

### NIEMEN PROVES HUGE OBSTACLE

Germans Left Many Thousand Corpses Behind at Kovno.

### MADE BIG BLUNDER

Russians May Not Make Decisive Stand on New Lines.

BY FREDERICK RENNERT.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 12.—The banks of the Niemen River, the first stumbling block which the Germans have had to encounter. Many thousand corpses have been left behind and the enemy is still on the south bank of the river. Their efforts against the Kovno fortress have cost them dearer than any previous attempt at storming made during the eastern front campaign. They brought up by rail and motor traction their heaviest artillery. They used the experience gained at Antwerp and elsewhere in the west and tried hastily and boldly to take by main force what would have required a long operation.

Used Entire Army. They spared neither man nor shells, in order that they might take Kovno quickly, and they lost a colossal number in trying to prevent the garrison of the fortress from repairing the damage done.

This haste of the Germans at Kovno is due to their failure at the Riga and Ponevsk-Wilkomir front. In the latter area the enemy will probably be compelled to regroup and obtain reinforcements. Kovno is the chief obstacle to the Germans holding both banks of the Niemen, hence their continued desperate efforts to reduce the Russian fortress, which will be the base of the Russian defensive line when the grouping in the south is finished.

Experts regard the Russian front as favorable. The Zlota Lipa-Dmitry line is very secure. The narrow-burg line varies according to the stubbornness of offensive conducted by the enemy. The Niemen front is secure, while the Dvina-Niemen front is gradually moving westward.

Sturdy Russian Defense. From Riga to Wlaimir-Wolynsk, the hosts of Germans continue the advance. The Russians are everywhere making a sturdy defense, inflicting upon the invaders the maximum of possible losses as they steadily fight in retreat. The Germans are said to have brought five more army corps from the west to the Niemen front, where their losses continue to be colossal.

Previous similar cases of withdrawal on the western front of seasoned troops, their places are taken by newly formed corps who are considered by the Germans as being less reliable. The Russian side makes more generous demands upon the soldiers employed.

When the Russian army stand they will stand, but it is advisable for the purposes of this war that the Germans should penetrate as deeply as possible into Russia. The Russian allies should know why. Russia's sacrifices should prove a death blow to German ambition. The sacrifices have been very great, for Russia yielded up to the German advance nearly as much space as would make another whole German Empire.

I regard it not impossible that Russia will not hold more than temporarily the line on which she stands. It is proposed to be withdrawing. Her main object is to maintain her armies intact. No losses can be afforded. The Russian soldier and no sacrifice of space can break the resolution of the Russian people to destroy the German hydra.

### IMMIGRATION GOT SETBACK BY WAR

Number of Canadian Settlers Lowest in Last Eleven Years.

### HERE BEFORE WAR

Total Reaches Little Over One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Aug. 12.—Immigration to Canada during the fiscal year which ended on March 31 last has fallen off tremendously, according to the official figures which were made today. Most of the immigrants, other than those from the United States, came before the war began, and the same remark applies also to the American settlers.

The total immigration for the year was 144,789, as compared with 384,878 in 1913-14, and 402,432 in 1912-13, the biggest immigration year in Canada's history. Not since 1903-4 has immigration been so low.

Last year 43,276 Britishers came to Canada, compared with 142,822 the year before, 59,778 Americans, as compared with 107,530, and 41,734 from other countries, as compared with 134,726.

British Immigration. The total British immigration since 1900 is 1,159,825, composed of 833,882 English, 12,959 Welsh, 246,106 Scotch and 12,144 Irish.

The total immigration of all nationalities since the century began is 3,031,111. Last year 2472 Germans came to Canada, as compared with 5337 the year before. In all 28,771 have come to Canada since 1900, and 200,000 Austro-Hungarians.

MGR. McCANN VERY LOW.

At an early hour this morning there was no change in the condition of Monsignor McCann, life bulletin given out at the residence of the vicar-general being that he was very low.

### BOY SHOT HIMSELF WITH REVOLVER

Earl Mertens, Fourteen, Found Dead With Weapon in His Hand.

### NO MOTIVE IS KNOWN

Had Been Playing With Companions and Borrowed Gun From Chum.

BY FREDERICK RENNERT.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

FOURTEEN-year-old Earl Mertens, 15 Matland street, shot himself in the front bedroom of his home at 5 o'clock last evening and shot himself thru the heart with a .38-calibre revolver. According to Dr. Smirle, Lawson, who was called, death was instantaneous. The body was removed to the morgue and Dr. George Graham will open an inquest today.

