

FORCED SERVICE MAY BE NEEDED, SAYS PREMIER.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—Correspondence between Sir Robert Borden and the executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Council having reference to national service, was given out last night by the labor executive. The premier says that the national service plan does not involve conscription. He declines, however, to give the assurance that it will never come, stating that if it were necessary to preserve the existence of the state he should not hesitate to act accordingly.

Under the circumstances the executive appeals to organized labor to fill in the national service cards.

The premier's letter addressed to J. C. Watters, president; P. M. Draper, secretary, James Simpson, and R. A. Rigg, M.P., vice-presidents, reads as follows:

"Prime Minister's office:
Ottawa, Dec. 27, 1916.

"Dear Sirs: With reference to our interview of this morning I repeat once more that the proposals for national service are not connected with conscription. Rather the idea was to make an appeal for voluntary national service which would render unnecessary any resort to compulsion.

"You have asked for an assurance that under no circumstances will conscription be undertaken or carried out. As I stated to you at our interview I must decline to give any such assurance. I hope that conscription may not be necessary, but if it should prove the only effective method to preserve the existence of the state and of the institutions and liberties which we enjoy I should consider it necessary, and I should not hesitate to act accordingly. For your further information with regard to the purposes of national service I enclose copies of the order-in-council under which the director-general and the directors of national service have been appointed.

"You have urged upon me the importance and indeed the necessity that the accumulated wealth of the country should bear its due proportion of contribution and sacrifice in this war. The government has already accepted and acted on this principle. Any further proposals in that regard must be submitted to parliament in the first instance after obtaining the sanction and approval of the crown.

"The ranks of organized labor in Canada have made a splendid response during the past two and a half years to the call for service to the state. Many members of your organizations are fighting at the front, and not a few have made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of liberty, humanity and civilization. The men at the front have the right to feel that we in Canada are doing our utmost to aid and sustain them in their devoted efforts for that cause. This, indeed, is at once the inspiration and ideal of national service, that each shall do his part as best he can, and to the greatest advantage of the state to which he owes allegiance.

"R. L. BORDEN."

BRITAIN AND FRANCE AGREED UPON REPLY.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Britain and France have fully agreed upon the terms of the reply to be made to the peace proposals of the Teutonic allies, the Associated Press learned at the foreign office today. It is hoped here that the answer may be despatched by the end of this week, but other nations of the entente, although agreed in principle, may require verbal alterations which would necessitate further delay.

It is expected that once this reply has been forwarded, the response to President Wilson's note will follow very shortly.

Russia's reply to the German peace proposals was telegraphed Monday to the French Government, says a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. It adds that the Swiss minister has handed to the Russian foreign minister the note of the Swiss government supporting President Wilson's note.

SEIZURE IS MADE OF STOLEN NICKEL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—Two tons of scrap metal have been seized by the Dominion police in Montreal on the premises of Frankel Brothers, Dalhousie Square, in connection with the alleged theft of nickel scrap from the Quebec Arsenal, for which nine people in Quebec are under arrest.

The Dominion police authorities at Quebec traced the sale of the nickel from the Reid Co., Limited, of Quebec to Montreal. No attempt was made by the firm to conceal the nickel, which it is said they bought in the usual way from the Reid Co., who are wholesale dealers in junk at Quebec, just as are Frankel Bros. in Montreal.

That the purchase of metal from munition plants is, as a regular thing, done by wholesale dealers in metals, and shipped out of the country under special permission from the Dominion government, was the statement made by H. Frankel of Frankel Bros. at whose premises the Dominion government seized the cupro-nickel scrap, alleged to be part of the proceeds of a theft from the Quebec arsenal.

FIVE PASSENGERS KILLED IN REAR-END COLLISION.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—Five men were killed and six injured last evening in a rear-end collision, when the C.P.R. Toronto train for Montreal ran into the local train from Cornwall to St. Polycarpe. The local train was standing on a siding at the time and the switch had been turned, which automatically turned the semaphore signal some distance down the track. At the time of the accident there was a heavy fog with sleet and it is supposed that the engineer of the train from Toronto either failed to see the signals or misread them. The killed are as follows: Sandy Grant and Lewis Grant of Lancaster, Ont.

M. Athew Dumoulin, and William Abrams, of Williamstown, Ont.; J. Kennedy, of Williamstown, Ont., who was badly injured and subsequently died.

Four passengers and two employees were injured in the collision, as follows:

J. McCullough, Glenbrook, Ont.; D. C. St. Amour, North Lancaster, Ont.; — Lavelle, express messenger, Montreal; — Malley, bridge and building master, C.P.R., Smiths Falls; — Holmes, Williamstown, slightly injured. Conductor Hinton of the Cornwall train, of Cornwall, was seriously injured.

