ST. JOHN GIVES FITTING WELCOME TO YEAR 1916

Happy throng of Citizens assembled in King Square to "Ring out the Old and Ring in the New"—Police on the alert but all was orderly—Many social gatherings marked the occasion.

The old year of 1915 has passed away and a new year was received in a most happy manner. Watchnight services were held in several of the churches, there were many private entertainments and dances in different parts of the city, and practically the New Year was received in a proper manner by all.

While there are at the present time in the vicinity of two thousand soldiers in the city training, the boys were mostly all kept in barracks last night, although a number were allowed out on leave. At the different barracks there were entertainments, and especially at the armory there was an excellent concert and general good time. There was a number of invited guests there among whom were the members of the W. S. Harkins Dramatic Company.

On a number of occasions the fading away of the old year, and the birth of the new was the cause of considerable disorderly conduct and a great deal of damage being done about the city by gangs of men who should have been otherwise engaged. The head of King street, and about the King Square was always the place of assemblage, and as a matter of course there was another large crowd in this section of the city last night, but fortunately there was nothing doing in the way of bad conduct. Chief of Police Simpson and Commissioner McLellan were on hand with a squad of the older members of the police force, all ready to deal severely with any person who might go beyond what would be termed reasonable or just conduct. In addition to the squad of local police there was a goodly number of military police on hand to assist.

The Police Ready.

Chief Simpson was not adverse to the citizens enjoying themselves in a proper manner when greeting the New Year, but was quite ready for any person who might start something that was not right. It was what might be termed a quiet New Year's Eve for St. John, and as far as the large crowd was concerned it was most orderly.

For about an hour before midnight men, women and children began gathering along Charlotte street in the vicinity of the King Square, and frequently a person might be heard asking "I wonder if anything is going to happen." Shortly after eleven o'clock there was a large number of soldiers assembled in a restaurant conducted by a Chinese on Charlotte stdeet. There was nothing unusual about this on ordinary occasions, but this was New Year's Eve and civilians would stop and look in the door of the restaurant, the small number of people soon became a large crowd. There was the usual question "What's the matter," and the answer would generally be "I don't know, but stick around as something might happen." This seemed to be the feeling of the large crowd, all were looking for something to happen and wished to be on the scene in case anything took place out of the ordinary. It was a clear cold night and it was certainly uncomfortable for a great many to stand about the streets, stamping their feet, blowing on their fingers, and trying to keep warm, until finally they wended their way homewards, somewhat disappointed that there had not been a big fight, thankful to get home to a good warm fire, and have a quiet talk with themselves on the subject if they were wise to stay out in the cold looking for something to take place that had not been advertised.

The Midnight Hour

At sharp twelve o'clock a couple of blows on the fire alarm bells announced that the year of 1916 had been born, it was the time to give it a welcome, and put good new resolutions into effect. As soon as the fire bells sounded, Trinity chimes were heard pealing through the frosty air, the national anthem, the music of which is dear to the hearts of every true Britisher. Church bells were rung, and the whistles of all the steam craft in the harbor were sounded. The crowd on Charlotte street, which numbered nearly a thousand cheered, and even those who were uncomfortably cold were in a happy mood.

One young man with harmonica started along Charlotte street blowing the good old tune "Tipperary" with all his might; he was followed by a few hundred young men singing, and after the chorus finished they cheered. A soldier listened to the young men cheering at the head of King street, and when they finished, the soldier's voice could be heard clearly when he shouted to the young civilians, "The recruiting station is at Mill street boys, you are all welcome."

For a couple of hours the crowd kept up the cheering and singing and only once during this time was there anything that looked like disorder, and that was when a young man talked so badly that a crowd gathered about him. He was finally hustled away by friends and the excitement was over.

Today's Programme.

New's Day will be quietly celebrated today. The churches will have services in the morning. In the Catholic churches the feast of the circumcision will be celebrated, masses will be at the regular Sunday hours. The Sunday schools of the Methodist Presbyterian and Congregational churches will have rallies—the Methodist in Centenary church at 10.30, the address to be by the Rev. E. A. Westmorland; the Presbyterian and Congregational in St. Andrew's church at the same hour, 10.30, Rev. J. A. MacKeigan to be the speaker. At this meeting the banner for the school having the highest percentage of attendance for the year. After the services the schools will unite in a monster parade headed by the band of the 69th Battalion.

