sington avenue, Toronto, contusion abdomen, 124th Battalion.

Slightly Injured.

The following are only slightly injured: Pte. A. H. McArthur, 116th Battalion; Driver W. Ryan, C.F.A.; Pte. P. Holedge, 4th Battalion; Corpl. A. R. Troxler, 6th Battalion, C.F.A.; Gunner W. T. Nolan, R.C.H.A.; W. H. Sheppard, 26th Battalion; Gunner H. Brown, 20th Battalion; Corpl. S. Fisher, 19th Battalion; Pte. W. E. Home, 19th Battalion; Lance-Corpl. G. Fess, 4th Battalion; R. Campbell, 102nd Battalion; R. Collins, 119th Battalion; Corp. A. L. Trudelle; C. Levi, 3rd Battalion; Lance-Corpl. Welsman, C.L.H.; W. Green, 29th Battalion; Pte. D. French, 14th Battalion; G. F. Phillipps, 30th Battalion, C.F.A.; G. Gregory, 20th Battalion; J. A. Taggart, 1st C.R.D.; Pte. G. N. Sears, 2nd C.R.D.; A. Feattrous, 12th Battalion; F. Wetton, 3rd C.R.D.; W. Sinclair, 4th C.M.R.; G. Vickers, 2nd C.R.D.; A. Swerles, 74th Battalion; Sapper J. Vaughan, 124th Battalion; Gunner A. E. Kennedy, 53rd Battalion;; Sapper F. J. Jones, 77th Battalion; W. J. Stainby, 102nd Battalion; A. Breary, 43rd Battalion; F. M. Vesterfest, 4th C.M.R.; A Robb, 3rd D.F.T.; B. Turner, 43rd Battalion; H. Haynes, 15th Battalion; G. Williams, 2nd C.E.R.V.; M. Fingland, 87th Battalion; F. Lett, 46th Battalion; J. N. Chambers, 102nd Battalion; L. G. Brintnell, 14th Battalion; Gunner J. Hamilton, 17th Battalion, C.F.A.; G. Lees, 27th Battalion; Gunner A. E. V. Cox, C.F.A.; Pte. Sincon, R.C.

OBJECT TO WAGE STANDARDIZATION

Would Be Good System for English and American Employers, Says Labor Man.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Proposals said to be under consideration by the British War Cabinet, looking toward establishment of an international tribunal to adjust labor conditions, possibly as an adjunct to a league of nations, do not meet with favor at the American Federation of Labor headquarters. News despatches from London and private advices to labor officials lately have indicated that several such proposals would be presented to the peace conference, and that some of them would contemplate international standardization of wages and restrictions, making impossible the "sweating" of labor anywhere.

"No one will object to dealing a death blow to 'sweating,'" Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., said today.

"Under such a system iron workers in America could not improve conditions if their present standards are in excess of the Belgium iron workers, for instance. This would be a good system—for the employers in America and England, whose workers are better conditioned than those on the continent.

"The best way to internationalize standards of working people is to first establish American standards. Any other system of internationalization means that the American worker must surrender gains made or the American worker must postpone further gains until workers in continental Europe reach his present standards.

"The American worker will accept no such principle, regardless of any decision that may be made at the peace conference."

BLEW OFF HEAD WITH SHOTGUN

Supposed Vancouver Man Commits Suicide in a New York Hotel.

New York, Jan. 2.—The body of a man, believed by the police to be that of Henry Wootten, about 45 years old, of Vancouver, B.C., was found in a bathroom adjoining his room at the Hotel Martinique, late this afternoon by House Detective Stevens.

According to Chief Medical Examiner Chas. Norris, it was a plain case of suicide, the man having blown off the top of his head with a double-barreled shotgun. A brother, John, of Summit, to whom a letter was addressed by the dead man, was notified, and he immediately started for this city to take charge of the body. Wootten is said to have registered at the hotel on Wednesday evening. He was not seen about the lobby or halls since that time. This afternoon a maid entered the room to clean up and found a hat and coat on the bed. She notified House Detective Stevens, fearing an accident had happened to the guest. In the bathroom Stevens found the body, and on the table of the bedroom was found a letter to John Wootten asking that a bill at the Hotel Vanderbilt and other debts be paid. No reason was given for the act. He is said to have been in the liquor business in British Columbia.