GUYENEMER GETS 25TH HUN AIRPLANE.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—Sub-Lieut. Guyenemer, France's premier aviator, it is announced, has brought down his twenty-fifth German aeroplane.

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Reopens after Christmas vacation Jan. 3
Full courses in Collegiate, Music—Piano, Organ, Voice Culture and Violin, Expression, Art and Commercial, under competent teachers.
Write NOW for calendar and full particulars.
E. N. BAKER, M.A., D.D., Principal

POSSESSES FINE FAMILY RECORD

Provost Sergeant Armstrong of 235th Has Father, Four Brothers and Two Sons in Khaki.

Provost Sergeant Richard L. Armstrong of Ayr, Ontario, formerly staff-sergeant of A section No. 2 Field Ambulance with the 15th Montreal battalion and now head of the military police of the 235th battalion, Belleville, comes of a family which has done nobly in the great war for justice and liberty.

His father, Pte. Thomas Armstrong while superintendent in the Lancashire Constabulary enlisted as a private in the Army Service Corps at the age of 64 years. He has returned wounded to the military hospital at Bethnal Green, London.

Four brothers of the provost sergeant have been in the fight. Two have returned from the front badly wounded. One is resting at Shoreham-on-sea, another is at Buxton, Derbyshire. The third brother is gunlayer on V 9 Trench Motor Battery (a tank). He is an old imperial artilleryman. The fourth brother is with the Loyal North Lancashire.

Another brother with five years' artillery training, wanted to enlist, but as he holds an important position as inspector of Lancashire police in the Widnes division, he was not permitted to go.

The sergeant has also two sons, with the 148th battalion which sailed last September for England and went to Witley camp. They are now likely in France.

Provost sergeant Armstrong is an old newspaper man and latterly has been a chemical manufacturer and the holder of special processes. He has now a chemical product by which he can increase the mileage of gasoline in an auto tank. His newspaper experience has been for five years with the Manchester Courier, and Evening Mail, seven years with the Manchester Sunday Chronicle, and for three years he was travelling staff reporter for the greatest public journal in the world from his own standpoint "The News of the World" London.

COMRADE BOYS WERE THE HOSTS

Entertained the Pollyannas Last Evening.

On Tuesday evening the Comrade Boys' Class of John Street Sunday School entertained the Pollyannas to a sleigh drive. After returning from the drive, Mr. R. J. Graham, Mentor of the class had prepared at the church a splendid oyster supper which was enjoyed to the full by everyone. After supper, a well arranged toast list was carried out, with Gordon Robertson, president of the class, acting as toast master. Following is the toast list:

"The King"—God Save the King, responded to by Edwin VanBuskirk and Teddy Wallbridge.
"Canada"—The Maple Leaf Forever responded to by Ernest Taylor, and Ping Andrews.
"Comrades Class"—"For They are Jolly Good Fellows" responded to by Bruce Currie, Reg. Watson and Allen Boyle.
"C. S. E. T."—Hinky-Panky, responded to by Karl VanAllen and Porte Marshall.
"Pollyannas"—"For They are Jolly Good Fellows" responded to by Clara Yeomans, Audrey Mikel and Grace Graham.
"Mr. and Mrs. Graham" responded to by Nellie Milne, Phyllis Wallbridge, Helen Roberts, Margaret Thomson, Helen Springer, Helen Reid, Mary Thomson and Esther Wagner.
"God Save the King."

MARRIED

PHILLIPS — BRONSON — At the Tabernacle Methodist parsonage on Wednesday, Dec. 27th, Miss Edna Christina Bronson was married to Mr. Morley Phillips, both of Thurlow, Rev. S. C. Moore, officiating.

WEDDING BELLS

BENNETT — SPENCER

A very quiet wedding took place at the Methodist parsonage, Fraserville on December 25th, when Rev. W. T. Wickett united in marriage Walter R. Bennett, the only son of William Bennett of the Township of Thurlow to Miss Ethel May Spencer, the grand daughter of Mr. Jas. Moorman of the same township. The next day the happy couple left for Detroit and points West, and on their return they will reside in the Township of Thurlow, Belleville. We join in wishing the young couple, long life and every happiness and prosperity.

BIG ISLAND.

Quite a number from here attended the Christmas entertainment in Demorestville on Wednesday night last, all report a good time.

Mr. Tobias Carr has purchased a fine new driving horse.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mills are spending the winter with their daughter in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wardner and Ruby and Miss Eliza Cole were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Witney on Monday.

A fine baby girl has come to stay at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Mills.

Mr. Ralph Boulter and family of Belleville were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Goodmurphy on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Badgley were guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Caughey on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Graham of Avondale and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Ferguson of St. Thomas were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Mills on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Fox and family are spending Christmas in Brighton.

