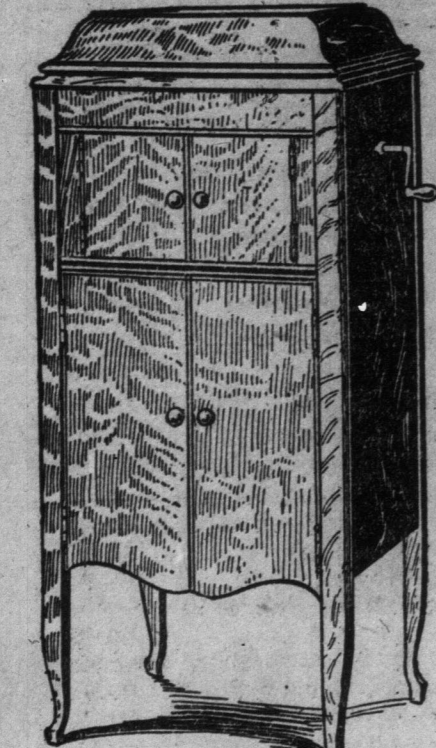


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RUSSIANS ARREST U. S. RAILROADMEN

American Mission Members Imprisoned by Bolsheviks, Washington Hears.

Washington, Jan. 1.—No word from official sources had reached the state department tonight regarding the reported arrest of members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk. The department's communication with Russia has been very irregular, however, and officials would not be surprised if the report were true. An inquiry will be sent to Ambassador Francis at Petrograd at once.

Altho several railroad units, each comprising several hundred men are in Siberia to assist in improving conditions of the trans-Siberian railway. It is thought that only a few could have been at Irkutsk. They probably are scattered in small detachments along the entire route.

There have been frequent rumors that the railway mission was about to withdraw and return to this country, but the state department has indicated that the men would be kept at their posts, and that, altho recognition of the Bolshevik regime is withheld, there is no disposition to curtail the work of railway rehabilitation begun under the Kerensky provisional government.

The American embassy at Petrograd reported to the state department last Wednesday that Charles Smith, a member of the railway mission, had been arrested at Tohita, Siberia, but had been released after a few hours of detention. Earlier news despatches from Russia said that Mr. Smith had been taken into custody, while in company with M. Oustrouf, former assistant minister in his post as ambassador at Petrograd.

because of his prior affiliation with the provisional government. Strong Personnel. The United States railroad commission to the Russian Government arrived in Petrograd last June, and until the recent Bolshevik disturbances had been actively engaged in assisting the Russian railways out of their operating difficulties.

The personnel of the commission, which was not officially announced, follows: John P. Stevens, of New York, former chief engineer of the Panama Canal, chairman; W. L. Darling, of St. Paul, chief engineer of the Northern Pacific Railway; Henry N. Miller, of St. Louis, former operating vice-president of the Wabash Railroad; George Gibbs, of Philadelphia, former chief mechanical engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and J. P. Griner, of Baltimore, chief consulting engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Chairman Stevens had the rank of minister plenipotentiary to the Russian Government, but his appointment did not infringe on the status of David R. Francis, the American ambassador.

A despatch from Tokyo, dated Dec. 27, said Mr. Stevens had arrived in Nagasaki, Japan, Dec. 19, from Vladivostok, and that he had reserved the accommodation of an entire hotel in Nagasaki for 20 members of his staff who accompanied him. The despatch also carried a statement from Mr. Stevens in which he declared it was his intention to return to Russia with the men who accompanied him, and that they could be of any assistance to the Russian people.

THREE AMBASSADORS WILL SHORTLY RETIRE

London, Jan. 1.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice and Lord Bertie, according to The Daily Chronicle, will shortly retire from the British embassies at Washington and Paris. The newspaper adds that it is rumored that Sir George Buchanan is about to resign his post as ambassador at Petrograd.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

IN Palestine the British, who have severely defeated an attempt of the Turks assisted by Germans, to recover Jerusalem, have continued their pursuit, killing 1000 more Turks and taking 700 more prisoners. Particulars of the fighting show that the Turkish effort against Jerusalem was more serious than at first supposed. The battle lasted for 26 hours, and it was won at the critical moment when General Allenby seized his opportunity of beginning a counter-attack against the Turkish lines. The British advanced two miles and a half over a difficult country, and forced the Turkish centre and wings to retire in conformity with the Turkish right before a British general advance. General Allenby has secured the line Burmah-Ras el Tehumeh-Khan Aia el Tifh-Vadi el Ghazal, and has advanced north of this line.

