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E. W. McCREADY,
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 23, 1915.

OUT OF WORK.

Greater New York has a population of 4,767,000 people. According to a census of the unemployed made by the Public Forum of the Church of the Ascension, the number of persons out of work at present is 562,700. This is a high percentage of the whole population, and, of course, a greater percentage of the population fit for employment. Among the great number of persons who are idle are 125,000 women. In New York City alone it is estimated that today 60,000 people are without proper shelter.

The list of unemployed prepared by this church includes both organized and unorganized labor. The clothing workers head the list with 125,000 out of work. Then come general unskilled laborers, 100,000; building mechanics, 75,000; store and office workers, 75,000; machinists and metal workers, 35,000; drivers and general help, 25,000; hotel and restaurant workers, 25,000; longshoremen, 15,000; cigar and tobacco workers, 15,000; domestic help, department store employes, railroad workers, and printing and allied trades, 10,000 each; shoe workers, 8,000; millinery workers, 6,000; and so it goes down the long list. Seven hundred diamond workers are idle, and 3,000 who were employed in jewellery establishments.

There always are large numbers out of work in New York and other great American cities in the winter season, but this year, on account of the war and depressed financial conditions, things are much worse than usual. Yet people from the country districts have been crowding into the cities from the beginning of the cold weather, in search of work, swelling the army of unemployed already there. Organized charity and betterment organizations are doing what they can, but this year the distress will be far beyond their means. The spring months will bring some improvement in trade, but in the interval there will be great suffering. The social workers of the Church of the Ascension report that the desire and willingness to aid the unfortunate has never been greater in New York than now, and yet the problem is too great for satisfactory solution. As showing how well disposed many employers are, it has been estimated that 60,000 employes in Greater New York are being carried along by business houses who really have very little for them to do. In New England and in the west also unemployment is said to be very extensive.

WAR COMMENT.

Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett, war correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, thinks it likely that the Allies will drive the Germans out of both Belgium and France by the first of June, and perhaps sooner. He bases this opinion on the belief that the British and French, with the aid of the fleet, will be able to turn the German right wing when the new British army is ready to move in the spring. He points out that victory or defeat by means of heavy frontal attacks along the German front are scarcely to be expected. He suggests that both the Allies and the Germans have now enough men massed on the line from Switzerland across to the sea to render a sustained frontal attack useless, for both sides are practically entrenched. To mass huge numbers for frontal attack has been shown by the German assaults to be futile, because there was no flank which they could envelop at the same time. Mr. Bartlett goes on to explain that the Allies may turn the right end of the German lines by pushing forward the Allied left along the sand dunes. He says:

"Now, as matters stand, at first sight it would appear as if neither side can find a flank to envelop in the western theatre of the war. The whole line, three hundred kilometres long, between the coast and Belfort, seems filled up and impregnable. This is true as regards the Germans, but the Allies are not in the same position. They have a flank they can envelop when the psychological moment arrives. This flank is represented by the Belgian littoral. It is the British command of the sea which will eventually turn the scale in favor of the Allies in the west, as it turned it finally in the Napoleonic wars.

"If we follow the official reports of the operations during the last few days we shall find that there has been a steadily increasing pressure on the German right wing. They have now been driven from almost all their positions on the Yser, although there seems some doubt whether they still hold Dixmude or not. This, the right of the German line, is the wing which the Allies can envelop in time. They can only do so because of our command of the sea. It is the co-operation of our warships which enables the army to press gradually forward towards Ostend. There is a little strip of sand dunes running along the coast, varying in width from one to three miles. This the Germans cannot occupy. For a distance of five miles their positions are outflanked and rendered untenable by the fire of the British and French squadrons. Under the cover of these guns, the Allied infantry is gradually pushing forward towards Ostend by way of Lombartzyde and Westende. Now, it may be asked, what is the object of this move. Even if the right wing of the Germans is driven back, what strategical result will be obtained? The answer is this: England will have new armies to throw on the Continent in the spring. This force will give the Allies a decided superiority in numbers over the Germans. It is certain that Germany has no more reserves to throw into Flanders, except some Landsturm formation of small fighting value. It is equally certain that she will have no troops to spare from the eastern theatre of war; in fact, in the spring, Von Hindenburg is sure to howl for reinforcements to hold back the Russians. If only our new armies are ready in time the soil of both France and Belgium should be clear of the enemy by the beginning of next June. This consummation so devoutly to be wished may come even sooner if the Russians are able to drive back Von Hindenburg and to invest Cracow. But with the extremely vague information at our disposal it is best to rely only on what the Allies can do for themselves in the western theatre of war."