Altho the police have the occurrence entered on their records as that of a suicide, last night's investigations showed no motive for the lad taking his own life. The boy had been playing around his home all afternoon with companions and secured the loan of the weapon from a chum who lived across the street from his home.

Had Been Playing. When he came from play shortly before 5 o'clock he went directly to his room, and a few minutes later his sister, with whom he lived, was startled by the revolver shot. When she entered the room she found him lying across the bed with the revolver still grasped in his right hand.

Dr. Lawson said that the weapon must have been discharged right against the boy's coat, for specks of powder had penetrated the flesh. The bullet passed directly thru the boy's body and lodged in the wall behind him.

### TWO CONCERNS DISPOSED OF BY WINDING-UP ORDER

People's Restaurant Co. and Bowles' Syndicate Pass Into Liquidation.

At Osgoode Hall yesterday, an order winding up the People's Restaurant Company of Ontario was granted on the petition of Hodgins and Roberts, creditors for \$218.

G. T. Clarkson is named as liquidator with a reference to the master in-ordinary.

The premises of the company were at 99 and 101 Yonge street. The company was incorporated in June, 1914, with a nominal capital of \$50,000, of which \$35,000 is said to have been subscribed, and all but \$5,250 of that paid up.

Nineteen shareholders, all of whom reside in the United States, hold the stock. An assignment has been made by the Bowles Syndicate Stores Limited operating a chain of 5-10-15-cent stores, to N. L. Martin. A petition by John Macdonald and Co., creditors for \$1,058, is to be held in abeyance and the company will be wound up under the assignment. The liabilities are about \$40,000 and the assets the same. The company was incorporated in March, 1910, with a nominal capital of \$100,000, in 20,000 shares.

The Toronto premises are on East Queen street, near Broadview avenue.

### BRITAIN WILL ADOPT COMPULSORY SERVICE

Dean of Durham Believes Swiss System Will Be Imitated After War.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—(By Mail)—The Dean of Durham does not believe that the war will result in general disarmament and universal peace.

"The war drums throbb no longer and the battle flags are furled. In an address at West Hartlepool he predicted that in England the certain consequences of the war would be 'the universal obligation to military service,' on the Swiss model.

"Never again," he said, "can we run the risk of having the whole fortunes of our land and empire left to voluntary effort, however widely distributed and magnificently rendered."

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### THREE YEAR OLD WARRANT IS USED

Sydney Beaumont, Alias Hope, Under Arrest Charged With Theft.

### SOLDIER FACES CHARGE

Pte. J. T. Murphy Alleged to Have Refused to Obey an Order.

Sydney Beaumont, alias Hope, was arrested by Officer 480 last evening on a three-year-old warrant charging him with the theft of an overcoat from John Nanson. The theft is alleged to have occurred at 149 Parliament street, where the two men roomed together. The arrest was effected when the former landlord at the Parliament street house recognized his former boarder on the street.

Soldier Arrested. Private James T. Murphy, 64 Jarvis street, was arrested by the military authorities last evening charged with refusing to obey an order from a non-commissioned officer. Lieut. B. M. Loudon of the 48th Highlanders ordered the night in the cells of Agnes street station because Stanley Barracks was overcrowded with alien enemies.

Vagrancy Charge. Charles Allement, alias Ottawa Red, was arrested by Detective Archibald Stewart on a nominal charge of vagrancy while selling shoe laces on West Queen street. Two years ago Allement was taken into custody on the same charge and allowed out on his own bail on the understanding that he would get out of Toronto for good.

The police have no specific charge against him, but ten years ago he was arrested in company with a gang of safe blowers, and is said to have gained a reputation as an accomplished safe-cracker in his younger days.

Harry Taylor, aged 15, surrendered himself at the detective office last evening on a charge of stealing a motor-car from Wallace Felzer, 305 Augusta avenue. The charge was laid three weeks ago.

Young Boy Hurt. Fifteen-year-old Frank Sullivan, 61 Nassau street, was run down by a motor car driven by Alexander Mitchell, 21 McKenzie crescent, on University avenue last evening, and sustained minor internal injuries. He was removed to the Hospital for Sick Children, and then to his home.

Private Edward Elmer, 9 Prust avenue, was arrested on Yonge street by Detective Mitchell last evening, charged with having deserted from his regiment at Niagara camp.

Sold Smokes on Sunday. For selling cigars on Sunday a fine of \$5 each was imposed on William Power, Louis Marowitz, Basil Ewanoff and Louis Weisman in the afternoon police court yesterday.

