

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

TO ALL

H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. Realty Brokers 36 King St. East

PROBS—Fresh to strong northwest winds; fair and decidedly colder.

Senate Reading Room 1241-1201 SENATE BUILDING OTTAWA

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# The Toronto World

## Enemy Checked on the Italian Front Allenby Renews Advance in Palestine

### ALLENBY CONTINUES ADVANCE ON THE PLAIN OF SHARON

Four More Towns Occupied by British—Large Number of Munitions of War Are Also Captured—Over Three Hundred Prisoners.

London, Dec. 24.—General Allenby's troops in Palestine continue their advance on the plain of Sharon, north of Jaffa, and have occupied four more towns. An official statement says: "On Saturday morning, with naval co-operation, our left continued the advance north of the line Sheikh el-Ballutahel-Jell, about four miles north of the river. Pushing eastward and south of the river we occupied Feija and M'elabeh. This was followed by the capture of Rantieh, on the Turkish railway to the north, and Kheibeida-Kheibeirah, four miles southeast of Rantieh. Effective aerial work was carried out on enemy transports and infantry."

Earlier reports said: "At midnight of Dec. 20-21 our troops, crossing the Nahr el Auja (four miles north of

Jaffa, on the Mediterranean) on rafts and light bridges, seized Khurbet, Hadrah, Sheikh Muannis, Te'er Bekket and El Nakhras. These localities are near the mouth of the river, and include commanding ground three miles north of it. They captured 305 prisoners, eleven of whom were officers, and ten machine guns. Other forces captured two Zentys, two miles northeast of Bethany, taking thirty prisoners, two machine guns and beating off three counter-attacks. "The following captures since the commencement of operations: Guns and howitzers, with carriages, 39; limbers, wagons and other vehicles, 400; machine guns, 110; rifles, 7000; rounds of small-arm ammunition, 18,500,000; rounds of gun and howitzer ammunition, 58,000, besides various other stores."

### BORDEN'S WORDS OF CHEER TO THE TROOPS OVERSEAS

Premier Sends Christmas Message—Inspiring Reference to Those Who Have Died for Canada, and Not in Vain.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The prime minister has sent to General Currie a Christmas message for the Canadian troops overseas. "To the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian forces overseas: "It is again my great privilege to convey to you from the government and people of Canada the greetings and gratitude which during this season are deep in the heart of every Canadian. This Christmas we recall the many thousands of your gallant comrades who have passed into their peaceful rest. They died that Canada might live in peace on earth, and that their spirit lives to inspire the nation, which can never forget. You who are completing their unfinished task look to us for support and cheer;

the men and women of Canada have already shown you that your trust is not in vain. Our sacrifice can never equal yours, but in the new year now approaching we shall resolve anew that as the army struggles and suffers for the nation, so the nation will strive and endure for the army, and go both for the great common cause of liberty and civilization to which we have consecrated our efforts, but which unhappily remains yet to be secured. We hope and pray for a speedy victory, but however long the struggle on, convinced in heart and soul that only in the completed effort of military and naval action may we and our allies hope for that modicum of honorably peace which every sacrifice would risk up to shame us and our children in the years to come. "Signed) R. L. Borden."

### CUSTOMS RIGIDLY ENFORCES LIQUOR PROHIBITION ORDER

Applied to All Consignments Passing Thru Their Hands—Inland Revenue Department Officials at Sea Regarding Details—Bonded Whiskey Situation.

Special to The Toronto World. Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The order prohibiting the importation of liquor into Canada was rigidly enforced today. All customs officers were notified and the provisions of the order were applied to all consignments which passed thru customs. Also the movement of liquor into the "dry" provinces was stopped. The estimate of the inland revenue department is that there is in bond about five million proof gallons of spirits, about one million of which is held in export. There is no beer in bond in eastern Canada, and there is only a small quantity in the west. The western stock is restricted solely for the purposes of exportation. The administration officials of the inland revenue department have not yet been made acquainted with the details of the order. So far as the

customs department is concerned, it is simply a straight order. "No further importation and there is no difficulty in carrying it out except that the case is somewhat different; the question of whiskey in bond is a difficult one. For instance, whiskey in bond in the "dry" Province of Ontario cannot be moved to the "wet" Province of Saskatchewan. The only movement can be to a "wet" province, so that any movement under the order in force with the "wet" Province of Quebec, but cannot be sent out of it into Ontario, etc. Officials of the inland revenue department point out these difficulties which occur under the said provisions of the order, and are of the opinion that modifications or provisions will have to be made in order to deal with the bonded whiskey situation."