In the afternoon the Opera House and Moving Picture Houses will be open for those who desire to patronize them. The big attraction for the afternoon, however, will be the grand parade and recruiting rally at the Armory. The particulars of the parade have already been published and all that is needed now to make the demonstration a success is fine weather.

It is hoped to bring the total enlistments for the week up to two hundred through this rally today.

BABY MINE, BY HARKINS PLAYERS, A BIG HIT

Seldom has a play been seen on the local stage that was equal in nicety of production and perfection of detail to the presentation of Margaret Mayo's brilliant comedy, "Baby Mine" by the W. S. Harkins Players at the Opera House last night. The cast fitted the play and the play evidently appealed to the actors—the result being a performance that ran as smoothly as though the players had been appearing in this particular comedy for a long time. A word of commendation should be said in regard to the stage settings also. "Baby Mine" will be repeated today for the last two times. Better see it—it is more than worth while. The Matinee today starts at 3.15—after the parade goes by.

Next week will close the engagement of the Harkins Players here. Three splendid plays have been selected:—"Mamzelle," a comedy with some musical numbers and a few surprises being the selection for Monday and Tuesday nights; "The Blindness of Virtue" for Wednesday and Thursday, and the latest reigning New York and London success, "Kick-In" for Friday and Saturday. Yielding to the requests of many patrons, the company will give a special matinee on Wednesday. Seats for all performances are now on sale. There are still a few good seats left for tonight's performance, but application should be made early at the box office in order to secure them.

Thanks From Chief Blake.

Chief Blake wishes to thank his many friends for flowers and messages of injury during his illness. The Chief also wishes to every body A Prosperous New Year.

Fire Losses Appraised.

The following are the amounts appraised on the W. H. Thorne & Co.'s recent fire:—Stock, $123,000; building, $24,375; fixtures, $2,278.

GRAY HAIR

Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative used as directed is guaranteed to restore gray hair to natural color or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. For sale by The Ross Drug Co., Limited, 100 King street, St. John. $1.00 (postpaid.) Write Tremain Supply Co., Dept. "J. S.," Toronto.

THE TERRIBLE HARDSHIPS OF A NATION IN FLIGHT

A Graphic Story of Flight of Serbian Population Over Mountains of Montenegro as Told by Red Cross Worker who was One of the Refugees.

[Mr. W. Lyon Blease, of Liverpool, the writer of the article below, has just returned to this country from Serbia, where he was working for seven months with the Red Cross. He escaped with other English folk over the mountains of Montenegro to the Adriatic coast, and in this article describes some of the remarkable scenes which he witnessed in the flight of the Serbian population.]

The hospital in which I was working was in Vrujatchka Banja, a watering-place about 70 miles northwest of Nish, on the branch railway that runs to Uzhitsa, and the combined attack of the Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians made it clear, after a few weeks' fighting, that we must either retire or be taken. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and myself, with the approval of the authorities, determined to try to get away. The main railway to the south had been cut by the Bulgars at Skoplje (Uskub), and there was left only the road from Kraljevo in the west, down which the main Serbian retreat must pass. We made up our minds to go to Novi Bazar, and then over the mountains of Montenegro to the Adriatic coast. Food we knew would be scarce but the Serbian government and army and probably the civilian refugees, would go due south to Mitrovitsa, and we decided that the route of "panic and starvation" should not be ours. Carrying the least possible baggage and some food, we set off by railway to Kraljevo.

