

## BRITISH BIRDMEN DEFY DEATH DAILY

Intrepid Aviators Face Perils in the Air and Escape Miraculously

Behind British Lines in France, Dec. 15.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Stories of daring escapades of British aviators, exciting aerial combats from which the air-fighters escaped alive seemingly only by miracle and of brilliantly executed raids upon German aerodromes and troops behind the German lines are narrated in the reports of the Royal Flying Corps, covering the activities of about one week. Hair-raising incidents of three combats above the clouds, or low over the German communication lines are described in these succinct reports without bombast, as though these narrow escapes from death were commonplace and all in the day's work of the air-fighter.

For example, there was the case of a British aviator officer who, when nearly a mile above the earth, was attacked by two enemy aircraft. He shot down one of them out of control, but was himself wounded and fainted while still high in the air. Recovering consciousness, he found his machine upside down at an elevation of 4,000 feet with one enemy aircraft still firing at him. The Britisher, however, managed after a struggle to right his machine and land safely.

In a somewhat similar instance, a German scout attacked a British airplane carrying a pilot and observer. One of the German's bullets passed through the gasoline tank of the British airplane and seriously wounded the pilot. The British observer, however, pumped a full double drum of bullets at the enemy scout very close quarters and the German went to the ground with a crash.

Meanwhile the British pilot had fainted and fallen against the steering "stick" in such a fashion as to throw the airplane into a spin. The British observer climbed over the side and forward along the plane to the pilot's cockpit, lifted the pilot to his seat and, still standing on the wing of the plane, released the steering gear, brought the machine out of the spin and safely to the ground.

Two British officers were returning from an expedition over the enemy's lines to locate hostile batteries, when their machine was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the engine damaged. Vexing the machine landed 300 yards from the British lines, the airplane turned over and the aviators were hurled out on the German side of a canal. Running along the beach under heavy fire



CHRONICLE

from rifles and machine-guns, the aviators dived into the canal only to find it full of barbed wire, but managed to reach the British lines in safety.

Many instances illustrating the reckless daring of the British aviators over the German lines to obtain information, destroy aerodromes and harass the German services, are contained in the official narratives. One pilot who crossed the lines at Ypres, threw off two attacking machines, bombed the Heule aerodrome near Lille and was fired upon by two machine guns. He dived at one of them, firing with both guns of the British airplane, drove the Germans from their guns, fired upon the aerodrome again, attacked and scattered a column of 200 German infantrymen on the road. A German two-seater airplane was circling 500 feet above him for an attack. "I zoomed up under its tail and fired into it," writes the British aviator. "It crashed down onto the railway."

Another British pilot had fired a

hundred rounds on German troops on the march when he was interrupted by two enemy airplanes. He attacked them and drove both down and then finished the job of driving the German infantry into trenches and shell-holes.

Flying at the height of 200 feet, a British aviator engaged in a revolver duel with two German officers in a motor and while doing so ran into some lines of telegraph wires, but fortunately his machine cut them. A few minutes later he attacked German infantry, which escaped his gun only by diving into a pond.

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## ENGLAND SANE AND SOBER DURING WAR

Decrease in Insanity and Drunkenness is Recorded in Past Year

(Associated Press) London, Dec. 15.—England has become more sober and sane during the war, according to official returns. The convictions for drunkenness last year were the lowest recorded for nearly fifty years, at 84,191, against 135,828 in 1915. The number of insane persons under care in January, in England and Wales were 134,029, a decrease of 3159. These figures are also the lowest for fifty years.

## WATERFORD

(From Our Own Correspondent.) The pageant entitled "The Call to the Country" was presented in the Baptist church by the Villa Nova young people last Friday evening. The parts were very well taken by all.

The first act was taken by two young ladies, representing the women of to-day and yesterday. In the second act the whole stage was in view and one young girl, was sitting at a table reading, a mother was rocking a cradle and two others were knitting and running a spinning wheel. Several girls came back from the city and laughed at the work these were doing. At last the young girl made up her mind to go to the city and she bid good-bye to the others. The sorrow of those left behind was very sad. In the third act a young lady was deploring the state of the country since so many had left for the city. She has a dream. Many have come back. Another one working for the good of the country, comes out on the stage and ushers in the college girls artists and farmers who have returned to help rebuild the country. Some local vocal talent was interspersed and the evening was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter McMartin have been spending a week at Brussels with his mother.

The terrible snow storm of Saturday, Sunday and Monday blocked two roads so bad in some places that they are impassable. The rural route men were unable to travel on some of the roads and could not deliver all of their mail, and what almost an unheard of thing happened. The Michigan Central mail train due to arrive here at 8.30 in the morning had to be cancelled and a special put on for the mail going east. This is the worst storm in years for this time of the year.