In the coat pockets was found a Canadian military registration card and an insurance policy of the Travelers' Company for $1,000. On the floor was a cartridge, bitten in two, as if to test it.

Altho the suicide registered as B. Ellis, a letter of credit for $5,000 on the Bank of Hamilton, London City and Midland Bank, Limited, London, was made out to Henry O. Wootten. In addition there was a cheque for $400 and $476 in cash found in the room.

HEAD OF LIQUOR FIRM.

H. O. Wootten Not Connected With Charges of Illegal Distribution.

Vancouver, Jan. 2.—Henry O. Wootten was the head of a well-known wholesale and retail liquor firm here in the years just prior to prohibition. It was stated tonight by C. W. Craig, government counsel in the liquor inquiry now being held by Justice Clement, that Wootten had not been connected by the evidence of any share in the alleged illegal distribution of intoxicants, and no subpoenae or warrant had been issued for him.

Friends of Wootten describe him as highly nervous, but they are unable to explain his suicide, no reason for which is known here.

It is understood that he was on his way to England to establish an agency thru which he hoped to conduct an importing business.

SEND TELEGRAMS OF CONGRATULATION

On Occasion of Engagement of Princess Patricia to Commander Ramsay.

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—The following congratulatory telegrams on the occasion of the engagement of Her Royal Highness the Princess Patricia to Commander Ramsay have been exchanged:

"From Governor-General to His Majesty the King:

"The government and people of Canada have heard the news of the engagement of Princess Patricia with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, and I join with them in respectfully asking your majesty to accept our most sincere congratulations."

"From the King to Governor-General:

"I heartily thank you, the government and people of Canada, for the kind message of congratulations upon the engagement of Princess Patricia which you have sent me on their behalf. I also rejoice at this engagement, which I am sure will bring every happiness to my dear cousin."

"From governor-general to Duke of Connaught:

"I thank your royal highness very sincerely for so promptly cabling me the news of the engagement of Princess Patricia. It has been received here, where the princess is so well-known and universally loved, with the greatest pleasure. The government and people of Canada join with me in sincerely congratulating you and in wishing the princess and Commander Ramsay every happiness."

"From governor-general to Princess Patricia:

"The news of your engagement has been received with the greatest interest and pleasure thruout the Dominion, and I join with the government and the people of Canada in wishing you every happiness and in extending to Commander Ramsay our warmest congratulations."

"From H.R.H. Princess Patricia to governor-general:

"Greatly appreciate kind congratulations. Kindly convey grateful thanks to government."

SUCCESS BY LABOR FEATURE OF VOTE

Of Ten Candidates, Only Two Were Beaten at the Polls.

Hamilton, Jan. 2.—With eight successful contestants, the Independent Labor Party of Hamilton achieved an undreamed of victory in the municipal elections. It was the most startling and unexpected feature of the entire campaign, and something that had been a long time on the road. While a large portion of the success of the labor men was due to the fact that they concentrated their votes in each ward, they were also given considerable aid thru the apathy of the average ratepayer, who was entirely indifferent as to whether or not he voted. The labor people simply walked to the polls and won hands down, therefore they deserve all the credit.

It was conceded before the election that some of the labor men, especially Ald. George G. Halcrow, would be elected, but as the returns were gradually received and it was shown that the labor slate was practically sweeping all before it, astonishment was very plainly manifested. The labor men themselves could hardly believe that they had made such a nice job until the complete returns were issued.

Gordon Nelson's victory over T. W. Stewart, M.P., for the Hydro board, was the outstanding feature of the entire election, and one that has caused the most comment. Asked for his policy today, Mr. Nelson stated that he was out to get more power for Hamilton.

