1869 Miss Berford, as she then was, married Neil McLean of the service of the Bank of Montreal and fourth son of the Honorable Archibald McLean, Chief Justice of Upper Canada. After his retirement from the bank, Mr. McLean settled in Belleville where he lived until his death about ten years ago.

The late Mrs. McLean is survived by three children, Miss Violet McLean at the family residence, 51 Hillcrest Avenue, Norman Berford McLean, late Major 124th Bt. C.E.F., now Resident Engineer of the St. Lawrence Ship Channel and Evan Hamilton McLean, late Capt. and Paymaster 286th Bt., C.E.F., now County Judge Prince Edward County.

### MRS. LUCY SANDERS

The remains of Mrs. Lucy Sanders, widow of the late Rev. Dr. W. J. Sanders, a former resident of Belleville, will arrive here at noon on Friday from Vancouver. Burial will be made at Belleville cemetery.

## Letters to the Editor

### Editor Ontario.

Having been requested by a large number of taxpayers to become a candidate for the City Council of Belleville for 1921, and having accepted the nomination it has come to my notice that statements are being made that by reason of my residence being at the City Limits I am not qualified for the office of Councillor. I wish to state that I am fully qualified under the Act as regards residence, and also am a property owner to a considerable extent in the City of Belleville as well as an employer of labor dispensing a large payroll during the year. I am also financially interested in industrial enterprises in Belleville and therefore have a deep interest in the business of the city being conducted in a business-like way, progressive but economical. For a number of years I served as a member of the Board of Education and the best interests of the City of Belleville have always been my first thought.

That I am fully qualified for the position of City Councillor can not be disputed and if elected will give my best endeavor to promote the best interests of the city of Belleville at the Council board.

Yours for a Better Belleville,  
G. A. BENNETT.  
Belleville, Dec. 29, 1920.

### MARRIED.

WOODS—STONE—On Dec. 14, 1920, at the Tabernacle parsonage, 246 Church St., by Rev. W. Elliott, Mr. Harold Woods, of Belleville, to Miss Viola Stone, of Bloomfield.

### MITCHELL—DESHANE—On Dec. 28, 1920, at the Tabernacle parsonage, 246 Church St., by Rev. W. Elliott, Mr. Lloyd Frederick Mitchell, of Trenton, to Miss Evelyn W. Deshane, of Belleville.

### Home Brew Has Kick

But Is Not Mellow

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Those who brew their own liquor have not improved the product in their slightest months of practice. Herdman, C. Lythgoe, Chief of the division of food and drugs of the State Department of Health, said in his annual report to-day, "It's all raw stuff."

The home brewers, however, developed more kick for their makes in the year, samples reaching the State health authorities showing an increase in alcohol content from 13.54 last year to 23.40 in the past 12 months.

Expert Lythgoe had a word of advice for the legion of home brewers. 1,428 samples of whose work were received by the department. The only way the liquor now being put out can be improved, he said, is to let it ripen for four or five years.

## CURLING BEGINS IN BELLEVILLE; THREE RINKS OPEN THE SEASON

Devotees of the roarin' game opened the season locally last night with three "friendly" games. President Wray and a score or so of enthusiastic curlers were there.

The ice was in fair shape; good enough as a matter of fact to permit of no complaints on that score. Everything points to a most successful season. It will in reality be opened with more pomp and circumstance next Saturday (New Year's Day) when the President-Vice-President match will be played.

Dr. M. A. Day, the vice-president like the president lost his initial game of the season.

President Wray expects to take three or four rinks to Kingston next week, where the centenary of the Kingston Curling Club will be "celebrated" on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Next Saturday's event here—an annual one—between President and Vice-President will be awaited with great interest. It will be run off as a charity event. Each player will be asked for two shillings or so, the takings to be given to a local institution.

## AMBITIOUS ATHLETIC PLAN FORMED IN ENGLAND TO TRAIN HER SOLDIERS

Sir W. Beach Thomas, ex-president of the Oxford University Athletic Club, cabling from London says:

Every British soldier is to have his club—his country club, with all athletic and some social advantages. Two thousand such clubs are to come into being and over 600 are already in preparation. In short, the most grandiose athletic scheme ever designed by a nation is now being pushed forward with extreme energy "from Aberdeen to Land's End, and from Galway to Ipswich."

The root idea is that every battalion say 900 to 1,000 men, shall have provided for it a club of the following nature:

The boundary is a running track. Within its circle are two football grounds, one cricket ground, and a pavilion. Tennis grounds are fitted in where possible. A groundsman in charge. Such, roughly, is to be the standard country club for the soldier.

Some of the ground now being levelled, his engineering schemes and will take three years or so to finish.

### Regulars and Volunteers.

The arrangements for such clubs for the regular army are more or

less complete, and now the officers concerned are turning their attention to the Territorial army. Officers have visited every area in the country to inspect facilities. The Army Council is understood to have become enthusiastic about the scheme, which should help to make the army the most physically fit in the world, and make generally effective what has been called the "Olympic idea."

Financial help has been given from the canteen profits. The idea issues largely from the work of Colonel Campbell, famous as a lecturer on the bayonet, and Colonel Kentish during the war, and at Aldershot before the war.

Revolutionizes Training.

Colonel Campbell, from his camp at Haredelet, near Boulogne, during the war so revolutionized training that Haredelet became a place of pilgrimage from many nations, and yet more remarkable—from our own Board of Education.

Extraordinary success has been achieved in the purchase of grounds almost within the circle of many towns. It is not unlikely that a civilian scheme on a grand scale will presently be launched, and in any event the country club, somewhat on the American model, is certain of a new vogue in England.