Judging by the fighting spirit of the Russians, their strategy and their ability to pour fresh troops into the field, the spring campaign should find the pressure on the eastern front heavy enough to cause Von Hindenburg to demand further reinforcements, if he is expected to hold the Bear in check. Indeed, unless Germany sends more troops to that frontier, the Russians must win through. In fact they may win through in spite of reinforcements. These facts tend to support Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's suggestion that the Allies may turn the German line in the vicinity of Ostend. At all events, when the weather is improved and the roads have hardened in the spring, both sides will bring their maximum strength to bear.

The Germans have boasted that when the war ends their armies will be found in possession of the territory they now occupy. This is a somewhat more modest boast than they made at the beginning of the war, but even this later one cannot be made good. The Germans will be swept out of Belgium and France, and out of Poland. Probably Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's estimate as to the date at which this will be accomplished is a reasonable one.

The war expert of the New York Evening Post, in summing up the outlook, agrees with Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett in expecting decisive results with the appearance of the new British armies in the spring. He says:

"The anniversary of the surrender of Paris this year will mark the end of the sixth month of the present war, short of three days. In 1871 a half-year was enough to change the course of European history. In 1914-15 there has been no approach to a decision. In 1871 it was a contest between armies. At present it is a contest between nations. On both sides it is recognized that the struggle has resolved itself into a test of endurance. For the next three months the brunt of the fighting for the Allied cause must still be borne by France. For if the hope of winning decisively is still cherished at Berlin, it must be realized before the end of winter. With the advent of new English armies in the spring all hopes of a subjugation of the Allies will disappear. Within the ensuing weeks we may yet witness a supreme effort on the part of Germany."

Is Germany able to make an effort within the next three months greater than she has already made? Remembering that she has to send additional strength to the eastern frontier, the natural answer would be in the negative. Also, it must be remembered that the Allies in France and Belgium are today much stronger than they were three months ago, and are gaining strength every day. They can match Germany in any effort she may make during the winter, and in the spring they will have a host of new troops ready for their own great forward movement.

THINK IT OVER.

Eventually, says Warden McLellan, the valuation now being made by the municipal board of valuators "in so thorough a manner," "will have to be accepted by the city board of assessors." The warden also observed that the city is a part of the county "ruled by this municipal council." As a matter of fact the city elects representatives whose votes constitute a majority of the Municipal Council, and that is what counts. These representatives, we hope, will always be fair to the county without being unfair to the city. Properly speaking, the interests of the city and the county are in no way antagonistic.

In saying that assessment in the city for purely civic purposes is lacking in equity, the warden is well within the truth; but it does not follow by any means that it is either wise or necessary to have the basis of civic assessment revised by the board of municipal valuators. If the citizens of St. John want a new deal in taxation matters—and they should want it—they themselves should create the necessary machinery after due notice and discussion, and not have the scheme thrust upon them by the Municipal Council. Home rule in taxation matters is not to be set aside lightly.

Have the taxpayers of St. John been consulted about this matter? Most of them are now learning for the first time that there is any thought of having the city assessors accept the valuations of the municipal board. They did not choose that board. Most of the city representatives were absent when it was chosen. Moreover, the taxpayers, without warning or discussion, are now confronted by a bill proposing to give this municipal board the powers of a court, including the power to imprison any citizen who disobeys the board's order to file a sworn statement of his property and income.

These powers are not necessary in order to arrive at the just proportion of the municipal taxes to be paid by the city and by the county respectively; and the only valid reason for the appointment of these valuators is to arrive at that proportion. The proposed bill would confer unnecessary and arbitrary powers upon the board and give it a scope which might well make it an instrument of oppression. If this bill, which was yesterday referred to the committee of the whole with the Attorney-General and the County Secretary, is not materially altered when it emerges from the hands of that body, it will have to be opposed by the city at Fredericton. The bill is distinctly dangerous.

BUSINESS THIS YEAR.