Labor elected to the board of control Ald. Halcrow and ex-Ald. Halford; Hydro board, Gordon Nelson; Aldermen, Thomas J. Oheir, Charles I. Aitcheson, Ald. E. O. Book and Archie Burton; school trustee, R. Wright. The only defeated candidates were Edward Madden, who ran for alderman in Ward 4, and Mrs. Maud Madden, who was a school trustee candidate in Ward 8.

ARMISTICE SAVED BERLIN FROM BOMBS

Planes, Under Command of Canadian, Ready Three Days Before Signing.

London, Jan. 2.—Gen. Trenchard, in his report on the work of the independent air force, makes an interesting revelation how Berlin narrowly escaped being bombed by a squadron under the famous Canadian airman, Commander R. H. Mulock of Winnipeg.

"The 27th group was established in England," says Gen. Trenchard, "under the command of Commander Mulock for the purpose of bombing Berlin and other centres. This group only received machines capable of carrying out this work at the end of October, and tho all ranks worked night and day to get the machines ready for attacking Berlin, they only completed the work three days before the signing of the armistice."

Commander Mulock received the D.S.O. in 1916, the chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1918 and was twice mentioned in despatches. He married a Birmingham lady last month.

Dead as Result of Hardships Undergone in Bolshevik Jails

Paris, Jan. 2.—Pierre Davey, president of the French Chamber of Commerce of Moscow, is dead as the result of hardships undergone in Bolshevik prisons, according to a despatch from Moscow. He had been confined for several months.

YORK COUNTY AND SUBURBS

TODMORDEN

MEETING OF MUSKOKA CORDWOOD CREDITORS

A crowded meeting of the depositors of the Muskoka Cordwood and Lumber Company was held yesterday afternoon in the Labor Temple. Alexander MacGregor, chairman appointed by the depositors, presided. A report from the estate manager at Southwood, under date of Dec. 30, was read, which stated that one car of cordwood was shipped and another would follow next day, and that arrangements had been made with a yard on Spadina avenue to use for the distribution of the wood, thus doing away with railroad demurrage charges. The report also stated that since the fuel situation had been greatly relieved in the city the G.T.R. and C.P.R. had absolutely refused to accept C.N.R. cars for their public sidings, which works a great hardship at Southwood, which is on the C.N.R.

The question of the disposal of the estate's cordwood, amounting to about 800 cords, was fully considered, and it was resolved on the motion of Herbert Davies to dispose of the balance of the cordwood as the creditors' inspectors thought best after Jan. 9, the orders sent by depositors up to that date being delivered to them at $16.50 a cord, c.o.d. Mr. MacGregor reminded the meeting that there was no authority to credit the difference on account of the wood, but the $16.50 has to be paid on delivery, being applied as follows: $1.50 for delivery to depositor's home; $4.50 cost of railway freight Southwood to Toronto, leaving the balance of $10.50 to be paid into the estate for the fund to pay depositors.

Oswald Harris was chosen inspector in place of W. Gross. A further sum of $385, which was held by the police for the insolvent, was placed to the credit of the depositors, bringing the fund to date to $1300, with an estimated balance of about $700 due for eight cars of cordwood sold, making a total of $2000 to date for repayments of deposits.

The meeting decided in favor of a dividend on account as soon as wood is disposed of, leaving proceeds from other property for a later dividend.

An expression of entire confidence in Mr. MacGregor and the board of inspectors was voted, also for their untiring efforts on behalf of the large number of depositors.

It is expected that two cars of cordwood each day will be delivered in Toronto, approximately 40 cords a day.

Depositors from Todmorden, Riverdale, Earlscourt, Oakwood and all parts of Toronto were present.

Satisfaction is expressed in Todmorden and the eastern section of York Township at the election of J. A. Macdonald, J.P., to York Township Council as third deputy reeve and the re-election of Robert Barker to the position of first deputy.

"Mr. Barker is well-known thruout the township as an earnest worker and Mr. Macdonald is a straight, honest man," said S. D. Durham, president of the Moldine Heights Ratepayers' Association, who added that the eastern section should now receive more attention with two resident representatives in council.

