

HELD TO INCENDIARISM BUT OFFERED NO PROOF

Witnesses at American Club Fire Inquest Admit Prejudice Actuated Belief.

CONCLUDES ITS SESSIONS

Brought Out in Evidence That Overfusing of Wires May Have Caused Blaze.

After hearing the evidence as to the condition of the electric wiring in the American Club building and the effect which over strength fuses would have, the inquest held before Joseph B. Rogers, chief of the provincial police and provincial fire commissioner, and E. P. Heaton, fire marshal, into the cause of the fire, concluded its sessions shortly before 7 o'clock last evening.

A statement made by Mr. Rogers after the last witness was heard removed any stigma which may have been attached to the club. He said in part: "Some 45 witnesses have been examined and I feel that every report in connection with the fire has been thoroughly investigated. Insinuations have been made that the management of the American Club was in some way responsible for the fire on account of the financial condition, and I feel it is due the management that these insinuations should be removed."

"There has been no evidence to warrant any such imputation, and I feel I am justified in saying that the American Club knew nothing whatever as to the origin of the fire, other than what has come out before this inquest."

The splendid work of Detectives Archibald and Murray was referred to and the report will be made immediately to the attorney-general.

Fire Marshal Heaton concurred in the statement.

Recruiting Headquarters. F. H. Littlefield, treasurer of the American Club, said, in answer to questions by Lieut.-Col. Green, county crown attorney, that at the time of the fire the club was in a better financial condition than it had been at some other periods in its history. The club was more or less recruiting headquarters for the 97th Battalion, and extended every courtesy to the officers.

Throw Off Colds and Prevent Grip. When you feel cold, take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. It removes cause of cold and grip. Only One "BROMO QUININE" E. W. GROVER'S signature on box. 21c.

RECRUITING TOOK JUMP IN TORONTO YESTERDAY

Two Hundred and Sixty-six Men Offered for Overseas at Depots.

Enlistments for overseas in the city amounted to 263 yesterday. Of this number 38 were rejected. Fifty of those who passed will be on guard duty at the Welland Canal. Fifty more men are still under consideration at the depot.

The 160th Battalion will receive 15, 17th 17, 18th 7, 19th 5, 20th 4, and 21st 11. The 16th recruiting campaign will conclude several days ago, and although over strength they are still taking on men.

Under command of Major Darling the 16th Highlanders home regiment, 840 strong, attended camp at the exhibition drill at the armories last night, along with the 123rd Highland overseas battalion. The overseas battalion was under command of Lieut.-Colonel Duncan Donald. The brass and pipe bands were in attendance.

The 20th Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Hagarty in command, will hold its first church parade Sunday morning. The members of the battalion will form up at the headquarters in Harbour College at 10 a.m. and parade to St. Peter's Presbyterian Church for service.

Exercises Called Off. For the third consecutive time, the regular Friday tactical exercises held in the Humber Valley district by the overseas battalions in camp at the exhibition were postponed yesterday, due to the unfavorable weather.

The following are the churches to which the exhibition troops will parade to Sunday morning for service. The announcement was made by Major Williams, senior camp chaplain.

All Roman Catholics in the Exhibition Camp will parade to the Dairy building at 8.15. All Roman Catholics in Riverdale Barracks will attend St. Paul's R.C. Church at 8.30. All Hebrews will worship at the St. Catharines Street Synagogue, assembling there at 8.30.

The following church parades of units not stationed at the Exhibition Camp have also been arranged: 123rd Battalion, St. Barnabas, Haulton street;

SNOW SCENE IN TORONTO



Nearly every street in the city looked like this yesterday after the snowstorm. This is a view of Jarvis street, looking south from Carlton.

CANADIANS ARE NOT IN FIGHT AT VERDUN

Sir Sam Hughes Said Latest List of Casualties is Light.