What is Canada's duty in regard to national business during 1915? To this question the Commission of Conservation, in its January bulletin, makes the following answer:

Conservation and development of her
Water powers,
Minerals,
Forests and
Fisheries.
Large increase in farm production.
Increase in live stock production.
Cultivation of the garden plot.
Purchase and use of goods "made in Canada."
Provision for technical training of her sons and daughters.
Further advances in providing sanitary homes and clean cities for her people.
Extension of the "safety first" movement.
Further reduction in fire losses.
Business as usual.

The Commission of Conservation does well to call attention to the need for a large increase in farm products, in live stock, and in products of the garden plot, and for stimulating work in the mines, the factories, the forests and the fisheries. This is a year when home production should be stimulated in every possible way. It must not be forgotten that the grain crop of 1914 was very small compared with the previous year, and that prices for products of the farm are likely to be very high. In such a time as this Canada must resolve to work hard and to live economically. There is only one line of expenditure in which this country cannot afford to economize, and that is in supporting Great Britain in the war. In men and in money Canada must give freely. Those who cannot go to the front have their work to do nevertheless. They must keep the business of the country at as high speed as possible. In that way they will serve not only Canada but the Empire.

A CONTRAST.

In Great Britain no military leader will attempt to rival the German chief of staff in telling the newspapers of the world what the Allies are going to do to Germany. To a very great extent the Germans will be allowed to enjoy a monopoly of that sort of thing, just as they enjoy a monopoly of the business of dropping bombs upon undefended towns and villages and unarmed civilians by night. This work of the air craft has no more military significance than the bombast of the German general staff.

The Allies will make answer in another fashion. It is quite true that the Germans have fought well, and that they are still capable of immense resistance. But all that was well understood before the war was a week old. The people of the British Empire, having been slow to enter upon this world conflict, have now deliberately set about the long and grim task of beating down the enemy. They go about it patiently, systematically, doggedly, unmoved alike by "interviews" from Berlin or Vienna and by the murders of civilians by hostile aircraft. It may still be true that Germany has considerable resources, great resources, both in men and supplies, but the answer to that is the multiplication table. In both men and supplies, and in money, the Allies have still greater resources, and these they will steadily bring to bear until the end. Meantime it may be well to note that the boasts of the German chief of staff regarding conditions in his country are not borne out even by the Berlin newspapers. The Berlin Socialist Vorwarts said recently:

"Business in many towns is completely closed down. A small part of the men thrown out of work are leading a miserable life, with paltry wages, at emergency jobs. The remaining thousands and ten thousands have nothing but the trifling support of their trade-unions, which is hardly enough to stay the hunger of their children with dry bread."

Since the publication of this information was not forbidden or punished in Berlin it may be regarded as made up of facts so generally known as to render suppression futile. Again, in a Socialist woman's paper published in Stuttgart, there was recently published the statement that already famine prices prevail in Germany. The paper in question, Die Gleichheit, published the following:

"Like a child's soap bubble which bursts at a touch, so has the legend been dissipated that the war would be a short 'military promenade' to Paris and Petrograd. We know that we are in the midst of a world-war which will last a very long time, and we must face the fact that Germany for many months to come will remain cut off from commercial intercourse with other nations, and will be compelled to feed her own people from her own reserves.

"Therefore we women must be as economical as possible and must husband all existing resources. More than that, we must see to it that these resources are equitably and widely distributed. It does not benefit the farm-laborer or the small official to tell him cheerfully that the harvest of corn and potatoes is said to have been large enough to feed the Empire until next summer if the price he has to pay for his meals continues to rise to breaking point. The war has robbed many families of their chief support; it has shaken the economic fabric of the nation to its foundations, and has brought unemployment and low and uncertain earnings to many. Millions of women, children, aged parents, and people in weak health must henceforth rely for their means of existence upon the pittances they receive from public funds and charity.

"The cattle are fed—the poor man can not buy food.

"Millions are in want; millions more trembling before the menace of greater hardships still to come. In the hour of the greatest danger speculators are profiting by the wretchedness of the poor.

"These facts are officially confirmed by the efforts of municipalities and some military authorities to regulate prices—that is, to fix maximum prices for the staple articles of food. At last, too, after representations from newspapers, corporations, trade-unions, and so forth, the Imperial Government has taken similar steps and has issued regulations to fix a maximum price of bread.