### SWEDISH SHIP CAUGHT SOWING MINES AT SEA

Seven Members of Crew in German Pay Are Executed at Capetown.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—A Swedish ship, said to have been serving Germany in planting mines off the South African coast, has been captured, and seven members of the crew in the German pay were executed, according to W. Airey, head of a trading corporation of Capetown, here today, who said the execution took place five days before the departure from Capetown. WILL MAKE JOINT REPLY. Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—The four Teutonic allied powers, according to a dispatch from Brest Litovsk, have decided to reply jointly to the Russian peace proposals. This reply, it is expected, will be delivered tomorrow.

### HUGHES WILL ASK FOR DISSOLUTION

Impending Defeat of Conscription Has Caused an Embarrassing Situation in Australia.

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 24.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Among the majorities against conscription in the latest returns, which without the soldiers' vote show a total majority of 175,000 against, are recorded: New South Wales, 141,000; Victoria, 12,000; Queensland, 30,000; South Australia, 21,000. Among the majorities for conscription are: West Australia, 29,000; Tasmania, 350. The impending defeat of conscription creates an embarrassing situation. Premier Hughes will now advise the governor-general to summon Hon. Frank G. Tudor, or a member of his own party, to form a new government, by which Mr. Hughes would be absolved of his pledges, or he may ask for dissolution.

### GOT THREE SUBS AND ONE ZEPPEL



Snapshot of Flight-Lieut. Basil D. Hobbs, R.N.A.S., taken after his capture with the D.S.O. and D.S.C. at Buckingham Palace. He has destroyed single-handed three submarines and one zeppelin. He is a brother of Mrs. Cyril D. Boyce, of 121 Charing street, Hamilton.

### PASSED ITALIAN DEFENCES BUT WAS CHECKED IN REAR

Enemy Makes a Determined Attack, But is Immediately Subjected to Powerful Counter-Attacks—Driven Across Piave River.

Rome, Dec. 24.—Enemy forces which had crossed the Piave River at Piave Vecchia have been driven back over the river, the war office announced. On the mountain front the Austro-Germans moved the Italian positions in the Asiago sector in the region of Eua Monte Valsella, but stopped at the Italian rear positions, from where the Italian army counter-attacked with satisfactory results. The text of the statement reads: "After careful and intense artillery preparation, which began Saturday evening, the enemy yesterday morning made a determined attack in the western sector of Asiago Plateau, concentrating his action especially on Eua Monte Valsella. At this point he succeeded in passing our defenses, which had been ranked by the artillery, but his advance had to stop at the positions to the rear. From which our troops began powerful counter-attacks. "Last night on Piave Vecchia, to the south of Dradeno, detachments of bersaglierie drove to the left bank of the river large enemy parties, who, having succeeded in passing to the right bank, had desperately attempted to remain there."

### ROOSEVELT ADVOCATES WAR-TIME PROHIBITION

Favors It Not Only for Fighting Men, But for Those Who Are Engaged in Mines, Factories and Shipyards.

Washington, Dec. 24.—A letter from Theodore Roosevelt favoring wartime prohibition not only for fighting men, but for citizens working in mines, factories and shipyards, was made public tonight by Dr. Clarence Wilson, of the National Temperance Board. Answering a letter from Dr. Wilson, Col. Roosevelt wrote that he had favored prohibiting the use of food grains at the outbreak of the war, and added: "Neither the men in the army nor the men engaged in doing vital work for the army in connection with railroads, factories, mines and shipyards should be allowed to waste strength and health in drink at this time. The same reasons that render it necessary to prohibit the sale of liquor to soldiers in uniform, or to stop its use on battleships, apply to all citizens engaged in the work of railroads, factories, mines and shipyards. "I may mention that my sons, who are now in the army in France, write me most strongly, as General Pershing has expressed his public opinion as to the harm done to the men of the army by permitting the sale of liquor to them, stating that they believe in absolute prohibition for the army in war time—and one of them adding that his experience has made a permanent prohibitionist of him. "I wish your board every success in its effort to stop all waste of food, men, labor and brain power during these days, when the nation needs the energy of every man at his best."