EARLSCOURT

G.W.V.A. OFFICERS ELECTED.

The regular meeting of the Earlscourt branch of the G.W.V.A. was held at their headquarters, Belmont Hall, West St. Clair avenue, Nathan James, president, in the chair. The secretary of the building fund for the erection of the new hall reported total subscriptions amounting to $3618.94, which was received with applause. Nominations for officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—Sergt.-Major T. H. Barclay, who is also a member of the advisory comittee of the G.W.V.A.

Vice-president—L. B. Gardner.

Finance comittee—Comrades MacGregor, Bratby, Wiseman, Howell, Stewart.

Executive committee—Comrades Winer, Stockley, Aldridge, Godfrey, James, Smith, Wiseman and Hunt.

Sergt.-Major W. Arthurs is on the advisory committee, and Comrade J. C. Wives is sergeant-at-arms.

A resolution was passed condemning the distribution of Bolshevik pamphlets and deciding to make immediate investigation.

Arrangements are being made by St. Chad's Anglican congregation, North Dufferin street, Earlscourt, to hold a memorial service on Sunday for the members who have died in the great war. Special hymns have been selected, and the choir is to render anthems appropriate to the occasion. Rev. A. J. Reid, rector, will preach the sermon.

Earlscourt and Fairbank creditors of the Muskoka Cordwood and Lumber Company met yesterday at Temple Building, Bay street, when Alexander MacGregor, barrister, presided and explained the position of the company at the present time.

Mr. MacGregor pointed out to the creditors that more wood had been procured and it would not be a great while before the affairs of the company would be settled. There are some 200 Earlscourt and district citizens who paid deposits as far back as last July and August. These, with the others, will receive their share of the proceeds. The creditors get the benefit of Mr. MacGregor's services without charge.

MARKHAM TOWNSHIP

Markham Township Council are all re-elected by acclamation, ex-Warden Jonathan Nigh, who was nominated to contest the reeveship, having yesterday retired. The council for 1919 will be George B. Padget, reeve; Alex. Mitchell, first deputy, and three councillors, Wesley Gohn, Robert Smith, and Alan McKinnon.

EAST TORONTO

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gorman entertained upwards of 150 guests at a New Year's costume ball at their residence, "The Mansion House," Danforth avenue, New Year's night.

The banquet was served in the large dining hall which was tastefully decorated with evergreens and bunting. An important feature was the artificial snow effect. A three-piece orchestra furnished the dance music, and the costumes of the dancers represented historical and fantastic character. Prizes were awarded to the best historical character represented.

The following were the winners: Mrs. Wm. Day and Mr. William Still. A most enjoyable time was spent. The proceedings concluded at 3 a.m.

EYE SAFETY
DR. DAVID HIESTAND, Specialist. Highly recommended for his wide experience in perfect fitting glasses. 698 YONGE STREET, Opp. Isabella St. Phone N. 2533.

NEW OR OLD RAGS GET MY PRICES
ADEL. 760
E. PULLAN TORONTO

DANFORTH

QUALIFICATIONS ARE HANDICAP TO CHOICE

"When the hydro question is settled in York Township the next matter will be transportation," said S. D. Durham, president of Woodbine Heights Ratepayers' Association to The World yesterday, "and altho every candidate of the Amalgamated Ratepayers' Association was defeated in the electoral battle, there comes a clear-cut mandate from the electors for two reforms—hydro-electric and a board of education for the Township of York.

"It is regretted," said Mr. Durham, "that the question of transportation did not become more prominent in the campaign.

"It presses quite as urgently for solution as do electric light and education; should the Amalgamated Ratepayers' Association crumble, and should sectional influences hold sway; should York Township divide into three or four villages, as it threatens to do, it will be disastrous to the cause of transportation in my opinion," said Mr. Durham, adding that York Township as a whole can face and solve the problem, but should village municipalities arise, transportation is definitely delayed.