The British then return the Initiative in Palestine and besides have gained the advantage of securing the nodal points of important railways. The Turkish offensive against Jerusalem, the British left wing on the Mediterranean coast, north of Jaffa, remained inactive. More will be heard from the Turkish in the next day or so. The result of the campaign and the fate of Turkey, however, depend on the forces that the British Government will spare to General Allenby. The more narrow centralists in England keep urging the abandonment of this campaign, and the concentration of every man possible on the western front. The advantage of a speedy defeat of the Turks and the occupation of Syria, however, would be important, especially in respect to its influence on southern Russia. If Kaleidnes holds the south, he will require a new line of supply, and of the Mediterranean Sea. The opening of this line by the reduction of Turkey would bring the lines a big reinforcement of troops and southern Russians and might serve to save at least the richer and more populous centres from a German peace and German exploitation. The allied fleet could gain control of the Black Sea and avertive Bolshevik influence among the sailors.

The long-looked-for snow has fallen at last in the Italian Alps, and it has proved an effective ally of the allies, for it came down so heavily that it blocked in the valleys and gorges large forces of Austrians and Germans. Many detachments of the enemy are isolated, and the line of supply from Trent to the Asiago Plateau is blocked. Unless an army of Austrians which is laboring to restore communications can soon succeed in this aim the enemy will lose terribly in the mountains. The latest military efforts of the Italians have mainly consisted in the driving of the Austrians from the bridgeheads of Zenonon, on the Piave. They succeeded by means of a combined infantry and ar-

tillery operation. The British contingent has been heard from, it has carried out several small raids against the enemy across the difficult Piave River. The present chief British aim is to destroy by artillery fire, guided by aerial observation, the opposing batteries of the Austrians. In this work the British guns are having considerable success. General Allenby has ordered that all the allied troops are confident of success for their united efforts. The Italians, who occupy the Asiago Plateau, have worked untiringly to strengthen them.

It seems that the allies will have to join in the peace conference between the Bolsheviks and the Germans, and by taking a strong hand for the Germans in realizing their designs against Russia. The British Government is beginning to perceive the seriousness of the German negotiations. This has an increasing importance in the conduct of the war, and the time has come for the allies to act with an important gain of territory to discount the German peace offers on the basis of a draw. The Bolsheviks, meanwhile, it seems, are beginning to realize the seriousness of their dealings with Germany, and they are intensifying their propaganda among the German troops. Fraternization at the front is extending enormously. At the same time, it must be remembered that the German soldier, with his superior education, is unlikely to find enough common-sense in the Bolshevik doctrine to captivate his intellect.

What little news comes from the interior of Russia shows that the fighting between the Bolsheviks and Cossacks and Ukrainians is becoming heavy. The French are bombing the regions of Cambrai and Ypres, the points of the two vital penetrations in the German line. The Germans attempted a raid against the British near Loos, the neck of the La Bassée salient, and encountered a stiff fire. The raid ended in a failure. The enemy claims that he captured a little strip of ground south of Mesennoe. The French are having artillery combats and little else to report. The British aviation continues their rattling operations on the front north of Cambrai. News from Mesopotamia is lacking.

Another day of artillery fighting has passed at the British front. The chief centres of bombardment are the regions of Cambrai and Ypres, the points of the two vital penetrations in the German line. The Germans attempted a raid against the British near Loos, the neck of the La Bassée salient, and encountered a stiff fire. The raid ended in a failure. The enemy claims that he captured a little strip of ground south of Mesennoe. The French are having artillery combats and little else to report. The British aviation continues their rattling operations on the front north of Cambrai. News from Mesopotamia is lacking.

HAMILTON NEWS

HERBERT C. DAVIS MAYOR OF DUNDAS

Reeve, Commissioner and Three Trustees Also by Acclamation.