Harry Taylor, wanted by the police in connection with the theft of an auto from Morris Falser, 305 Augusta avenue, gave himself up at the detective office yesterday.

Advocate's Conspiration. "There ought to be conscription in this country," said Col. Denison in the police court, when Newton Snowden came before him charged with non-support of his wife and two children. Snowden was remanded for a week so that he may have a chance to explain.

For using short measures Frank Achison and Robert Lawson, pedlars, were fined \$15 and costs or 30 days.

### YORK COUNTY AND SUBURBS

### MORE RAIN ADDS TO FARMERS' LOSS

Yesterday's Shower Disheartens Reapers Who Have Already Suffered.

### POSITION BECOMES BAD

Sheaves Were Soaked Thru and Thru and Great Damage is Caused.

Yesterday was the most disheartening day since the storm of a week ago, the downpour which began in the early hours of Thursday morning and continued the greater part of the forenoon, thoroughly soaking everything and undoing all the bright sunshine and drying winds of Tuesday and Wednesday had accomplished.

Hundreds of farmers in the county and out of it, who had at the expense of a lot of time and energy, scattered their wheat stacks yesterday morning in a worse position than ever. Lying on the wet ground, the sheaves were wet thru and thru.

When they will dry is a problem. They must first be re-stocked, an endless work, and then await more sun and wind.

Condition is Serious. A reporter of The World yesterday met a score of practical farmers, men who will take advantage of every chance to save their grain and are not easily daunted, and they without exception look upon the situation in the central counties of Ontario at least, as extremely serious. The long-continued rains have so completely soaked the land that it is with difficulty the binder could on Wednesday be made to run. What will it be now that another heavy rain is falling?

On the farm of A. Coulson, and occupied by J. Taylor, on concession 6 of Markham, north of the Village of Unionville, 30 acres of heavy fall wheat had been cut and stacked, and the grain in order to keep the less seriously damaged and the inferior grades in drawing into the barn. Care was taken to make a division of the grain in order to keep the less seriously damaged and the inferior grades in drawing into the barn.

The farmer is working. Labor is apparently scarce, but if it were ever so plentiful it would be of little use. Late oats will represent a loss of at least 50 per cent, and some farmers say more.

On the farm of Mr. J. H. Watson, at Fairbank in York Township, where Mr. Watson had sown 10 acres of white oats, the probable yield as estimated by some of the neighbors before Tuesday's storm, was placed at 100 bushels to the acre, assuming that they remained standing. So heavy Tuesday's rain and wind and rain battered them into the ground, with the result that the yield may not run 25 bushels to the acre, practically a total loss.

Factors Against Farmer. Inability to get the grain cut in time to get it into the barn, and in getting men when and where needed are some of the factors that will militate against the Ontario harvest.

In view of the exceptional circumstances surrounding the present harvest and the shortness of time in which to garner it, the suggestion is made by some of the neighbors that as much of the crop as possible that work of the harvest may be prosecuted in the morning of the day.

That the farmers may in case of emergency, harvest their crops on Sunday, appears to be provided for in the Ontario Grain Act, Section 3, which provides that any person may on the Lord's Day do any work of necessity or mercy. In this work is included by subsection W, of that section: "Any unavoidable work on the Lord's Day to save property in cases of emergency, or where much property is in imminent danger of destruction or serious injury."

Reference to the debate in the house of commons will make it clear that this section was intended to cover the case of crop saving under emergency.

PRIZES WERE AWARDED. At a crowded meeting of the members and friends of the British Impairment Association, held in Little's Hall last evening, the prizes won at the sports held on Civic Holiday were presented. President Henry Partrey presided, and after the presentation a social evening was spent.

FIRST AID EXAMINATIONS. The examinations in connection with the McEwan Red Cross League First Aid Class will be held this evening at Dundrum Heights, 850 West St. Clair avenue, when all members are particularly requested to be present.

Spend the Week-End in Muskoka. The best Muskoka tourist district in Canada. Muskoka is easily reached from any direction via the Grand Trunk Railway. Muskoka is a beautiful and beautiful in lake and island scenery. Hotel accommodation at moderate prices is abundant. Fine dining service at all points on the lakes. The Grand Trunk Railway System issue week-end tickets from Toronto, good going any Saturday and Sunday and return Monday following date of issue. Trains leave Toronto 2:05 a.m. daily and 12:01 noon daily except Sunday, making direct connection at Muskoka Wharf for all points on the lakes. This is an excellent opportunity to spend the week-end in this delightful district.

