

THE SITUATION.

One report is to the effect that Lloyd-George has threatened to resign unless conscription is introduced in the Old Land. That assertion must be taken with a reservation as probably an extreme statement, but that he favors conscription is well known. Why shouldn't he? Even Lord Derby's appeal for recruits was coupled with the warning that steps would be taken to secure enough men if the plan did not succeed. The position is that under the voluntary system some families supply two, three, or even more men, while others, whose interests are just as vitally at stake, do not furnish a solitary soldier. Their liberties and the existence of the Empire itself, are at stake, but they stand idly by and calmly watch others take up the task. It is not a fair deal and it would be a much more square thing to make all eligible men bear their part.

The Indian troops in Europe have been transferred to some other scene of operation, not specified. They have done loyal and courageous work, but it is generally known that climatic conditions did not suit them in France. According to the report of General Townshend, these have been more fierce fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula with the Turks on the offensive. They did make entrance at one portion of the Allies position, but were finally driven out and lost quite a piece of ground in the repulse.

King Constantine and his advisers, have decided to disarm a certain class of Greek reservists. It begins to look less and less as if Greece would enter the war on the side of the Teutons. That intention, which the King at one time undoubtedly held, has evidently been completely squelched.

The Appeal to Unionists.

The Courier has previously expressed the opinion that Lloyd George in his appeal to union men to relax some of their rules during the war in order to accelerate output, would meet with co-operation, and this paper still thinks so. It should be remembered that all of what union men have gained anywhere has been by their hard work and the overcoming of many obstacles, but that a vast majority of them are willing to face circumstances in a reasonable spirit was abundantly shown in the recent election in Merthyr. This riding, a great mining constituency, was represented for years by the late Mr. Keir Hardie. For the contest which took place in the early part of December, J. Winstone was selected as the official candidate of the Labor party. C. B. Stanton, also a union man, was his opponent and his platform was that the Government in the matter of reducing the number of hours, should oblige all that it asked during the progress of hostilities. The result was as follows:— Stanton 10,286 Winstone 6,080

Majority for Stanton 4,206 Mr. Stanton, after the result became known said, "Well it is at least a message of good cheer to the boys in the trenches." In like manner there is every reason to believe that there will also be a message of good cheer to the boys when the response to the appeal of Lloyd George is announced.

Blankets Are Needed.

The Women's Patriotic League are asking for contributions of blankets, old or new, to be furnished to the Secours National, the official French organization in charge of the relief work in France. A tea is being given by the ladies in the new cars of the L. E. & N. on Thursday afternoon, from 3 to 6, in aid of the fund and citizens are invited to send blankets to the Patriotic League headquarters. In connection with this appeal, the Young Women's Christian Association in Paris cables New York: "Our refugees suffering. Five hundred pairs blankets urgent."

A letter from one of their workers in Paris says: "Old age and baby life may flicker out for lack of blankets in these great bare sheds. I know so well, where hundreds huddle without heat, adequate clothing, or—hope. Surely when tucking your own children in their warm beds you will feel a greater peace of mind if you have insured some for their mother's child in comfortable night. Send, give, I beg of you! Go without some pleasure to give to those who have nothing."

The Secours National, 51 King street, west, has made an appeal in Toronto for one thousand pairs of blankets before the New Year, to send to these suffering women and children in France. It remains to be seen how Toronto answers the appeal.

BELGIAN AND SERB RELIEF.

The Board of Trade has received the following subscriptions, marked for Belgium Fund:— Canadian Bank of Commerce Staff \$ 7 00 H. W. Finton 10 00 Rev. Dr. Henderson 5 00 A. K. Bunnell 10 00 Marked Belgian and Serbian Funds: E. L. Co-shutt 30 00 John T. Ham 15 00

Colonel C. S. Jones has returned to Toronto after visiting his brother, Major T. H. Jones.

INDIAN TROOPS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FIELD

Announcement Made That They Have Been Withdrawn From France.

THANKED BY THE KING

New Sphere of Operations Not Known, But Somewhere in East.

London, Dec. 28.— Indian troops with the British expeditionary forces in France are to be or have been transferred to another field of action, it was officially announced yesterday afternoon.

The announcement was made at the same time as a message from King George to the Indian troops was made public.

Whether the new field of action is Egypt or Mesopotamia is not announced; in both these theatres there are presumably already considerable bodies of Indian troops.

It is assumed that the places of the Indians in France have been filled by drafts from the new armies raised on the soil of the United Kingdom.