Special to The Toronto World, Hamilton, Jan. 1.—Dundas municipal nominations, which were held in the town hall, were featured by the election by acclamation of Herbert C. Davis as mayor, John Douglas as reeve, and William Mount as the commissioner of public utilities. Three school trustees were also elected by acclamation and nine candidates were entered for aldermanic honors, with six appointed. It is expected, however, that a number of the candidates will drop out before the voting takes place next Monday. The nominations were as follows: Deputy reeve—William Henry Moss and J. W. Dickson, Aldermen—Charles B. Dickson, Joseph A. Lee, John Dicker, W. H. Moss, John Grant, William J. Kerr, H. W. Angold, William Ball, Edwin J. Mooney and Wilmet Hall. School trustees—Charles W. Pennington, acclamation, Mount Ward; Harry W. Lawson, acclamation, Canal Ward; Homer W. Simpson, acclamation, Valley Ward. William George Clark and Joseph A. Thompson nominated Canal Ward; Joseph Lyne and Joseph A. Thompson nominated Foundry Ward.

When the appraisal reports of the city water works department are submitted, it is expected that the water works system is valued at \$3,000,000 and that the annual turnover is \$300,000. It will also show that the department is coming out ahead in the time of \$20,000 yearly. The greater part of which is taken from the domestic users, as some of the manufacturers are paying as low as 75 cents per 1000 gallons. The result of the report is it is hinted that proper system of book-keeping and accounting will be installed and they are intensifying their propaganda among the German troops. Fraternization at the front is extending enormously. At the same time, it must be remembered that the German soldier, with his superior education, is unlikely to find enough common-sense in the Bolshevik doctrine to captivate his intellect.

WOMAN HEADS PARTY OUT ON BEAR HUNT

Circumstances Point to Presence at Beaches of Animals Escaped From York Mills.

There was a bear hunt at the beaches yesterday morning, but without the quarry being found. Toward the close of last week two bears escaped near York Mills and these have not yet been captured. On Sunday evening last a woman who has just come recently from the States, saw a bear track leading from Queen street to the shore at about 11 o'clock when there was a small fall of snow. When she read The World on Monday morning she saw the report of the escape of the bears and she organized a hunting party. She herself is a crack shot, being well-known as such in and around Scarborough. She came, and she started out to find Brn Bru yesterday. She feels confident that one or both of the escaped bears may be hiding in the bush just east of Victoria.

It would appear that the bears, if they are in the district, are living luxuriously, for many residents have missed parcels containing ducks, geese and chickens which were left late at night on porches by messenger boys. It is thought that the bears may have taken up residence in the vicinity of the vacant cottages in the neighborhood, and this has caused much excitement.

SCARBORO PIONEER DIED LAST NIGHT

Jacob Schlenker, East Toronto, Passes Out Suddenly After Long and Useful Career.

Jacob Schlenker, a pioneer of Scarboro Township, died New Year's night in his eighty-fifth year, after a long and useful life. Living with his daughter, Mrs. W. P. Harper, 272 Main street, East Toronto, the late Mr. Schlenker was in his usual health until taken with an attack of heart trouble last night. The late Mr. Schlenker came to Canada from the old country when fourteen years of age, and since that time has lived and worked in Scarborough. He conducted a good trade as a blacksmith for thirty years in East Toronto. He was an earnest member of the congregation of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church since its inception, having had the honor of naming the church. He had served as an elder and on the board of management of the church.

Mrs. Schlenker died about five years ago. Five daughters survive. Besides Mrs. Harper, with whom the late Mr. Schlenker lived, there are left to mourn the loss of a kind father Mrs. W. Bowes of Buffalo, N.Y.; Mrs. Robert Boyd, 365 Danforth avenue; Mrs. Wm. Brown, 611 Annetta street, West Toronto; and Mrs. F. Hitchcock, 215 DeGrass street.

DROP HUNDRED BOMBS ON GERMAN BILLET

London, Jan. 1.—The following official communication dealing with aviation was issued this evening: "Very little flying was possible Monday and today owing to the mist. During the night, altho the improvement was only slight, our aeroplanes dropped over a hundred bombs on hostile billets in the neighborhood of Bouliers and Meulin. Several direct hits were obtained. A moving train also was bombed and hit. "All of our machines returned."