"The matter of the qualification of candidates handicapped the efforts of the reformers—and indeed when it is considered that a candidate for the council must be assessed at $2000; while a school trustee can accept office under the simpler qualification needed for every voter, and when it is further considered that a school trustee occasionally spends more money than the township council does in his school section, it is clear that the provincial legislature should bring forward in its new assessment act a more democratic clause, changing the old law and making the qualification of the councillor similar to that of the present school trustee."

It is sincerely to be hoped that the Amalgamated Ratepayers' will continue its useful and necessary work, as we have now in York Township what every healthy municipality needs—an active and energetic opposition; and the association can—without enjoying the fruits of office—yield an influence that may yet transform the face of old York Township," he said.

Residents in the east end are complaining of the lack of a night car service on the new Bloor street viaduct route between Broadview and Lansdowne avenues. According to J. Byrnes, Danforth avenue, there is no thru service after midnight, which is a serious inconvenience to the large number of citizens whom the night service could accommodate.

The third annual gathering of North Riverdale Camp, No. 219, Woodmen of the World, took place last night at the residence of A. J. Smith, 20 Wroxeter avenue. Over 50 members were present and nine new candidates were received. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were absent owing to their recent bereavement in the death of their daughter and a vote of condolence was passed. A musical program was contributed and a pleasant time was spent.

RIVERDALE

The second edition of a Bolshevik pamphlet was generously distributed thruout the Riverdale district in the early hours of New Year's morning, according to the statement of Rev. H. A. Berlis, minister Rhodes Avenue Presbyterian Church, who himself was favored with a copy pushed into the letter box of his residence. The distributors, who have been active in another section of the city, are at present unknown.

A "welcome home" gathering and social evening was held at the residence of Mrs. Herst, Hogarth avenue, last evening, to celebrate the return of her son, Stanley Herst, who has been overseas for the past two years with the Canadian forces, and Walter Black, his companion. Many young people, members of Danforth Methodist Church, were among the guests, and a pleasant time was spent.

Under the auspices of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, First avenue, of which Rev. Dr. Seager is rector, a sub-committee of the Men's Association has been appointed to welcome home the returned soldier-members of the congregation.

J. A. Calladine is president and J. Girder was appointed convener. Between 300 and 400 men of the parish enlisted and went overseas during the war. A number of the men since their return have become members of the George Webby Bible Class, of which Charles Wilson is leader.

The British consul at Venice on Christmas Eve officially confirmed the report of the loss of the British naval transport "Queen Helena" and the safety of Robert B. Y. Scott, R.N.C.V.R., chief wireless operator, son of Rev. J. McP. Scott, minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church, corner of Broadview and Simpson avenues.

The naval department at Ottawa has requested the return to Canada of Mr. Scott, according to the statement of his father.

Under the auspices of the North Broadview Presbyterian Church, Broadview avenue, a week of prayer will be held during next week. The following members of the congregation will conduct the services each day. F. M. Chapman, B.A., C. D. Warner, G. H. Houston, W. R. Moffat and G. L. McCrea. Special music will be rendered by the choir and special addresses will be delivered.

HAMILTON NEWS

Hamilton, Jan. 2.—Ten-year-old Bruce Allingham, 294 Bold street, while playing with his coaster, crashed into a sleigh and sustained a fracture of the skull.

No arrests have so far been made in connection with the fatal shooting of Tony Marino. The question of who did the shooting remains a mystery. The police declare the case a very baffling one.

The board of education reports that its offices have been robbed seven times. They look on the matter as reflecting on the alertness of the city detective force.

The way the electorate dealt with the four by-laws submitted on New Year's Day is regarded with much satisfaction, especially in agreeing to the construction of the Kenilworth avenue storm sewer, which calls for an outlay of $165,000.

DEATH OF MISS E. REES.

The funeral of the late Miss Edith Rees took place at two o'clock yesterday afternoon from A. W. Miles' mortuary chapel to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and was of a private nature. Commissioner Richards of the Salvation Army conducted the religious service. Miss Rees was a daughter of the late Commissioner Rees of the Salvation Army, who, with his wife and three children, were drowned when the Empress of Ireland was sunk in the St. Lawrence.