"And we must, of course, accept this. Better something and late than 'nothing never.' Everybody agrees that the government measure comes limping far enough behind the rise of prices. The delay has brought about untold suffering. The famine prices of to-day are now becoming normal prices, and as such are quoted to-day in Berlin."

We take these translations from the Literary Digest, which some Canadian newspapers have accused as being pro-German. The translations show that German publications which speak of conditions as they are sing a tune very different from that sung by the German chief of staff for the benefit of the Associated Press. Germany is feeling the pinch of war, and the conflict is not yet six months old. The German boasts leave neutral countries unconvinced. Those neutral countries are waiting to see what will happen when the Allies increase their striking power on both fronts in the spring. They expect to see Germany driven back, out of Belgium and France, back to the Rhine, and from the Rhine itself. They feel that once the fighting is all being done on German soil the end will be at hand.

GETTING USED TO IT.

A Frenchman who was for six years an instructor in languages at a Massachusetts college, and who left his position to go to the front at the beginning of the war, has written a letter to a former associate telling of his experiences in the trenches. Here is a studious man, unaccustomed to danger or to physical exertion, who has been at the front since October 15. He gives us an idea of the things to which men may become accustomed. "The life I lead," he writes, "is hard, very hard, but I find within myself latent reserves of stoicism and of healthy vigor, the existence of which I had never suspected."

He says that while a few months ago he was a quiet and peaceful man, he now finds himself digging trenches, under fire sometimes, and sometimes occupying trenches made by others. Frequently he knows what it is to throw himself flat in the mud and lie there while shells and rifle bullets pass overhead, then jumping up and going back to pick and shovel. From the cold, he says, they are able to protect themselves as a rule, but against the rain there is little help, and from the fourth to the eighth of December they had continual rain in the trenches, in a soil of clay. Yet up to the present time he has escaped both wounds and illness. "Truly," he says, "the hardening of the human body to exposure is miraculous." Of life in the trenches near Verdun he writes:

"Our life in the trenches is very curious. We are like the beasts of the forest that hide during the day and are active only at night when they come out in search of food. During the daytime we watch without daring to show ourselves, for if a head appears but for an instant above the ground, there is the hiss of a bullet and another poor fellow has paid with his life for his imprudence. As the trenches are not very deep, there are only a few spots where it is possible for a man to stand upright without exposing his head. There are arteries of communication which connect the different trenches and in them you have to walk almost bent double. It is very tiresome to remain four days without being able to stretch your limbs or to lie down to sleep. We are forced to remain in a sitting posture, crouching low, with cramps in our legs and unbearable numbness in our arms. Some men sleep a little during the daytime. For my part, I do not sleep at all during the four days in the trenches. My duties as corporal would prevent me from doing so in any event."

This is interesting because of what he says as to the adaptability of the average man suddenly called from peace to war. Finding danger and hardship unavoidable, a part of the hourly existence, these men accommodate themselves wonderfully to circumstances. Day by day the hardening process goes on, the body becomes toughened and the mind steeled, and presently the recruit begins to take on many of the attributes of the veteran soldier. To the man who has never experienced the actual horrors of war it seems almost incredible that men can not only bear the life but actually grow in mind and body as the days go by. To the veteran it seems astonishing that any man who is sound in mind and body should hesitate to face the hazard of the conflict in which his country is engaged. One of the many wonderful things about war is the speed with which men of peace acquire the fighting edge under active service conditions.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Beyond stimulating recruiting in Great Britain and exciting indignation in neutral countries, the latest German airship raid resulted in killing a few non-combatants. Berlin professes to be proud of it. The world at large is horrified and angry.

* * *

The Dominion government intends to proceed with big public works much as usual. This in many ways is good news, for it means fewer idle men and the circulation of much money.—Montreal Gazette.

So says the senior Conservative newspaper, no doubt with authority, though several cabinet ministers recently expressed quite another view.

* * *

A subscriber sends the following advertisement, clipped from the London Daily Mail, as "upholding the reputation of English newspapers for peculiar notices":

"FOR SALE, cheap, disillusioned owner having no further use for them, a number of books full of learned and ponderous arguments conclusively proving the impossibility of a European War. Box N2499, Daily Mail, Fleet street, E. C."