### RAIDS WERE REPULSED IN BRITISH CASUALTIES

Attempts in Neighborhood of Monchy and La Bassée a Failure.

London, Dec. 24.—The British official statement says: "Last night hostile raiding parties which attempted to approach our lines in the neighborhood of Monchy-lez-Prewes and west of La Bassée were repulsed. "Yesterday afternoon the enemy succeeded to raid our positions southeast of Epehy, but he was driven off." SENATOR NEWLANDS DEAD. Washington, Dec. 24.—Senator Newlands of Nevada died at his home here tonight of heart failure.

### VESSEL WITH HIDDEN ARMS REACHES A PACIFIC PORT

FEAT WITHOUT A PARALLEL SAYS KAISER TO HIS ARMY

Again Says That God's Hand Has Visibly Prevalled on the Side of the Teutons and Will Do So in Future.

Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—In a speech to the second army on Saturday, Emperor William said: "It has been a year full of events for the German army and the German people. Powerful blows have been delivered and your comrades in the east have been able to bring about great decisions. "There has been no man, no officer and no general on the whole eastern front, wherever I have spoken to them, who has not frankly admitted that they could not have accomplished what they have if their comrades in the west had not stood to a man. "The tactical and strategic collection between the battles on the Isonzo, the Champagne, Artois and the Somme, and at Cambrai, and the events in the east and in Italy is so unified that it is useless to waste words on it. "With a centralized direction the German army works in a centralized manner. In order that we should be able to deliver these offensive blows one portion of the army had to remain on the defensive, hard as this is for the German soldier. Such a decisive battle, however, as had been fought in 1917 is without parallel. A fraction of the German army accepted the heavy task of covering its comrades in the east under unparallel conditions and it had the entire Anglo-French army against itself. "In long preparation the enemy had collected unheard of technical means and masses of ammunition and guns, in order to make his entry into Russia over your front, as he proudly announced. The enemy has achieved nothing. "The most gigantic feat ever accomplished by an army, and one without parallel in history, was accomplished by the German army. I don't boast. It is a fact and nothing else. The admiration you have earned shall be your reward and at the

same time your pride. Nothing can give any way place in the shade or surpass what you have accomplished. "However great and overwhelming it may be. "The year of 1917, with its great battles, has proved that the German people has in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it can absolutely rely, without Him all would have been in vain. "Every one of you had to exert every nerve to the utmost. I know that every one of you, in the unparalleled drum fire, did superhuman deeds. The feeling may have been frequently with you: 'if we only had something behind us; if we only had some relief.' It came as the result of the bow in the east, where it is seen that the storms of war there are at present all over. God grant that it may be forever. "Yesterday I saw and spoke to your comrades near Verdun, and there passing thru all minds like the ocean of the morning breeze was the thought: 'You are no longer alone.' "The great successes and victories of the recent past—the great days of battle in Flanders and before Cambrai, where the first crushing offensive blow delivered upon the arrogant British showed that despite three years of war and suffering our troops still retained their old offensive spirit—have their effect on the entire fatherland and on the enemy. "We do not know what is still in store for us, but you have seen how, in this last of the four years of war, God's hand has visibly prevailed, pursued us, and rewarded our persistence. From this we can gain firm confidence that the Lord will be with us in the future also. "If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by battling in with the iron fist and shining sword the doors of those who will not have peace."