Mrs. James Brown is spending a few weeks in Toronto. Miss Lillian Travis of Tilsonburg, spent the week-end with Miss Nina Begley.

Miss Nursing Sister, Alice Trudale of the London Base Hospital, formerly of here has arrived at Halifax to help attend the wounded.

Flight Lieut. Frank Wood of the British Navy spent Monday with Mr. Earl Roberts.

Mrs. Roy Hyslop and Hele of Kingston, Alberta are visiting Mr. and Mrs. William Forre.

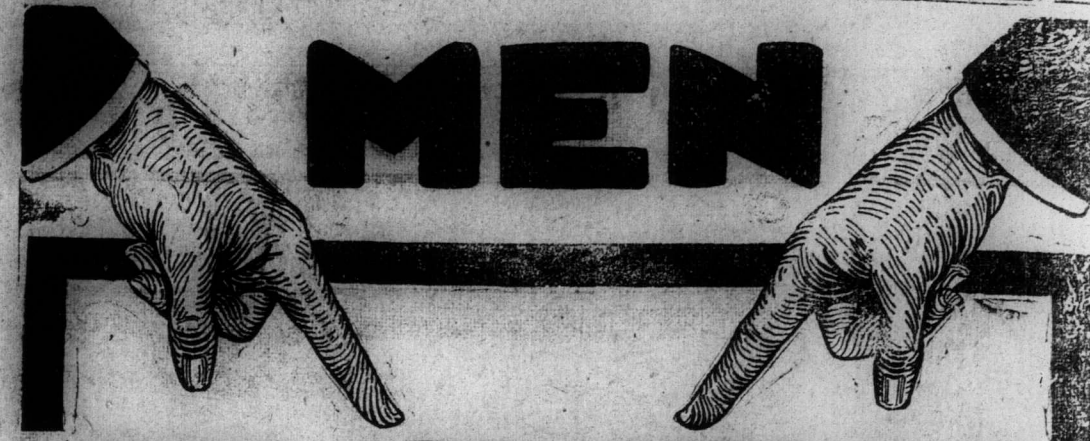
Mrs. W. T. Nash of Detroit, is spending a week with her mother, Mrs. James Joyce.

Several are visiting themselves of the skating on the pond.

After only a few days illness with pneumonia Mr. Fred Alway passed away on Sunday night. He was one of the oldest of the residents being eighty-five years of age. He was born in Oxford county, Oct. 12, 1832 and came from Ypsilanti to Waterford in 1858.

He is survived by his wife and his three children, William R., of town; Fredrick J., of St. Paul's, Minn.; and Elsie Robertson of Edmonton. One brother, Dr. Enock A. Alway, of Bartonville also survives. The funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon from his late residence, the Rev. J. B. Moore conducting the service. Many sorrowing friends attending.

The interment took place at Greenwood cemetery, the Rev. J. B. Moore preaching two fine sermons in the Baptist church last Sunday in the



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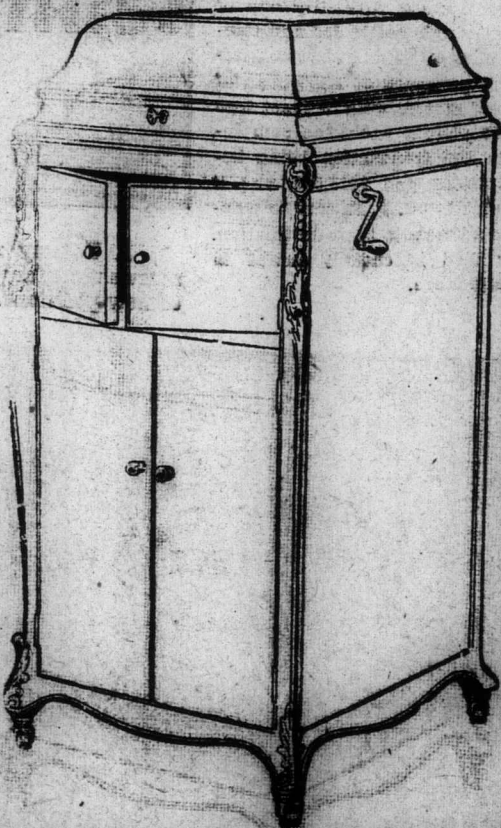
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absence of Rev. Pitch at St. Thomas. The stormy weather kept the most of the congregation at home as very few were out at either service.

Mrs. Arthur McKelvie of Simcoe spent Monday with Mrs. Watkins.

Mr. Statford Smith took possession of Teeter's Hotel on Monday.