ARIDITY DECREASES CRIME.

Windsor, Ont., Jan. 2.—During 1918 the number of cases here in Windsor police court fell off by 441, compared to 1917, when 1968 alleged offenders were dealt with. Decrease is due to Detroit joining the ranks of the arid centres, the police say.

LANDED SOLDIERS IN AN ANGRY SEA

Three Boats Upset Debarking Men From Stranded U. S. Transport.

New York, Jan. 2.—Battling today against an angry sea which capsized three of their boats, coastguards from many stations, aided by crews from nearly 20 naval craft, had by nightfall taken safely to shore 17 navy nurses and 237 of the 2480 homeward-bound soldiers on the United States transport Northern Pacific, hard aground for two days on a sandbar near Fire Island light.

When many barrels of oil spread on the waves in the hope of stilling them had failed to make the water surrounding the vessel measurably calmer, the rescue work was halted until morning. Remaining aboard the Northern Pacific are most of the sick and wounded, and naval officers deemed it too hazardous to attempt to remove the "stretcher cases."

The vessel is in no danger, according to a wireless message from her commander, Capt. Connelly, received tonight by the Associated Press.

Another message received tonight by Vice-Admiral Gleaves at embarkation headquarters in Hoboken, stated that the Northern Pacific had enough boats of all classes to land passengers if the sea calms down, which the message predicted would happen tomorrow. Life-savers stopped work at 5.30 p.m.

Renew Rescue Work Today.

At daybreak, however, it is planned to renew the work of rescue in earnest. Lifesaving crews from Sandy Hook and Rockaway are planning to leave at midnight in their power boats to be on hand at dawn. With the aid of the squadron of cruisers, destroyers and naval tugs now guarding the stranded vessel, it is planned to transfer the wounded to the hospital ship Solace and take them direct to Hoboken.

Continuous rain, fog and heavy pounding by the waves have failed to lower the spirits of those aboard the transport, which is now listing hard to port. The ship's band played lively airs while the work of rescue was being carried on, and tonight the men were clamoring for another entertainment such as was staged last evening aboard ship.

ITALY ACCLAIMS WILSON'S PROGRESS

Trip From the Frontier to Rome Like a Triumphal Procession.

Rome, Jan. 2.—From the frontier to Rome the journey of President Wilson was like a triumphal procession. Mountaineers and villagers swarmed from the hills and valleys to the railroad over which the presidential train passed. They shouted vivas, waving hats and handkerchiefs and flags, forming picturesque groups which were emphasized by the brilliant sunshine, blue sky and green luxuriant landscape.

President Wilson and his party arrived this morning at Modane, on the Franco-Italian frontier.

The royal train with the president on board was met by the Duke of Lante, representing King Victor Emmanuel. Both the French and Italian authorities in the frontier town welcomed the presidential party. A crowd of the townspeople had gathered at the station and gave the president a greeting. The day was a bright one, with the winter sun shining on the snow-covered mountains surrounding the village.

EXPECT SUMMONS OF RADIAL OFFICIALS

Burlington Town Solicitor Says This Action Likely at Any Moment.

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 2.—That E. P. Coleman, general manager, and the directors of the Hamilton Electric Radial Co., were likely to be summoned at any moment to answer charges of contempt of court for failing to carry out the order of the Dominion Railway Board in reference to continuing the service to Burlington, was the statement tonight of Town Solicitor Cleaver. "There was no stay in the supreme court writs served upon the officials of the company, and they are likely to be summoned any time under proceedings attached to the writs," declared Mr. Cleaver.

The company carried out its announcement of stopping the temporary service to the Beach, and as a result the residents on the strip of sand are in the same box as the inhabitants of the little town on the lake front. To relieve the situation a two-hour motor service had been put into action, and will run between the canal and the city car lines.

With three agreements broken, the officials claim that they are going ahead with their plans to have the court of exchequer declare the company insolvent. Mr. Coleman denied the statement of George E. Walker, assistant general manager, that the service to the Beach was stopped because writs had been served stating that all the cars were pulled in because of the insolvency proceedings.