## CHASED THE DISC FOR AN HOUR; BOTH TEAMS HAD GOOD WORK-OUT

Local intermediate hockey aspirants put in an hour again last evening chasing the disc. Some improvement in passing and shooting and a little less stiffness all round were to be seen. The boys need a lot of practise yet, however, and will be kept at it hammer and tongs.

The Juniors also mixed it pretty well and some of them will do nicely.

Gavin, the new man, who will likely make a defence position on the intermediate outfit showed up for the first time last night. He checks well and is not too selfish with the puck, but he is not yet in the best of condition.

### Boiland, towards the close of the workout, was the target for everybody and his eye seems to be as good as ever. He stopped one or two sliders from close in that would have made some people dodge. Of the old-timers Hagerman is perhaps in the best shape, but all are working hard and all are out to do their best.

Finkle, who has been approached with regard to turning out, says he finds himself too busy. He will be missed.

Channing, a star junior defence man of last year, turned out for the first time.

Ice-maker Rath has done well for the short time he has had freezing weather. The sheet is very good except in one place at the far end. It ought to improve rapidly.

## IN THE WAKE OF SPORT NEWS

Wilbur Ray, the only athlete who has won a letter in four different sports—at the Oklahoma A. and K. College here, has signed a contract with the Philadelphia Americans as a "pitcher."

Joe Stecher, who lost his crown as heavyweight wrestling champion to Ed. "Strangler" Lewis in New York last week, is in a hospital in Omaha suffering with neuritis. The specialist attending him said that the attack was caused by straining his left arm in the Lewis match. He probably will be out of the game for the rest of the winter, it was said.

Roach, who played such a good game in goal for Aura Lee against Varsity, has been granted permission by the O.H.A. to play for Granites this season. If Roach can repeat his Varsity game, Granites will prove strong contenders for the championship, as their weakness so far has been in the nets.

Grand jury indictments of "Babe" Bolton, Karl Maggart and William Hunter, alleging that they conspired to pre-arrange decision in Pacific Coast League baseball games, were quashed by Judge Willis in the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Willis held that the indictments did not allege a criminal act.

Early in the season it was whispered that St. Patrick's was trying to secure McLeod, the big Collingwood defence player, who is now residing in Welland. Probably they will land him now that the O.H.A. has refused him permission to play this season for Welland. "Red" Green, the former Sudbury player, and now with Port Colborne, who has turned down by the O.H.A., might make a good man for St. Patrick's also.

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## COUNCIL

### BAYSIDE

Mr. and Mrs. Will Blair, Xmas at Mrs. Blair's mother Jas. Forges, Front of Side. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blair, Mrs. Will Blair and daughter, attended the Xmas at Mrs. Aikens Church, and reported good ones.

The Ladies' Aid of White met at Mrs. Will Blair's, Thursday in December. They were well attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Megginson, Xmas with his sister, at St. Mrs. Geo. Prosser, of spent the week end with Mrs. Joe Megginson, Front of Mrs. Loveless spent Xmas at Mrs. Fred Gardener.

### WALLBRIDGE

The Sidney Council were ed by acclamation, W. Reeve; Clem Ketcheson, D. Coun. R. F. Malloy, Tyeard. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. are spending the Xmas holidays with Mrs. E. Jno. Spencer, of the 7th Con. Mr. R. Caverley and sister of Bowmanville, are visiting Mrs. T. A. Hinchliffe and friends in Sidney.

Mrs. T. Tummson, of Iva, visiting her daughter, Mrs. Miss G. Hinchliffe, of spent over the week end with Jno. Hinchliffe.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Wilson, of Valley; Mr. and Mrs. B. F. of Plainfield, also Mr. Jas. H. of Gilmour, and other friends Xmas dinner with Mrs. Paul of Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Bartlett, boro, visited Mr. and Mrs. over Sunday.

Mr. Ira Scannel, of Trenton, over Sunday at the home of Nobes.

Mr. Jno. Phillips is spending Xmas holidays with his daughter, Mrs. H. Kerr, Toronto.

### 5TH LINE OF SIDNEY

Mr. Tom Bartlett spent over the week-end with his daughter, Mrs. Beckstead from Ottawa, been spending the past two weeks visiting her daughter, Mrs. Christie.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb. Hamblin, of Peterboro, spent Xmas and Sunday at Mr. J. Cullough.

Mr. and Mrs. J. and C. V. and son, spent last Sunday at the home of the farmers' Mrs. J. P. P. of Turner Settlement. The High School Pupils of line are holidaying under the tent roofs.

### CARRYING PLACE

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Jone family spent Sunday at the home of Mr. Ed. Rowe.

Mrs. Morrison from St. Cines, spent Christmas with her son, Mr. Wm. Corrigan.

Miss Lillian Leveridge is spending the Christmas holidays at the parental roof.

Mrs. Wm. Vangeon spent Christmas in Wooler.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Garbutt, entertained about twenty of their relatives on Christmas Day.

Mrs. Moorman, of Belleville, spending the winter with her son, Mr. Wm. Garbutt.

Mrs. Wm. Garbutt and Mrs. Dauphine spent Thursday evening in Trenton.

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Young entertained a number of their relatives Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith Rowe and Wm. Dauphine spent Friday evening at Mr. Garbutt's.

Mrs. Hoff and daughter spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Garbutt.

Miss Charbet Nelson, of Toronto, is spending her holidays under parental roof.

Mr. Russel Young has gone home to spend the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Young.

### HALLOWAY

The Christmas Tree on Monday night was well rendered, also one at the Baptist church on Tuesday night.

Mrs. M. Tummson, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. A. Town for the past few weeks, spent Christmas Day with her daughter, Sine at Wallbridge.

The factory meeting held on Monday last was adjourned till February. Mr. H. Garrison has sold his share in the firm and expects to leave for New York.