At the parade of the Indian troops in France the following message from the King and Emperor was read to them by the Prince of Wales: "More than a year ago I summoned you from India to fight for the safety of my Empire and the honor of my pledged word on the battlefields of Belgium and France. The confidence which I then expressed in your sense of duty, your courage and your chivalry, you since have nobly justified."

"I now require your services in another field of action, but before you leave France I send my dear, gallant son, the Prince of Wales, who has shared with my armies the dangers and hardships of the campaign, to thank you in my name for your services and to express to you my satisfaction."

"British-Indian comrades-in-arms, yours has been fellowship in trials, hardships, courage and endurance, often against great odds, in deeds nobly done in days of ever memorable conflict. In the warfare waged under new conditions and in peculiarly trying circumstances you have worthily upheld the honor of the Empire and the great traditions of my army in India."

"I have followed your fortunes with the deepest interest and with your gallant actions with pride and satisfaction, and I mourn with you the loss of many gallant officers and men. Let it be your consolation, as their pride, that they freely gave their lives in a just cause for the honor of their Sovereign and the safety of my Empire. They died gallant soldiers, and I shall ever hold their sacrifice in grateful remembrance."

"You leave France with just pride in honorable deeds already achieved and with my assured confidence that your proved valor and experience will contribute to further victories in the new fields of action to which you go. I pray God to bless and guard you and bring you back safely, when final victory is won, each to his own home, there to be welcomed with honor among your own people."

A short time ago it was announced that General Willcocks, head of the Indian forces in France had resigned, for "personal reasons."

VERY QUIET IN BALKANS

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Dec. 28.—"The belief is gaining ground that the Central powers will remain inactive," Reuters' Athens correspondent telegraphs. "Aeroplane reconnaissances of enemy positions by the allies show that unusual calm prevails. There are no indications of a projected offensive."

HAMILTON TURNS DOWN LICENSE REDUCTION

Why did Hamilton last year by a majority of 3548 refuse to sanction a license reduction by-law? Because Hamilton is aware that adequate hotel accommodation is essential to the progress and prosperity of a big city. Advt.

SWIMMING CONTESTS

Two swimming exhibitions will be given at the Y. M. C. A. at the end of this week under the direction of Instructor George Moseley. On Friday morning at ten o'clock, any young lad in the city will be allowed to take part. The real swimmers will take part in Saturday's exhibition. Races and diving contests will be the chief attraction.

SOLDIERS' CONCERT

On Thursday evening at the usual time of 7.30 another splendid concert will be given for the soldier boys at the Y. M. C. A. Five reels of moving pictures will be shown and will include some real war pictures. The Black Faced Minstrels will be the chief entertainers of the evening and will give an amusing clog dance. The 125th Battalion chorus under the direction of Sergt.-Major Hart will also take part. All soldiers have been invited to attend.

To the Man

who is looking for style, distinctive, smartness, beauty in fabric and pattern and WHO CARES at all times the sense of enjoyment he is actually feeling himself.

We suggest his interviewing our new line of Classy Woolen Suitings, which we assure you are just as right as right can be.

Chris. Sutherland 154 COLBORNE ST.

ST. JOHN'S NIGHT CELEBRATED BY MASONIC ORDER

Members of Doric and Ozias Lodges Kept Festival Last Night.

The members of Doric and Ozias Masonic Lodges fittingly celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist last evening, when a joint installation of the officers for the ensuing year was held. R. W. Bro. Dr. F. Hanna, D.D.G.M. of this District, acting in the capacity of Installing Master and being assisted by the following: W. Bro. R. W. Bro. J. C. Spence, Secretary; W. Bro. W. Bro. J. C. Spence, Treasurer; W. Bro. M. Wilbee, Chaplain; H. S. Tapscott, S.D.; G. Frank Sterne, J. D.; E. F. Trumper, I.G.; O. W. Rhyms, S.S.; Fred Pelling, J.S.; J. S. Wilson, Organist; T. McNeill, Tyler.

Sheppard, W.M.; W. Bro. W. B. Scace, I.P.M.; A. M. Harley, S.W.; A. S. Fox, J.W.; F. W. Boddy, Secretary; W. Bro. W. C. Boddy, Treasurer; W. Bro. M. Wilbee, Chaplain; R. T. Stillman, S.D.; E. F. Corey, J. D.; W. L. Roberts, I.G.; A. M. Jackson, S.S.; H. Miller, J.S.; F. C. Thomas, Organist; J. McGarrell, Tyler.