SECOND LINE UNBROKEN

German Troops Now in Action Are Practically Raw Recruits.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Feb. 25.—In reply to an inquiry in the house of commons this afternoon, Sir Sam Hughes explained that the Canadian troops at Ypres were a long way from Verdun. He said according to reports which had been received by the department, the present battle was raging to the north and northeast of Verdun, which was perhaps the most strongly fortified place in Europe with the exception of Metz. He was informed that the French had succeeded in smashing the first attempt and that the German troops now coming on were reserves composed practically of raw recruits. It appeared that in one or two places the French first line had been broken, but the second line was absolutely unbroken.

The Canadians, Sir Sam stated, were a long distance from the position. No special assault on their lines with infantry was being made, but there was heavy artillery fire. The casualty list, however, was not high, five killed and eight wounded last night. The artillery firing is very heavy over our lines and our fellows are paying them back in their own coin, he said. (Applause.)

124th Battalion, Bond Street Congregation, 42nd New St. Anglican; 125th Centennial Methodist; 126th, Holy Trinity; 127th, St. George's; 128th, St. James Cathedral; 129th, Metropolitan Methodist. All these services to commence at 9.30.

The following have passed an examination in care of feet and boots and are returned to their battalions: Ptes. A. Williamson, A. A. Gawthorne, J. Jackson, W. McMurray, S. Southon, E. Chapell, S. Talbot, J. Wylie, C. Drake, H. F. Wik, J. McClelland, J. W. Parker, S. Steinsneider, Pte. J. H. Ruse, Sgt. G. Blake, F. Tarrington, A. J. Haddon, S. Jackson, W. G. Taylor.

Mayor Presents Flags. Mayor Church will present the 16th Battalion with the royal and regimental flags at the exhibition camp next Wednesday. The flags are presented to Col. S. G. Beckett, O.C. of the battalion, and the ceremony will be conducted by the Bishop of Toronto. The presentation, which was expected to be on the 25th, conflicted with the opening ceremonies of the legislature, and owing to many of the soldiers having to take part until the first of next month, it is expected at camp headquarters that the ministerial military show will be in attendance. The 75th Battalion contains a larger percentage of local officials than any other unit and was recruited from the 9th Mississauga Horse Regiment.

CANADA'S GREAT WORK PRAISED BY KITCHENER

Raising of Army and Organizing Munitions Industry Fine Achievements.

COL. CARNEGIE BACK

Kitchener Wished Him to Convey Warm Message to Gen. Hughes.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Feb. 25.—"Earl Kitchener particularly wished me to convey to General Hughes his high appreciation of what has been done in raising an army of over 300,000 fighting men and in organizing the munitions industry of Canada," said Col. David Carnegie, the expert ordnance adviser to the minister of militia and a member of the imperial munitions board, who has returned to the capital after two months' absence in England, where he was in consultation with Lord George. Earl Kitchener and other imperial authorities regarding the work of munitions in Canada.

"The experts in the motherland declare," he added, "that some of the shells we are making in Canada are produced at lower prices than obtained even yet in the United Kingdom or the United States." Col. Carnegie announces that orders will shortly be placed in Canada for 16 inch howitzer carriages. These will cost about \$10,000 each, and it is likely that the first orders will be given to the C.P.R. shops at Montreal, which are especially well equipped.

Prohibition Agitators. Why is it that prohibition agitators and professional politicians seize upon these times to create strife? Supposing the hotels are closed up, where will the downtown business men go for the excellent fifty-cent luncheons obtainable now at the Hotel Leinster?

McMASTER UNIVERSITY ORATORICAL CONTEST. McMaster University held its annual oratorical contest last night in Castle Memorial Hall. For the third successive time the first prize went to the representative of the year '16. This year, J. A. Parkin, speaking on "A Forgotten Hero," won the gold medal, which was presented by Harry Byrie. The second prize, a silver medal, presented by the Debating Union, was won by H. Wilson with "Imagination and Achievement" as his subject. The other speakers and their respective subjects were: H. E. Wintemute, "19, 'Failure'; W. T. Steven, "18, 'Courtship'; and A. J. Coles, Theology, "Sovereignty of Thought." The judges were Principal Gandler, Rev. T. Eakin and Prof. Mathews. The presentations were made by Dr. Keirstead, and a musical program rounded out the evening.