* * *

A letter from the Secretary of the Gagetown Board of Trade, which is published today, asks why no train service has been started on the Fredericton-Gagetown branch of the Valley railway. The trains are running from Fredericton to Centreville, but below Fredericton the road is idle. When the local government or the Dominion government is answering Mr. T. S. Peters it would be well to let the public know also at approximately what date the Gagetown-St. John section will be in operation.

* * *

An interview with the German chief of the general staff, Von Falkenhayn, appears in the Associated Press news of Wednesday. It has a Gascon flavor. To judge of its real value we must compare what this officer now says with the German boasts of five months ago. One chief of staff was removed recently by the Kaiser, doubtless for good reason. The programme by which Paris was to be taken and Britain invaded had failed, and a new chief succeeded the old. The new cock crows well enough before the event, but the test is to come. The interview, no doubt, is intended to influence neutral countries. Such countries can see for themselves what is happening. The Germany which set out to conquer Europe is already on the defensive. What will its condition be by midsummer?

* * *

The city tax rate after Wednesday's cut may be about $1.96. Several of the departments will be hard hit, but the citizens who demanded retrenchment are having their way. They will no doubt be content if the reduced amount is well spent. The money at the disposal of the commissioners is now considerably less than it was last year. Public works, police, schools, and the water department, should all really have more money than they are getting, if times and prospects were better. In a war year economy was doubtless wise. So it will be until the war is over. Yet it must not be forgotten that the city still needs a great many improvements which are by no means civic luxuries. These must wait better days, though some of them have been waiting for twenty years.

The Kaiser's Prayer.

(From the Edinburgh Scotsman.)

Gott, Gott, dear Gott attention blease
Your bardner Wilhelm's here
Und has a vord or two to say
Into your brivate ear;
So durn avay all udders now,
Und listen vell to me,
For vat I say concerns me much
Meinself und Shermany.

You know dear Gott I vas your friendt,
Und from mein hour of birth
I quietly let you rule in Heffen
Vile I ruled o'er de earth:
Und ven I told mein soldiers
Of bygone battle days
I gladly split the glory
Und gave you half de praise.

In every way I tried to prove
Mein heart to you vas true
Und only claimed mein honest share
In great deeds dat ve do.
You could not haf a better friendt
In sky, or land, or sea,
Dan Kaiser Wilhelm, Number Two—
De Lord of Shermany.

For vat I say dear Gott, is dis—
Vat ve should still be friendts
Und you should help to send my foes
To meet deir bitter ends.
If you, dear Gott, vill dis me do
I'll nothing ask again,
Und you and I will bardners be
For evermore—Amen.

But listen, Gott, it must be quick
Your help to me you send,
Or else I haf to stop attack
Und only play defend.
So four-and-twenty hours I gif
To make de Allies run,
Und put me safe into mein place—
De middle of de sun.

If you do dis, I'll do my bart,
I'll tell the world de fact,
But if you don't, den I must tink
It is an hostile act.
Den var at vonce I vill declare,
Und in mein anger rise,
Und send mein Zepp'lin ships to wage
A fight up in de skies.

Dis ultimatum, now, dear Gott,
Is von of many more,
Mein mind is settled up to clean
De whole world off de floor;
Because you vas mein bardner, Gott,
An extra shance is giffen,
So help at vonce, or else I'll be de
Emperor of Heffen.

Germany's Weakened Force.

(London Daily Mail.)

Every day that postpones a decisive encounter adds to the Russian and takes away from the German striking force. We do not by any means underrate—it would be sheer insanity to do so—the enemy's capacity to endure and resist. But Germany's frantic efforts to convince herself that she is satisfied with her present situation mislead no one except her own people.

ANOTHER RED CROSS APPEAL

The Red Cross Society makes the following appeal:

It is hard, in fact almost impossible, for those who have not actually visited the hospitals at the base in France at the present time, to realize the suffering that our soldiers and our allies are experiencing in their battle for the freedom of Europe. Although the casualties from wounds are heavy they are not to be compared to those caused by exposure to the elements and other diseases brought on by continual exposure. The cold, wet weather has for the past month or more wrought a dreadful havoc amongst our soldiers and the base hospitals at Boulogne and St. Omer, where the British headquarters are located, are filled to overflowing. The nurses and officials of the Red Cross Society are called upon to work night and day on behalf of these men who bear their misery with true British courage.