STEAMER AURORA FEARED LOST

London, Jan. 2.—The Daily Mail says it is feared that the Antarctic relief ship Aurora, which took part in the Shackleton expedition, has been lost with all hands while returning to England. It is understood the vessel sailed from Wellington, N.Z., in June with a crew of about 22 and nothing has been heard from it since.

YORK COUNTY AND SUBURBS

WESTON VOTING IS FAIRLY HEAVY

Personal Dispute Between Bull and Church Marked Proceedings.

Considering that the mayor and reeve of Weston were both elected by acclamation the election took an active character in the councilors', trustees' and commissioners' contest, and busied themselves from the opening of the poll till its closing bringing out the vote. The only issue for comment was a personal dispute between R. J. Bull and H. J. Church, contestants for water, power and light commission, which was settled by the withdrawal of certain accusations made by Mr. Church.

The election results are: Mayor, Dr. W. J. Christie (acclamation). Reeve, J. M. Gardhouse (acclamation). Council, S. Macklin, 273; W. Webster, 259; Jas. Gardhouse, 216; Robert Wright, 187; A. E. Scythas, 181; Geo. Sainsbury, 151; M. Harris, 172; J. Richardson, 114.

Board of Education, R. J. Flynn, 302; D. Rowntree, Jr., 280; J. Hearne, 124; O. Masters, 101; W. Hollingsworth, 64; T. L. Moffat, 81; Mrs. Lyon, 124. Water, Power and Light Commission, R. J. Bull, 135; H. J. Church, 135.

Of the 1200 voters, S. Macklin is credited with aspirings to his usual standing at the head of the poll. Robert Wright is the new face in the council, who will occupy the seat made vacant by the retiring member, W. J. Inch. Councilors S. Macklin, W. Webster, Jas. Gardhouse and A. E. Scythas are returned to office. Reports concerning the board of education. Trustees D. Campbell, R. J. Flynn and D. Rowntree, Jr., are re-elected.

The returns, which were in charge of J. H. Taylor, town clerk, were handed in an expeditious manner.

MILLER AND GRAHAM ELECTED AGAIN

Sgt. Lacey Made Good Run in York Township Contest.

Tremendous interest centered around the election for first and third deputy reeves in York Township yesterday, and one of the largest vote returns in the history of the township was recorded for these two offices, despite the fact that Reeve Griffith Deputy Barker and Councilor McKay were returned by acclamation.

The candidates for first deputy were F. H. Miller, C. T. Lacey and C. Johnson, and by 5 o'clock the township offices on Jarvis street were filled to the doors. W. A. Clarke, returning officer, announced the votes as received. For first deputy the vote was as follows: Miller, 1464; Lacey, 694; Johnson, 224.

For third deputy reeve the vote was Graham, 1605; Woolner, 664.

Following the announcement of the result a public meeting was convened, with Reeve Tom Griffith in the chair, when short addresses were given by Messrs. Miller and Graham, appreciative of the splendid support accorded, and reaffirming their determination to give even better service to the township than before.

The completion of the waterworks system would be carried along with all possible speed consistent with a careful husbanding of the finances of the township.

C. T. Lacey, candidate for first deputy, also spoke briefly. Mr. Lacey said that he had fought and lost, and that everything he could do to assist the council would be done. He was given a fine reception, and said that he again would be a candidate next year.

A feature of the meeting was the stormy passage between I. C. Woolner, who opposed W. M. Graham, and W. A. Carter, and for a time a real deal of excitement prevailed, but the storm blew over, and the big gathering wound up with reusing cheers for the King and the candidates. Others who spoke during the evening were the reeve, Deputy Reeve Barker and Councilor Charlie McKay.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IS PERMITTED TO MEET

Will Open Sessions by Grace of Bolsheviks But Can't Question Maximilist Power.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 31.—The evening newspapers today declare that it is likely the constituent assembly will open tomorrow and quote Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, as their authority for the statement. It is expected that the assembly will hold only a brief session and then take a recess until after the election of last week. Reports concerning the number of members elected to the assembly vary from 410 to 510. The officials at the Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, are expected to demand that the assembly shall first take upon itself the question of deciding the authority of the workmen's and soldiers' deputies.