SCORE'S CLOTHES. In military work as well as civilian, quality of goods and finish are worth consideration. Those who prefer high-class tailoring will do well to consult us with regard to their outfit. See ad on Page 5. Our prices are reasonable.

York County and Suburbs

HELD OLD-TIME TEA AT WILLOWDALE CHURCH

One of the most enjoyable events ever held in the Willowdale Methodist Church was the old-fashioned "tea" meeting and concert held there last evening. The body is finished with twenty-five paint and varnish operations; it is upholstered with genuine hand-buffed leather. Never before in the history of the industry has any company reduced the price of its car so materially and at the same time actually increased the quality. Wherever changes were made in material or inspection operations could be improved they have been improved. And all this was done in addition to the reduction in price. YOU cannot afford to buy any car until you have seen this car.

It is 21 years since an old-time "tea" meeting was held in Willowdale Church, and the fact that the whole affair was in the hands of the Ladies' Aid, and organized to aid the funds of the Red Cross Society, added to its interest. A program was presented by Mrs. Gooderham, Mrs. Sleight, Miss Wallace, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Wright, E. W. Nelles, R. C. Nelles and Mrs. Catto. Capt. Cameron of the 27th York Rangers Overseas Battalion made a strong appeal for recruits. The chair was occupied by Rev. W. H. Moore, the pastor of the church.

RECRUITS FOR DUFFERIN AND HALTON BATTALION

Recruiting for this battalion took a spurt yesterday, and 13 men passed the doctor and were taken on the strength, which is steadily growing. Thursday evening the officers and men stationed in Milton gave a patriotic concert in the town hall for the benefit of the citizens. Lieut.-Col. P. Donville presided, and the excellent program which had been prepared was much appreciated by the large audience.

MARKHAM COMPANY ASSIGNS. E. H. Wilson & Co., general merchants, of Markham Village, have made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors to Oler Wade of Toronto. A statement of the affairs of the company will be made on Monday next at the office of the assignee. The Wilson firm is the oldest in Markham, dating back 45 years, when Mr. Harry Wilson, father of the present proprietor, began business on the site now occupied by George Thompson & Sons.

DEFEATED THE IRISH. By a score of 320 to 228, the North Toronto Rifle Club, in charge of Capt. Gilmore, last night met and defeated the Irish Rifle Club, under command of Capt. E. C. Chubb, at the exhibition drill. The local men and the Irish Rifles, Class A, have each won a match, and the deciding one will be shortly shot off. Last night's match, a friendly one, was with Class B, Irish Rifles, and is not included in the regular schedule.

NEWMARKET SOLDIERS. The Newmarket platoon of the 127th York Rangers Overseas Battalion, after a three days' march, arrived home last night, and were accorded a fine reception. Following luncheon, a concert was given in the town hall, at which short addresses were given by Lieut.-Col. Clarke, the commanding officer, Lieut. Giesie of Toronto, Captain Lawrence, Mayor Cane and others. The battalion is near the 1000-mark, and it is expected that this will shortly be announced.

CREDIT SALE. Registered cycles, furniture and 'Grade Holsteins, implements, furniture, etc., at 40c to 50c. J. A. Vanham, 309 St. Nicholas St., on Saturday, March 4, at 11 o'clock, belonging to F. W. Jackson, Union Trust Co. reserve. J. H. Prentice, Auctioneer. 625

Advertisement for Studebaker cars. Features include: Full 50-Horse Power and more, Five-Seven-Passenger Six. Text: "These Are Impressive Facts". Includes a photograph of a Studebaker car. Address: YORK MOTORS Limited 545 YONGE STREET North 4579.

County of York Highways Commission

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (NET) FOR THE YEAR 1915.