A New Turn.

A new turn has been given to the fight as a result of the coming elections in Burlington. The present council is in favor of fighting the Hamilton Electric Radial Company and its parent company, the Dominion Power & Transmission Company, to the last ditch, but it is claimed that there is a big "slush" in existence to turn out the present council and install one that will throw away the agreement which the little town has with the company. The electorate in Burlington, however, are thoroly awake to the fact, and the old council will likely be returned by a large majority. Should a new council be elected, there is not the slightest doubt that the company would win out in the matter of increased fares. Hamilton will not make any effort to take a hand in the matter, as at the present time of the year the citizens are not greatly concerned whether the radial runs to the Beach or to the North Pole. The city's agreement with the company carries a forfeiture claim of three months, and, as that is the only club that it can swing at the Cataract crowd, it is not likely to be effective.

Returned Men

We have a few splendid openings for men with education and selling ability.

The work is independent and profitable.

We train you for the work, start you in the business, and help you to make good.

State age and experience.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE, TORONTO

COMMENCE INVESTIGATION OF "NORTHLAND" CHARGES

Main Charges Are Poor Food, Poor Accommodation, Lack of Washing Facilities, and That Stewards Sold Food for Large Sums of Money.

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—Investigation into the Northland charges opened in Ottawa before Judge Hodgins today.

J. F. Orde, K.C., of Ottawa, represented the Dominion Government; A. R. Holden, K.C., Montreal, represented the White Star Dominion Line, owners of the boat; and R. B. Maxwell, Winnipeg, and D. Loughnan, Vancouver, the Great War Veterans' Association.

Mr. Orde at the outset outlined some of the complaints made by returned soldiers with regard to their alleged treatment on the Northland. He summed the main charges up as poor and badly served food, verminous accommodation, insufficient bathing and washing facilities, unfair distribution of space between officers and civilians on the one hand and the men on the other. There was also the charge that stewards had sold food.

The commissioner: "And for large sums of money?"

Mr. Orde: "Yes. There are also the charges that the men had to eat off dirty dishes and of treatment by the conducting staff."

Mr. Holden emphasized that the White Star Dominion Line was anxious to give every assistance possible to the commission.

No Penalty for Witnesses.

The commissioner: I understand that the militia department is not only willing but anxious to have the men state their views and they will not be subjected to any military penalty in any way in consequence.

"That is quite correct," Mr. Orde replied. "I have been so assured both by Sir Thomas White and by the adjutant-general."

The commissioner suggested further that the newspaper men who had interviewed the returned soldiers should be called.

There were two points of view to be borne in mind in the inquiry, Judge Hodgins went on. The men who had made the complaints were men to whom Canada owed a great deal. They were coming back, and he thought he was right in saying that Canada felt everything possible should be done for their comfort and convenience. It was due to them that their complaints should be thoroly investigated.

Berth Accommodation.

At the investigation it was brought out that the capacity of the vessel, according to figures furnished to the militia department by its owners, is 1,750 berths. Of these 343 are for the accommodation of first and second class passengers, and the remaining 1,412 for third class passengers. Col. E. E. Clarke, director of supplies and transport at militia headquarters, who furnished this information, testified that on its last voyage west the Northland had on board 183 first and second class passengers and 873 third class. Of this total number of 1,056 on board the vessel, 77 were civilians and the remainder soldiers of all ranks. These figures, he stated, were cabled to militia headquarters by the overseas authorities at the time the ship sailed.

The first witness to be called this afternoon was Quartermaster-General James L. Biggar, who explained, in answer to questions by Government Counsel J. F. Orde, that his department took charge of Canadian soldiers on their arrival in Canada. All the arrangements for sending the troops across were, he stated, in charge of the overseas minister of militia. Questioned with regard to the complaints of rations, he said that he had been unofficially informed that the rationing of transports was in the hands of the British admiralty, which had taken over control of the vessels some time ago. He was unable to say who was immediately responsible for the rationing.