### Weapons and Munitions Believed to Be for I. W. W. to Aid Them in Fomenting Revolutions in the United States.

A Pacific Port, Dec. 24.—The Russian freighter Shilka, Captain Boris Dogal, which, unheralded, slipped into the harbor here late Friday night, direct from Vladivostok, is under Bolshevik control, it became known today. A number of the Shilka's sailors were fraternizing on the dock today with a party of alleged Industrial Workers of the World, 21 of whom were arrested by Federal officials and held for investigation. Among those taken into custody were thirteen Russians. None of the sailors were arrested. Shortly after the vessel's arrival a report was circulated to the effect that she had brought a fund of \$100,000 in gold for the defence of several scores of Industrial Workers of the World now awaiting trial at Chicago on conspiracy charges. The United States district attorney here admitted he had heard of the report, but federal agents searched the vessel, but found no gold, knowledge of which was denied by the captain and crew. Another search will be made when the cargo of liquor, rice and beans is discharged. Following out the Bolshevik principles, the Shilka, it was said, is really under the command of a committee of five, four sailors and one officer. This committee has the power to overrule any order of Captain Dogal at any time, but members of the crew stated that this unique division of authority had caused no trouble on the voyage across the Pacific. Members of the crew have been forbidden to leave the vessel, and five cadets from a naval training school, working in three relays under the command of commissioned officers, are guarding the vessel. A mutiny on board. The steamer left Vladivostok Nov. 24 as a "Krensky ship," but when it reached here, the crew mutinied and took control, declaring for the Bolshevik regime. The wireless operator attempted to send out word of the mutiny and the sailors prepared to shoot him, but changed their minds. An investigation to determine the purpose of those in charge of the ship those who will not have peace." (Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

### HAIG TO CANADA

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The following message has been received by the governor-general from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the British troops in France: "General Headquarters, Dec. 24.—All ranks under my command join with me in sending heartfelt good wishes to the Dominion of Canada for Christmas and the coming year."

### FOURTEEN PERSONS KILLED WILD DASH OF RINAWAY CAR

One Hundred and Fourteen Persons Injured at Pittsburg, Roof Ripped Off and Men and Women Scattered Along the Railway.

Pittsburg, Dec. 24.—Fourteen persons were killed and every one of the other 114 passengers on a Knox street car were more or less hurt when the car today ran away. After a wild dash of almost a mile thru the tunnel connecting the city and South Hills, the car left the tracks and turned over on its side. The car, which was the latest steel type, was packed with clothing shopkeepers when it left the station at the south end of the tunnel. A minute or two later the trolley is said to have left the wire and the lights went out. At almost the same instant the motorman lost control, and the car dashed down the steep grade, gaining momentum with every instant as the wheels slipped along the wet rails. The passengers were thrown into a panic and their shrieks could be heard by persons in Carson street. A few feet from the mouth of the tunnel is a sharp curve, but so terrific was the speed that the car left the track and immediately turned over on its side. It did not stop, but tearing along the sidewalk struck a telephone pole. The roof was ripped off and men, women and children were scattered along the roadway. Even then the wreck continued on its way, and finally brought up in a little confectionery store near Smithfield street.

### FORTY MILLION DOLLAR DAMAGES AT HALIFAX

Four Thousand Persons Seriously Injured—Many Homes Beyond Repair Thru Explosion.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 24.—An unofficial but trustworthy estimate of the losses occasioned by the Halifax disaster by J. H. Winfield gives the following figures: 1600 killed. 4000 seriously injured. Value of homes destroyed or beyond repair, \$7,000,000. Damage to homes that can be repaired plus furniture and personal effects, \$5,000,000. Damage to civic, provincial, federal, church, institutional and industrial property, \$25,000,000. Showing a total property loss of \$40,000,000. Mr. Winfield in a letter to the press urges immediate registration and investigation of all losses. In order to brighten the Christmas of the hundreds of children wounded in the disaster of Dec. 6 and now in the various hospitals of the city, a well organized effort is being made to give each child a toy, a useful gift and a Christmas stocking. The homeless and destitute children now in emergency shelters will also be cared for, and the various committees hope to supply over five thousand children.

### QUEBEC WILL LOSE A MILLION DOLLARS

Province Regards Prohibition Legislation as Punishment for Vote at Election.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 24.—The liquor interests in the Province of Quebec are examining into the probable effects of the order-in-council passed by the Dominion Government in reference to the importation of liquor, non-manufacture and interprovincial traffic. Expert opinion is that, outside of anything that the Province of Quebec may do during the present session of the legislature, prohibition is practically being applied to this province, and the provincial revenues will suffer by over a million dollars per year. Not only will the province suffer as to revenue, but the City of Montreal will also be hit hard. The city draws special taxes from breweries and hotels for running such businesses, and also in special water rates, beer pumps and other ways. The members of the legislature seem determined to do something to show the feeling of the people, as the idea is growing that the step was taken by the federal government party for the purpose of showing that the alcohol is an unwise vote of this province against the Union government is locked on with disaster at Ottawa.

Boys' today... \$1.98... at 49c... Bags... of 85... at 95c... Floor