Table with columns for expenditure items and amounts. Includes sections for CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT and MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT. Total Construction Expenditure: \$108,296.30. Total Maintenance Expenditure: \$14,888.89.

E. A. JAMES, Engineer. J. K. MACDONALD, Treasurer. Having audited the Books and Accounts of the Treasurer of the "County of York Highways Commission" and compared the above Summary, I certify an Expenditure of \$108,296.30 upon "Construction" and \$14,888.89 upon "Maintenance," making a total of \$123,185.19. Toronto, February 4th, 1916.

Detailed Statement of Account will appear in Printed Records of the County for the year 1915—available from R. W. Phillips, Esq., Clerk, 57 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

WAR SUMMARY: Today's Events Reviewed

(Continued from Page 1).

lacked, should the Russians get to Trebizond. The Russian torpedo boat destroyers have sunk four Turkish sailing vessels which attempted to seek shelter in this harbor, and they bombarded a coastal railway nearby, destroying several bridges. A camel caravan, which was being escorted by troops along the coastal road, was dispersed by the Russian fire.

It is learned from the French official communique of yesterday afternoon that the lines on which the fighting is heaviest north of Verdun stretch across the crest of hills to the east of Champeville, five and a half miles north of Verdun, a little to the rear of the former positions at Samogneux, and behind the old lines at Beaumont, which has been evacuated. Champeville, which is the next point of attack, is a trifle over a mile southeast of Samogneux. It is situated on the east bank of the Fasserelle Canal, which leads to Verdun. Beaumont, behind which the French lines are established, is almost seven miles due north of Verdun. Thus the French withdrawals have not been general, but only from exposed points, which would be more subject to the sweeping fire of the German artillery, and they are being made with the object of sparing the lives of their men as much as possible. The Germans claimed that they took 7000 prisoners, which, with the 3000 that they said they took on Monday, would bring the number up to 10,000, but German reports of the wounded are, as a rule, grossly exaggerated. They have picked up the wounded on the portions of the field abandoned by the French and have given them as prisoners taken, a practice not followed by the allies, who only count among the prisoners taken the unwounded.

Advertisement for Canada Metal Co. Ltd. Products: Pig Tin, Pig Lead, Ingot Copper, Bertha Spelter, Antimony, Aluminum. Prompt Delivery. Address: FRASER AVENUE, TORONTO.

Advertisement for WIPING RAGS. Text: "ARMED GUARD IS INJURED GRAPPLING WITH SUSPECT". "IS CLAIMING DAMAGES FOR INJURIES TO SON". "FOR RENT REFRESHMENT PRIVILEGES 'Green's Pavilion'". "SANITARY WASHED WIPING RAGS AND CHEESE CLOTH. E. PULLAN 20 Maud St. Ad. 760".

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "WHO WOULD NIGHT", "Received Dollars", "PAID F", "Finance Educ", "Ch", "Further the public of the bo", "changes the", "same as a", "The am", "edat pur", "for the", "2500 to", "owed for", "public sc", "creased fr", "Trus", "num sala", "science te", "to fix th", "of \$550 a", "pals for", "to forty", "sected by", "day princ", "that teach", "in the eve", "who are a", "night and", "night. Tr", "the \$550", "cipals we", "and the", "so that t", "nights, th", "so that t", "they shou", "The", "Trustee", "regarding", "drawn an", "pointed to", "port, but", "schedule", "June, and", "provide", "ber until", "schedule", "September", "Several", "were also", "partment", "will be t", "board and", "no incre", "In acco", "Trustee", "added for", "cluded in", "having be", "the sold", "and has a", "cal work", "The cle", "was asked", "in salary", "crased a", "ing repair", "children", "assess as", "The coun", "be as he", "be treat", "no incre", "The co", "would be", "themselves", "count of", "played a", "gines at", "\$400 was", "necessar", "at presen", "not und", "tion Act", "posed th", "immediat", "A ven", "party, a", "Fred J", "Hall, Gr", "ing. M", "To the", "Peoley, J", "Arthur."