Quite a number from Big Island attended the market in Belleville on Saturday.

MADOC JCT.

Our sympathy goes out to every home that is sad these days on account of the war. There is many a vacant chair.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Clarke of Peterboro have the heartfelt sympathy of many friends here in their sorrow over the sad death of their little son Howard, who was such a cheerful, manly little fellow and a favorite with young and old. Several from here attended the funeral on Christmas Day at Corbyville near the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Andrew spent Sunday in Marmora.

A little son "Herbert Stanley" has come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Eggleton of George St., Belleville. Congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Juby of Shanville spent Xmas with friends here.

Mrs. S. Stapley, Annie and Olivia spent Xmas in Lindsay with Mr. and Mrs. Danford.

Mr. and Mrs. Hager of Kitchener and Mr. Will Hange of Alberta were among the visitors here on Xmas Day.

Bert Andrews G.T.R. operator, Peterboro spent Xmas Day at his home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitchett and family spent Xmas with friends in Tweed.

Miss Mabel Eggleton of Windsor and Percy of New Ontario are spending the holidays with their parents here.

Our pastor and a number of young men from this circuit are attending the young men's conference in Lindsay this week.

ZION HILL.

On Friday evening, December 22nd a successful concert was given at Zion Hill school. Although the weather was unpleasant, and the roads bad, a very good crowd was present. About eight o'clock, the teacher, Miss G. Badgley called the meeting to order and asked that a chairman be appointed. Lieut. Earle Denyes who was chosen, very ably filled the position.

After the program speeches were made by several of the men present, all of whom spoke well of the concert. A collection was taken in aid of the Red Cross and eight dollars and seventy-five cents was realized. Mr. M. Hawley supplied music between acts with his Victrola. Following is the program:

Christmas Chorus—By the School.

Recitation—Margery Cranston.
Arithmetic Match.
Duet—Irene Casey and Violet Spencer.

Dialogue—The Model Class.
Recitation—Vera Lloyd.
Doll Drill—8 boys and 6 girls.
Dialogue—Christmas Wishes.
Duet—Pearl Spencer and May Stevenson.

Recitation—Bert Spencer.
Dialogue—Trouble in Santa Claus Land.

Pantomime—Christmas Stockings.
Physical Drill—3 boys.
Chorus—Keep the Home Fires Burning. Verses sung by girls chorus whistled by boys.

Recitation—Aetha Bird.
Drill—Canada East and West—11 girls.
Duet—Irene Casey and Violet Spencer.

Dialogue—Unexpected company.
Recitation—Irene Casey.
Pantomime—The Christmas Stars—10 girls.

Tableau—Christmas Stars.
Speeches.
God Save the King.

AN UPEHAVAL IN RAWDON.

What may be described as a spiritual upheaval has taken place on the Rawdon circuit. For some time special preparation was made by cottage prayer meetings, organization of prayer circles and by other means, and the people were in a state of spiritual expectancy. On Nov 26th Evangelist G. M. Sharpe of Galt came to Mt. Pleasant Methodist church and proved a powerful preacher and skillful in appeal. Night after night crowds thronged the church and day after day people gathered in prayer meetings. The evangelist and the pastor spent much time in visitation and scores of people gave themselves in whole hearted devotion to this special work.

In three weeks 27 prayer meetings were conducted by local workers. The campaign has closed but the work continues and bids fair to spread throughout the district.

CAMPAGN NOTES.

Between Friday morning and Monday night, eleven meetings were held in church and nearby public school. The women's meeting filled the church.

The mass meeting for men only was limited only by the size of the church.

Two hundred and sixteen names of those who confessed Christ passed through the pastor's book. Many of these were already on the church roll and many others were of several denominations. These have been forwarded to their respective pastors.

At the workers' conference, an organization was formed to continue the work. Scores of homes are open for prayer meetings and an evangelistic band has been formed.

Never in this generation will people forget the long lines of motor cars and conveyances on the road after church sheds and yards were filled. One night a neighboring yard held fifty-three conveyances.

A feature of the movement was the remarkable answers to prayer.

The church was sometimes almost filled before the hour of beginning service, and people remained long after the closing.

Mr. Arnold Kember has returned to Winnipeg.

Miss Maudie Post is spending her Xmas vacation in town with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Post, on Catherine street.

Mr. Harry Sayers of the staff of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Montreal, spent the holiday with his mother, Mrs. E. Sayers, John St.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Moxam and family have returned to their home in Montreal after spending their Xmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Moxam, Commercial St.

Mr. B. Anderson, assistant office manager of the P. Burns Co., Calgary, Alta., is spending a week's vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Anderson, Rednersville.