Hospital ships, bearing the Red Cross flag, ply continually between the coasts of France and England bearing their quota of wounded soldiers and those suffering from pneumonia and other diseases. The scenes of horror and misery beggar description. Never before in the history of the world have such pitiable cases come before the authorities, and were it not for the great work that the Red Cross Society is carrying on at the present time, the loss of life would be appalling.

Few people realize the awful state of affairs existing in Serbia and until Lady Paget went to those stricken people with a band of faithful nurses, wounded Serbians were dying in the streets of Belgrade for want of ordinary Red Cross appliances. Great credit and gratitude is due to the American Red Cross hospital in Serbia which has been doing a wonderful work under the guidance of Miss Emily Simmonds, a British Red Cross nurse, who arrived back in New York recently. In an interview recently with a correspondent of the Associated Press, this lady said she had been working with the wounded and with seven young girls she had administered to the Serbians in the trenches 400 yards from the firing line and for 48 hours at a time.

Miss Mary Burn has given a graphic description of life under the Red Cross flag in France. Miss Burn says: "There are staying in Caen some ladies of the French Red Cross waiting for orders to take their hospital train to the port of Cherbourg to bring a trainload of wounded back to the hospitals. Madame la Comtess de Genes, who is at their head, invited Lady Bagot to come down and see their train and Mr. Farquhar took a party down in the ambulance which he had fixed on to his car as soon as the war broke out. He drives it himself and being cheerfully ready at any hour of the day or night to transport wounded of any sort, he is in great request and has saved much suffering and loss of life."

Miss Burn then goes on to describe a ride in the ambulance van to the railway station where she visited the ambulance train which consisted of forty carriages. She thus describes the train: "First we visited the sleeping carriages of the sisters. Each one had a sort of little cabin formed out of one of the divisions of an ordinary corridor carriage, a little larger than an English compartment, with a bed on one side, a seat on the other and various boxes and shelves for a little luggage stowed away above and below. They had lately installed a stove in the passage in view of the wintry weather and here they had been living, eating and sleeping for months together. One of them said she had not slept in bed for a month.

"Then we came to the carriages for the wounded," continues Miss Burn. "They are like big, square refrigerator vans, opening at the side with three great stretchers hung one above the other in each corner—twelve in a wagon with room to get between each set and move freely about as there is no other furniture. Each carriage has one infirmier, who tends those in his carriage but cannot get out or communicate with the other carriages till the train stops. They told me that the infirmiers are often priests and that when the patients are dying they perform for them the last rites."

Miss Burn was informed by the sister that the train often went close up to the rear of the action and the workers could hear the cannon booming and the mitrailleuse.

"You cannot know la querre que c'est terrible," said the sister, "until you have traveled through miles and miles of devastated country, black, empty of man and beast, ruined houses, corpses by the railside unburied, such sadness; and then to come where the people seem lively and careless, plenty to eat and the ordinary life going on. Oh, the suffering we have seen and the cruelty to women and children."

This is a description of the work that the Red Cross is carrying on in the devastated places of a country that was once the admiration of the world. Now it is a blackened ruin, and its people are homeless and in many cases starving while the heel of the despot tramples them down. In spite of these sad conditions the Red Cross is endeavoring as far as possible to alleviate these conditions as they exist. Hospitals have been equipped at Boulogne and at the base of operations and Red Cross workers are engaged night and day, with little time for sleep or recreation, in their errand of mercy. But they need assistance if this work is to be carried on. What are you, reader, doing to help?

In many towns and cities of the Dominion parties of ladies have joined together and formed sewing classes where they are doing a splendid work in making comforts for the troops. While the society has received a goodly quantity of these articles, the demand is always being made for more. Those who are unable to join these classes can perform quite as useful a work by giving a cash contribution for money is always the first need of the society for it can be converted at any moment into the most necessary supplies and can easily be sent to any place.

For the benefit of those who are occupied in making comforts the following information may be useful. Women organized for sewing should not spend money on buying the supplies which have simply to be shipped away as bought as these can be better bought at headquarters, but they are recommended to spend money on materials to work up into such garments as shirts, pyjamas, dressing gowns, bed jackets, night shirts, socks, wristlets, mitts, cholera belts and scarves or kit bags, all of which require careful making.