For literature and full particulars call at city ticket office, northwest corner King and Yonge streets, or phone Main 4269.

### CALL OF A HERO BRINGS RECRUITS

The Wounded, Pte. Porter, Sounds Appeal Men Could Not Keiruse.

### IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Earlscourt Audience Gave Soldiers at Enthusiastic Meeting Last Night.

An enthusiastic recruiting meeting, the first to be held in Earlscourt, was conducted last evening under the auspices of the 12th York Rangers, at the corner of St. Clair and Lansdowne avenues, about 2000 people being present.

The proceedings opened with patriotic selections by the band of the regiment. Dr. Alex. Fraser, the president, said: "We pride ourselves as citizens of Canada, but we have forgotten our lessons in economy, and that a great conflict is being waged against us. We should conserve our pennies for Red Cross, medicine, and all other purposes needed for our wounded."

"Britain today needs supplies," said the speaker, "outside of armament and medical aid, and we must get the men and women present to put by as much as possible at the means of their disposal."

Great excitement was caused when Pte. Porter of the Princess Pats, a returned wounded hero from the trenches, who is partly blinded from shrapnel wounds, and paralyzed from the hips downwards, was helped on the platform, the band playing "The Merry Men" and the audience joining in the refrain. Pte. Porter said: "The strains of the tune brings to my mind the memories of my life in the trenches. When war broke out, I had a wife and two children. I am proud to say I was one of the first to enlist, and have not regretted it, and would go back again if they would have me."

If you only knew the need of men at the front, he said, "you would not hesitate to come forward at once, and if you could realize and see as I have seen the horrors of Belgium and the treatment meted out to these people by the Germans, you would not hesitate one moment."

The rise in the trenches is no more than walking down King or Yonge street," said the speaker, "and we think no more of the electric lights and of eating our meals. In fact," said Pte. Porter, "we have played a game of football on the field with the shells dropping about us. There are 12 of our men of the Princess Pats returned to Canada with me, and I want 12 of your young men to come on the platform and take their places," said the speaker.

There was a prompt response and 12 of your men came upon the platform at once. All is Voluntary.

Rev. Father L. Minehan in a rousing speech, appealed to the men in the audience, particularly the young men, to come forward and hand in their names. He told his hearers that there was no death so grand and noble as dying on the field of glory.

"There would be no appeal to you to enlist in the 12th York Rangers, but you belong to the state in that land and you are compelled to go. We must have conscription in this country, if you will not go, and that is what you deserve. I appeal to you to enlist."

In conclusion he said: "The one thing that we must take care of is the British fleet, but for which we should have no Canada today, and I appeal to you to come forward and help us to win the war."

Albert Chamberlain said: "It is well known that the married men in Earlscourt have responded nobly, but where are the young single men with their responsibilities? My own son is gone to the front. I would enlist myself," said the speaker, "but they won't have me. You young Canadians—where are you, anyhow?" asked the speaker.

"You are British. You are not Indians," said the speaker, "and you should join your brothers fighting for our home and empire."

The speaker then named Hugh Macdonald, Second Lieut. S. R. Heakes, becomes non-commissioned captain, and Capt. Wynke, 12th York Rangers, who has worked energetically for the regiment.

### CANADIAN PROMOTIONS

Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, Aug. 12.—Tonight's Gazette contains the following promotions in the Canadian forces: To be temporary lieutenants, C. Tynale, H. E. Cavley, R. F. Baker and C. G. Cotton, Canadian Artillery; D. J. McKinney, McCullough, Hill, Jones and J. W. H. Ross, Ontario Regiment; H. Owens, 7th Infantry Battalion; B. H. Rust, M. N. McLean, B. Bagle and B. Given, Royal Highlanders; J. Howe and P. Chevalier, Montreal Regiment; L. D. Anderson and J. G. Armand, 48th Highlanders; A. Horner and P. B. Tabernacle, Princess Patricia's; Second Lieut. S. R. Heakes becomes non-commissioned captain, and Capt. Wynke, 12th York Rangers, who has worked energetically for the regiment.

### German Warships Repulsed

PETROGRAD, Aug. 12.—An official communique of the Russian War Office says: "The enemy, in great force, approached simultaneously the entrance of the Gulf of Riga and the Aland Skerries and bombarded the coast batteries. Coming under fire of our warships and shore batteries, the enemy ships rapidly put to sea."

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