In our report of the University S. S. entertainment there was reference to Mr. Embury as being the superintendent. This was incorrect. Mr. Creeper is the present superintendent in succession to Mr. Embury.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Moxam, and son Edgar, have returned to their home in Syracuse, N.Y., after spending their Xmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Moxam, Commercial street.

Ray Peppin, now pharmacist, on board an Atlantic liner, carrying troops, is home on furlough for 15 days.

Holloway's Corn Cure takes the corn out by the roots. Try it and prove it.

RUSSIA WANTS FINAL VICTORY BEFORE PEACE.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 28.—In the course of an order issued to all the units of the Russian army, dated Dec. 25, the Emperor in a brief review showing how the inequalities in the technical resources for warfare as between the allies and the central powers are being gradually removed with the result that the enemy strength is apparently waning, while that of Russia and her allies is continually growing, proceeds, to say:

"Germany is feeling that her complete defeat is near and near also is the hour of retribution for all her wrongdoings and violations of the moral law. As in the time of her strength she declared war, so now feeling her weakness near she suddenly offers to enter upon peace negotiations, desiring to complete such negotiations before her military talent is exhausted.

"At the same time she is creating a false impression about the strength of her army by utilizing her temporary success over the Rumanians, who lack experience in the conduct of modern warfare."

Arguing that the allies are entitled to choose a favorable hour for peace negotiations just as Germany chose a favorable hour for declaring war, the order says: "This time has not arrived. The enemy has not been driven out of the provinces he has occupied. Russia's attainment of the tasks created by the war—regarding Constantinople and the Dardanelles, as well as the creation of a free Poland—has not been guaranteed. To conclude peace at this moment would mean failure to utilize the fruits of the untold trials of the heroic Russian troops and fleet. Who dares to think that he who brought about this war shall have it in his power to conclude the war at any time he likes."

GERMANY READY TO STATE TERMS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—In spite of the wide gulf between the insistence of the central powers for an immediate peace conference and the forecast of an unanimous refusal by the entente allies to enter such a conference without knowing Germany's terms in advance, the American Government believes that the negotiations in progress are resulting in good.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, last night authorized the Associated Press to make the following statement:

"I regard the note of my government as constituting an acceptance of everything suggested by President Wilson in his note to the belligerent nations of Europe."

It was made clear at the embassy that Germany stands ready to make known her terms on the first day of any conference that may be held, and officials expressed themselves as being greatly surprised at the view prevailing in some quarters that the Berlin government had failed to meet the president's suggestions by not setting down in the report the terms upon which it is willing to make peace.

GERMAN REPLY TO WILSON A TRAP TO AVERT HUN DEFEAT.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The London morning papers generally regard Germany's reply to President Wilson as no reply at all, but a renewed effort to trap the entente into a conference at an inopportune moment for the latter with a view to averting defeat of the central powers.

FOE SMALL ATTACKS BREAK DOWN: FRENCH MINES CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The War Office announces, that French troops last night repulsed small attacks near Lechenoy, on the Somme and upon the eastern slope of Hill 304 west of the Meuse, in the Verdun region. Mines, sprung by the French near Beuvrages on the Somme front, it is added, caused great damage to the German defences.

GERMANY'S ANSWER REACHES WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Germany's answer to President Wilson's peace note reached the State Department today. Nothing confidential was attached to the document it is asserted.

GRECIAN SITUATION GREATLY IMPROVED.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—An Athens despatch reported the conditions greatly improved. The blockade is beginning to be felt and the strongest royalist newspapers have completely changed their tone.

HUN ANSWER TO SWISS LIKE THAT TO WILSON.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—Germany's answer to the Swiss note was handed to the Swiss minister today. It is on the same lines as the answer to President Wilson.

HUNGARIAN PREMIER TO RESIGN.

BERLIN, It is rumored from Budapest that Count Stephen Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, is likely to resign soon, owing to the alleged difference with Count Czernin von Chudenitz, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister and the Austrian coalition cabinet.

ALLIED NOTES READY: REJECT GERMAN PEACE PLAN.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The answers of the allies to the German proposals and the Wilson note have been prepared and will be despatched immediately. It is authoritatively stated that they will contain no specified terms but will be a vigorously worded summary of the principles for which the Allies are fighting, and a rejection of peace based on German-made plans.

MOLDAVIA SAFE FROM HUNS; RUSSIAN RESISTANCE STIFFENING.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Despatches from Petrograd indicate that Moldavia is safe from the Teuton invaders. It is believed that the forces of Von Mackensen may attempt to invade Russia north of Dobrudja of east of Moldavia, but Russian resistance is stiffening along the entire line, and fighting is becoming much heavier.