KINGSDALE ELECTIONS.

The election in the police village of Kingsdale yesterday resulted in the election of the first three candidates: J. McKenna, 27, R. C. Nelles, 24, J. J. Flume, 14; J. A. Vickers, 9, and E. Adamson, 3.

DR. DAVIDSON CHOSEN.

Little interest shown in elections in Etobicoke.

Very little interest was manifested in the municipal elections in Etobicoke Township yesterday due to the fact that the reeve, James Dudgeon, was elected. The officials at the Smolny Institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, are expected to demand that the assembly shall first take upon itself the question of deciding the authority of the workmen's and soldiers' deputies.

GUNS PAY NEW YEAR'S COMPLIMENTS TO FRITZ

Salvoes of High Explosives Notify Enemy of the Time and the Date.

London, Dec. 16.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A Reuter despatch from British headquarters states that the enemy's attack yesterday morning west of La Vaqueuque was carried out after a fierce bombardment. The attack was concentrated on a half mile front and the waves advanced under cover of flamethrowers. Parties swarmed into a short length of trenches on the right but elsewhere they were unable to rush the parapet in face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire. While our supports were organizing for the counter-attack our gunners put up a fierce barrage against the invaders driving them to cover, with the result that when we crossed the snow-clad ground we took the whole of the trenches the Germans had carried. It was a very striking reminder of the original storming parties that got back across No Man's Land.

INGERSOLL POULTRY SHOW.

Special to The Toronto World. Ingersoll, Ont., Jan. 1.—With a splendid representation on in practically every class, the annual show of the Ingersoll and South Oxford Poultry Association opened today in the town hall. It has been necessary to provide cooping for more than six hundred birds and the show is characterized by officials as the finest ever held here. A large number of the foremost western Ontario fanciers are exhibiting and the exhibits include many of the prominent winners at the big Guelph show. The show will continue until Friday.

To Prevent the Grip. Colds cause Grip—Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets remove the cause. There is only one Bromo Quinine. E. W. Grove's signature on box. 30c.

Notice to the Public

It has come to my attention that many individuals, plentifully supplied with coal, are procuring further supplies from dealers, and that in many cases it has been necessary for the men making delivery to trim back the fuel in bins in order to secure room for the additional quantity.

I have instructed the coal dealers to report every such instance to me, and I shall institute rigorous prosecution of such persons for infraction of the Dominion Fuel Regulations. Such conduct in the present stringency, when many are suffering for want of fuel, is criminal, and I shall invoke process of law to punish the offenders; in addition, I shall, as authorized by the Fuel Regulations, remove from the bins of such offenders all fuel which they have in stock over and above the two months' supply allowed by the Regulations.

R. C. HARRIS, Honorary Fuel Controller for Ontario.

City Hall, Toronto, December 31st, 1917.

Notice to Coal Dealers of City of Toronto

It has come to my attention that many individuals are securing delivery of coal who have ample supplies on hand, and that in some cases it has been necessary for the men making delivery to trim the fuel in the bins in order to accommodate the additional quantity.

All coal dealers are hereby required to refuse to leave such excess quantities of coal at the premises of the individual ordering, and to report promptly the circumstances to me, when I shall immediately institute proceedings under the Dominion Fuel Regulations.

This order is imperative.

R. C. HARRIS, Honorary Fuel Controller for Ontario.

City Hall, Toronto, December 31st, 1917.

F. H. MILLER, Candidate-Elect. W. M. GRAHAM, Candidate-Elect.

We take this, the first opportunity, to thank the people of York Township for the trust reposed in us, and will use every energy to merit a continuation of it.

FRED H. MILLER, W. M. GRAHAM

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WASTE PAPER

EMULLAN, TORONTO

Two Killed in Explosion Of Nanose Powder Plant

Nanose, B.C., Jan. 1.—Two men were killed when one of the units at the Giant Powder Company's works at Nanose Bay was destroyed by an explosion today. All the buildings of the works were somewhat damaged.

PRINCE ON LEAVE

The Prince of Wales arrived at Buckingham Palace last Monday, and leave from the front, and was welcomed by the King and Queen.

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