Judge Hodgins asked General Biggar whether he had ever been on the Northland, and the witness replied that he had been about two years ago. She had impressed him as being a good ship. He was, however, unable to describe her, explaining that he visited so many ships that it was almost impossible to remember this one distinctly. He furnished the judge with a plan of the vessel.

Col. E. E. Clarke read a statement of the number of passengers carried by the Northland on her earlier voyages. On her eastbound trip carrying soldiers she had carried as many as 1665 all ranks, and the figures ranged all the way down to 175 passengers.

Col. Clarke also submitted the scale of rations supplied to men. This was fixed by the admiralty and was about 10 ounces lighter than the field ration. Since 1917, Col. Clarke said, the admiralty had controlled the ships both east and westbound. Col. Clarke also expressed the view that with the inexperienced stewards which ships now had the rations could not be utilized to the same result as with the experienced assistance of the earlier days of the war.

In reply to the commissioner, Col Clarke said that since August, 1917, the admiralty had control of rationing both east and west.

Major-General Ashton, acting adjutant-general, said that since May, 1918, the militia department controlled the conducting officers on transports traveling both to and from Canada. The main idea in making this arrangement was to have men experienced in the work and used to the ship. On this particular trip of the Northland, however, the adjutant was the only member of the conducting staff who had been so previously employed.

Only One Experienced Conductor.

Mr. Orde: "Then on this particular trip the conducting staff had only one experienced man?"—"Yes."

Gen. Ashton produced copies of the written instructions prepared for the guidance of conducting officers. One difficulty had arisen in this connection, Gen. Ashton said. The militia department had requested that the O.C. troops on board should be given full authority, but King's Regulations and Orders provided that the senior combatant officer on board should assume command.

"Was that the case on this trip?" Judge Hodgins asked.

"I do not know," Gen. Ashton replied.

At this point Major Westmore, conducting officer on the Northland, was called. He said that Col. Burroughs of the imperial forces was senior officer on board, but Col. Burroughs did not assume command.

The commissioner: "He left it to you?"

Major Westmore: "Yes."

Kept Up Discipline.

In reply to Mr. Orde, General Ashton said there was no relaxation of discipline when the troops were on board. If required, the men had to perform fatigues, keep their own quarters clean, serve at mess, etc. This was in case the help on a transport was insufficient and it never was sufficient.

"From a report I have received from the officer commanding the troops," General Ashton went on, "I should say that the bath accommodation on the Northland might not have been sufficient."

This report was then read to the court. It was dated Dec. 26, and prepared in accordance with standing instructions to conducting officers. It was made before the complaints appeared in the press.

Sanitation and ventilation, the report says, were adequate. It suggests that more baths should be made available in the steerage quarters, and remarks that in bad weather the air below becomes very oppressive. There were no complaints from the men's mess. The men each had a bunk and as the ship was not filled there was plenty of room.

General Ashton, in reply to a series of questions by Judge Hodgins, said that the soldiers on board all transports were required to clean their own quarters, wash their dishes, etc. It was impossible for the crew of a transport to look after about a thousand men, and the crew was never expected to do this. The men returning to Canada on board the Northland were still soldiers and were expected to perform their duties in this regard just as all soldiers did.

Asked with regard to the inspection of the boat, General Ashton said, that an inspection should have been conducted by the embarkation officer at the point of departure from England. His report would be made to the Canadian overseas militia authorities in London. The witness was unable to say as to whether such a report had been made. He would cable to England and find out. He stated that about 20,000 men had been brought across the Atlantic during the last two weeks of November, causing a strain on the quartermaster-general's department.

A. R. Holden, K.C., asked General Ashton if he could tell how many shower baths had been ordered for the convenience of the troops on the Northland.

The adjutant-general replied that he did not know. He understood that a number of deck showers were installed for the men, but that the stormy weather interfered with their use.

The inquiry was adjourned until 10.20 o'clock Monday morning.

BRANTFORD CUSTOMS.

Brantford, Jan. 2.—During December the customs collected at the local port amounted to $70,141.36.

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