The friends of Miss Mildred Beemer will be glad to know she has arrived overseas safely. Her parents had a cable from her last Monday.

A very large crowd was present at the Political meeting in the interests of J. Alex Wallace last Monday evening in the Town Hall.

The place was packed and some were not able to get inside. The stormy weather undoubtedly kept many more away.

Owing to the lateness of the car several speakers were late in arriving and several local speakers occupied the platform.

During the evening about a dozen speakers, in all, were heard. The Galt-Kille band furnished music during the evening.

Mr. George Collins of Simcoe, spent Sunday in town.

Mrs. Hugh MacMartin and Irene, are spending a few days this week with relatives at Niagara Falls.

The funeral of Edith Lyle Williams wife of Joseph Williams of St. John New Brunswick was held from the home of her aunt, Mrs. John Martin on Tuesday last.

The deceased had been ill for sixteen months. She was born in Waterford and after her marriage she moved to New Brunswick. Her many friends here were sorry to hear of her death.

**PLEASING RECITAL**

Junior Pupils of Miss Squire Gave Excellently Balanced Program

Thursday evening an exceptionally well balanced programme was given by the junior pupils of Miss Squire, who appeared in Literary Recital at the Conservatory of Music Recital Hall.

The evening was opened with the National Anthem—piano and organ accompaniment—which was followed by Kipling's "Hymn Before Action," rendered very feelingly by Miss Alice Pryor, who later in the evening delighted her hearers with her children's characterizations of "The Children's Pageant," adapted from "Paradise."

Miss Mary McCausland gave a really beautiful interpretation of James Russell Lowell's "Vision of Sir Launfal," while her rendition of "Anselm's Missionary Offering" was both dainty and pleasing.

Miss Ella Rand in "The Elusive Vote" adapted from Mrs. Nellie McClung's "Black Creek Stopping House" displayed a thorough knowledge of her subject. Her characterizations of various politicians should be singled out for special mention.

This was probably the most popular number of a programme excellent in every detail.

Very unusual was "Domestic Activities," given by all three young ladies in pantomime and which was watched with great interest by the audience.

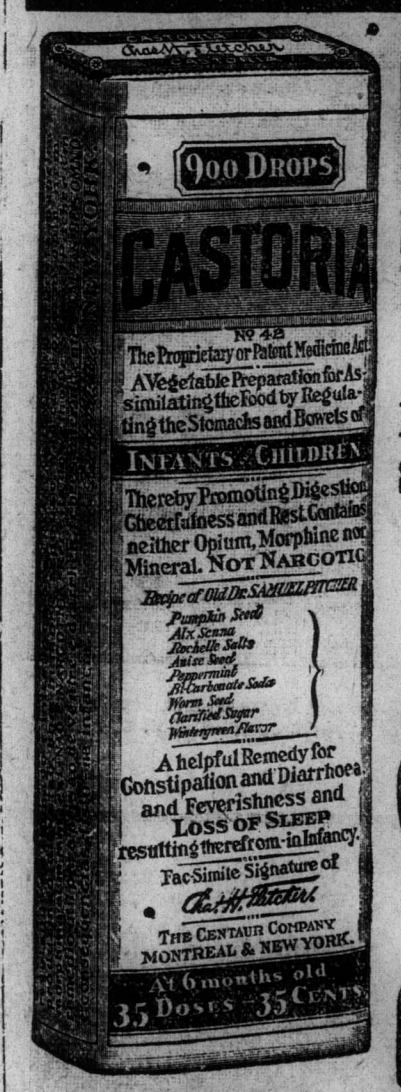
The programme was varied with an excellent number by Miss Alma Bartholomew of Venice, whose clever and sympathetic playing of the first movement of Beethoven's C Minor Concerto, added much to the enjoyment of the evening. She was accompanied on the organ by Mr. F. C. Thomas, L.R.A.M.

Altogether the programme was way above the standard of a Junior Pupils' Recital and too great praise cannot be given these young ladies, whose work was marked with a naturalness of manner, clearness of enunciation and depth of expression beyond the average.

## NEW WINNIPEG TRAINS

Travel between Eastern and Western Canada is always heavy in winter months, particularly during December with its holiday season. To meet the requirements of the public, therefore, a special daily service between Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton is announced by the Canadian Northern Railway; Westbound, Dec. 3rd to Jan. 2nd, 1918 only; Eastbound, Dec. 1st to Jan. 5, 1918 only.

Thereafter regular tri-weekly service between Toronto and Winnipeg will be resumed. Service between Edmonton and Vancouver remains tri-weekly as at present, through connections being made by leaving Toronto Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's. For further particulars, see Time Table Folders, or apply to John S. Dowling & Son.



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