After the installation ceremony, His Worship Mayor Spence, himself a Past Master of Doric Lodge, called on the members of the retiring W. Bro. W. Bro. J. C. Spence, and after a few complimentary remarks, asked the manner in which W. Bro. Dixon had guided the affairs of the lodge through a year of unprecedented conditions, presented him on behalf of the officers and members with a Past Master's beautiful jewel. Mr. Dixon expressed his appreciation of the kindness of the Brethren for this further mark of their esteem. W. Bro. J. C. Spence then on behalf of the members of Doric presented W. Bro. Bert Inglis, the retiring Treasurer with a case of pipes as a token of thanks for his untiring efforts for the welfare of the lodge, to which Bro. Inglis made suitable reply. The Brethren of Doric Lodge, the officers and members of Ozias Lodge then requested R. W. Bro. Hanna to present to W. Bro. W. Bro. Scace, the retiring Master of Ozias Lodge, which W. Bro. Scace accepted in a few well chosen words. An adjournment was then made to the banquet hall, where singing, partaking of the refreshments furnished by the Junior Wardens the following Toasts were given: "The King and the Empire," "The Grand Lodge of Canada," proposed by W. Bro. Wilbee and responded to by R. W. Bro. Dr. F. Hanna; "Our members on Active Military Service" brought responsive words from Bro. Ernest, Paymaster of the 84th Battalion, W. Bro. Lieut. C. M. Sheppard and Bro. Sam Seago of the 125th, and Bro. Tom Anderson of the 84th at Oshawa. Incidentally it was brought out by W. Bro. Dr. F. Hanna that the members now on Active Military Service. "Our Visiting Brethren" was responded to by Bro. Joseph Bown of Buffalo, W. Bro. H. W. Granton of Onondaga, W. Bro. H. Robert Sullivan, Brant Lodge, W. Bro. T. J. Kirkby, Ruba Lodge and Bro. White of Port Rowan. "Ozias Lodge was responded to by Bro. Frank Benedict, Secretary, and "Doric Lodge" by the newly installed Master, Dr. C. D. Chapin.

The Toast List was interspersed with songs by Bro. Ernie Moule and violin selections by Bro. W. G. Darwin, and a splendid night musically brought to a close by the Junior Wardens' toast and the singing of the National Anthem.

Selling Inferior Liquors.

Is the boy and young man sater in the community where the licensed bar refuses him admission until he has reached the mature age of 21 years or more, in the community where the unlicensed dive asks no question regarding his age and sells him inferior and home made liquor as long as he is able to stand up and drink them?—ad. able to stand up and drink them?—ad.

A Failure and Detriment.

Brantford tried the Dunkin act many years ago, when the city was only about half its present size. The Dunkin act proved a failure and a detriment to the best interests of the city. Is there any reason to believe that Local Option will prove otherwise in a large and progressive city? No city the size of Brantford has ever tried the experiment.—Advt.

CAUGHT THIEF THIS MORNING ON TERRACE HILL

The thief who has been breaking into houses all over the city for the last two months, has been caught at last. The offender was found to be a boy of about fifteen or sixteen years of age, who calls himself George Lloyd of Toronto.

A resident of Terrace Hill notified the police this morning that a young lad was acting very suspiciously. P. C. Barr and P. C. Bothwick were sent up with the patrol wagon and caught the lad on Dundas street. When searched at the station, most of the stolen money and jewelry was found in his possession. Later, about 12.30, P. C. Barr went down to Preston's Restaurant on Market Street, where the boy has been staying, to get his boxes. He found one grip and two boxes there filled with rifles, ammunition and many other presumably stolen goods.

This boy is charged with the following crimes: Theft of gold watch and chain and Sunday school collection amounting to \$100.00, and other articles, at the residence of Mr. A. J. Dungey, at Dundas street.

Theft of an \$8 leather purse at 118 Cayuga street.

Theft of a pearl handled fruit knife and pocket book at 56 Bagl avenue.

Entering 120 Murray street with burglarious intent.

Theft of diamond ring and money amounting to \$60 at the residence of Mrs. Haddow, 76 Victoria street.

Theft of front door key at 12 Duke street.

The police authorities are investigating and will get all possible evidence against the offender.

TURKS DRIVEN BACK

London, Dec. 27.—The Turks, in an attack on the British forces in Mesopotamia, succeeded in entering the northern bastion of one of the forts at Kut-el-Amar, but were driven out, an official statement issued this evening says. The official statement follows: "On the 24th General Townshend reported that the enemy had fired heavily throughout the previous night, but had not attacked. Later he sent a further report, as follows: "From 10 a.m., until past midnight the position was heavily shelled. The enemy, having breached the fort, effected an entrance, but were driven out. Two hundred dead were left inside the fort."

"The fort is a work on the right flank of his landward position on the north side of the Kut Peninsula."