The following instructions are of use: Cholera belts. Most men prefer the woven belts. Flannel belts are used in some cases. As all knitting wool is now scarce it is better to use it for socks and not for cholera belts. Socks, grey or khaki yarn, natural or heather mixture. Socks with heels are preferred. Needles size 12 to 14, according to wool used. Scarves, 72-90 inches long, 9-12 inches wide, in grey or khaki. Loose stitch, No. 7 or 8 needles. About 96 stitches. Double yarn. Sleeping or Balaclava cap, No. 9 bone needles (4), pointed both ends, 4-ply yarn in grey or khaki.

Our soldiers will soon be taking their places in the trenches which are not comfortable under any circumstances and for the last two or three weeks have been filled with water and mud. It is absolutely essential that the men should be warmly clothed and have a large number of changes. The society will be glad to receive any kind of comfort and also cash contributions. All gifts should be addressed to the Canadian Red Cross Society, 77 King Street, East, Toronto, Canada.

GAGETOWN ASKS WHY THE TRAINS ARE NOT STARTED

Board of Trade Puts It Up to Local and Federal Governments—What is the Trouble?

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Sir, May I trepass upon the valuable space in your paper to insert the following:

This section of the St. John river valley is deeply concerned in the fact that the governments are apparently taking no action towards the operation of the River Valley Railway between Fredericton and Gagetown notwithstanding the fact that legislation was enacted whereby this road was to be built and operated to Gagetown by the autumn of 1914. The operation of 120 miles (Centreville to Gagetown) was assumed by the I. C. R. on January 1, 1915. Trains are now running on part of the above section and people feel, and rightly so, that it is very unjust to the citizens of the Fredericton-Gagetown section that the line from Centreville to Fredericton should be operated without considering the rights and requirements of the people from Fredericton to Gagetown. It is also felt that no technicality should be allowed to interfere with the operation of this section of the road now assumed by the I. C. R. There is no good reason to suppose that this section will not prove as remunerative as or more so than the upper section now being operated.

The citizens of this Fredericton-Gagetown section of the Valley Railway feel therefore that they have a right to ask that the local and dominion governments will take this matter up and fulfill their pledges made to the people both by the legislation referred to and also by a specific agreement made with the I. C. R. authorities over the signature of the premier of New Brunswick and that they will cause a regular train service to be inaugurated without further delay. This is the time of year the people feel the greatest need of communication with the outside world to give facilities for moving their produce. There are hay, potatoes, apples, cattle, etc., to go out, and general stores to come in, the merchants did not get their regular supplies in last fall as they expected the railway to be put in operation. We have patiently waited a long time for this road and now when the line is finished to our very doors and allowed to remain idle it is felt that patience ceases to become a virtue.

Yours truly,
T. SHERMAN PETERS,
Sec'y Gagetown Board of Trade.
Gagetown, Jan. 19, 1915.

Rhodes Scholarship For Western Youth

Percy Corbett, son of Rev. Thomas Corbett, Presbyterian minister at Gull Lake (Sask.), who was chosen by the Committee of the Faculty of Arts of McGill University as Rhodes scholar. Mr. Corbett is not a native westerner, having been born at Tyne Valley (P. E. I.)

Ground for Removal.

(Montreal Gazette.)

It is officially reported that there have been fifteen deaths in the twenty-five cases of spinal meningitis in the Salisbury military camp. Because of the fact, and in view of the disease being both highly dangerous and contagious, there is ground for the agitation to have the Canadian troops billeted out or removed to France.

Wounded By Gold Pieces.

(Acadian Recorder.)

Three 20-franc gold pieces have been extracted from the skin of private Boissey in a Paris hospital. A piece of shrapnel pierced the pocket of another soldier, who had coins, and who was marching ahead of Boissey, who didn't have a cent on him before he was wounded.

A Long Way Off.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Premier Hearst, of Ontario, speaking at the Canadian Club dinner in New York, said among other things that it was possible that the capital of the British Empire would one day move westward and be located in Canada itself. With all due respect to Mr. Hearst it may be mentioned that London is not likely to decline for many years yet and that it's a long way to Tipperary.