"On the 25th General Townshend sent a further report, in which he says that at midnight on the 24th and on the 25th fierce fighting for the possession of the fort took place. The enemy effected a lodgment in the northern bastion and were ejected, but came on again and occupied the bastion, but were once more ejected."

LOCAL

BACK HOME.

A telegram sent by Col. from St. John, N.B. states that he expects to reach Brantford or some time Wednesday.

AT HOME.

LT.-Col. Cutcliffe and officer Duffin in Rifles have issued the usual annual "At Home" Armories on New Years Day 6 p.m.

ENTERTAINING THEM.

The officers of the 84th B are entertaining the men, wives and kiddies in Victoria afternoon and there will be to-night at the Armories.

TAKING COURSE.

The friends of Mr. Roy Brown, in the Belmont Hotel yesterday afternoon to bid him farewell. His departure for Toronto, a wrist watch was presented. Mr. Brown left last evening now taking an infantry course instruction.

CHRISTMAS WISHES.

Mrs. Vansickle, 59 Grey street, received the following telegram from her son at the front yesterday: "wounded and is in hospital base. The telegram reads: 'Dec. 25, 1915, Mrs. Vansickle, street, Brantford. Merry Christmas. Ernest.'"

CORDIAL GREETINGS.

Mrs. Colquhoun is in receipt of a letter from Colonel Colquhoun which on behalf of himself, non-commissioned officers and returns heartiest thanks, for many kindly tributes received from the people of the City of Brantford and also wishes citizens general happy and prosperous New Year.

STILL GOING UP.

Comparison of Street Rail turn for the week ended Dec. 24th, city lines only.

Monday 1915 281.30 Tuesday 181.10 Wednesday 187.98 Thursday 297.97 Friday 283.26 Saturday 259.85

Showing an increase of \$25

See our windows. They will interest you. OGILVIE, LOCHHEAD & CO. Elevator Service to All Floors.

Spend Your Christmas Money Wisely!

An Investment in FURS is Surely Wise! After Christmas Prices Prevail

'Twould indeed be hard to find a more serviceable, practical or acceptable gift. Children's and Misses' White Thibet Sets. Priced.... \$8.75 to \$3.95 Imitation Seal Sets, women's and misses'..... \$6.50, \$4.50, \$3.75 Very handsome Natural Wolf Sets, large full ruff and large cushion muff, beautifully marked. Price..... \$35.00 to \$18.75 Magnificent Black Lynx, and "Fox Sets, beautiful large full pieces; an ideal gift, a set of these. Priced..... \$75.00 to \$35.00 Very fine sets of Mink Marmot, the popular fur, large and small neckpieces, with large new style muff. Price..... \$18.00 to \$6.95

Say Boys! We Have a Few Sleighs Left Over

Perhaps you did not get one for Christmas. Why not buy one yourself? Yes, boys, they are cheap. We can sell you Kiddoo and Safety sleighs cheaper than any one in the city. ONLY A FEW LEFT.

Silks Velvets Dress Goods

Extra heavy 36 in. Black Paillette Silk, beautiful lustrous finish. Special..... \$1.00 36 in. Heavy Black Satin Duchess, guaranteed quality. Special..... \$1.50 Chiffon finish Costume Velvet, in all plain colors. Special..... 59c Extra fine chiffon finish guaranteed pile Costume Velvet, all colors. Special..... 75c

Tweeds 59c

20 pieces of 44 in. Tweed Suitings, just in. Thread for hard wear.

WIZARD Floor Mops

Large and medium size oiled mops for dusting your floors. Reg. prices \$1.00 and \$1.50. Special..... \$1.00 and 59c

Cushion Bargain Special 39c

5 doz. fancy art sateeh covered Cushions, soft filling, neat dainty patterns.

Warm Under Garments are Certainly a Wise Investment

Women's Warm Winter Vests and Drawers, natural and white, all sizes. OUR LEADER..... 25c Women's heavy, warm Winter Vests and Drawers, natural and white, all sizes. SPECIAL..... 35c Women's natural only, heavy Union Vests and Drawers, all sizes in stock. SPECIAL..... 50c Children's White and Natural Vests and Drawers, beautiful soft quality, a good warm garment. PRICES ARE..... 35c, 30c, 25c, 20c Women's White Flannelette Nightgowns, good full sizes, embroidery insertion trimmed. SPECIAL..... 75c Women's O. S. Flannelette Nightgowns, extra heavy quality, embroidery and tuck trimmed. Worth \$1.50. SPECIAL..... \$1.19

FLANNELETTE UNDERSKIRTS 50c

Women's pink, white and grey extra heavy quality Flannelette Underskirts, all sizes. SPECIAL..... 50c

Ogilvie, Lochhead & Co.

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