We waited eight hours at the station, the roof of a crowded carriage and rumbled along to Kraljevo. There ignoring official protests, we stumbled into the stifling telegraph office, and slept on the floor in a miscellaneous company of refugees. At seven o'clock we stumbled dirty and sleepy into the town. I had last seen it as a quiet and picturesque little country place, with a few people scattered about the streets. It was now surging like a river in spate. The street from the station, inches deep in mud, was filled with a torrent of carts, animals, and human beings, soldiers, English, French and Russian doctors and nurses, Austrian prisoners, and refugees of all classes. The animals strained, the carts groaned, men on horseback splashed shouting through the traffic, and an endless procession of foot passengers picked its way in either direction along such dry tracks as it could find. The market square boiled like a pot, and the restaurants were full of people who drank coffee alone because there was nothing more solid to be got. The Government was there, the Headquarters Staff was there, the foreign ministers were there, the French aviators were there, everybody of importance in Serbia was there, after evacuating Nish, and all were preparing to go further south. Supplies were in the hands of the State. For the first time in my life I tried to buy bread at a shop, and I was told that there was none to buy. We had enough food of other kinds to keep us for some days, but I shall never forget the feeling of helplessness which for a moment seized me when I realized that I was there, in the midst of the thousands of hungry people, and that the money in my pocket gave me no advantage over the poorest of them all.

No Food for Four Days.

In Kraljevo we stayed three days. We had a military order for bread which enabled the Gordons to wrest from the reluctant authorities about a third of the prescribed allowance. During a raid on the bread sacks at the railway station we heard the people crying out that they had not eaten for four days, the first confirmation of our suspicion that further south there would be utter starvation. Other food we got from a truck of hospital stores, and when Dr. Churchin, a Serbian official who performed his duties with Western thoroughness, at last snatched some horse carriages out of the whirling stream of traffic, we had enough to keep a considerable party for three or four weeks. By this time the signs everywhere were ominous. We had been within sound of the guns since we reached Kraljevo. The French aeroplanes had left one by one, flying steadily to Rashka. Outside our tents workmen were dismantling the Austrian and Turkish cannon, trophies brought from the abandoned arsenal at Kragujevats, and now to be left behind. Dr. Beavis's English unit went off in its motor-cars to Mitrovitsa. The Government and the foreign Ministers had gone. The Stobarts and the Scottish women, hospitals without stores, drugs, or instruments, went in Serbian military cars. The civilian refugees poured out on foot, in ox-carts, in horse waggons, or in carriages, and overhead enemy aeroplanes watched, in cold blood, the unceasing exodus.

On the 3rd November we left Kraljevo, a party of about twenty in all. We carried with us a big bag of rice, cocoa, corned beef, condensed milk, biscuits, treacle, sugar, and curry powde. We are not so fond now of rice as we were when we started. Curried or sugared, we ate it twice a day for a month, and even corned beef and treacle could not vary very much its infinite monotony. The sack was as inexhaustible as the widow's cruse of oil, and when we abandoned it at Brindisi it still contained a week's supply.

Through the Great Gorge

From Kraljevo to Rashka the road follows the course of the River Ibar. For the first six miles it runs over a flat plain, then climbs a hill and descends by a great zig-zag into a narrow gorge, which winds south for fifty miles. Along this gorge run side by side the road and the river, the road now a hundred or two hundred feet above the water. The scenery is not very impressive, except at one magnificent horseshoe curve, where a great ruined fort frowned down upon us out of the gathering darkness. But, in any case, we had no eye for scenery. We moved with a vast, unending procession of men, animals, and vehicles of every kind. For three days and two nights we tramped and rode along the gorge, and it seemed as if all the world tramped and rode with us. Empty waggons were coming north, but were like mere ripples on the surface of the tide. A train of field kitchens drawn by oxen; a Serbian ambulance train; a caravan of Gypsies, bargaining by the wayside for the sale of horses which they had doubtless stolen further north; two battalions of the newest Serbian levies, boys of sixteen and seventeen, armed with one rifle among five, fed with bread one day in three, once at night trying to raid our provision cart, and constantly offering to buy our rice and cocoa, sometimes beaten by their officers, but on the whole cheerful enough, and every one of them bearing across his back one of those brilliant rugs which Serbian mothers weave at home for their sons going to the war; troops of Austrian prisoners, ill-fed and ill-clad, hurried south lest they should be rescued and once more pressed into the ranks; officers in carriages; a prince and his household in motors; waggons loaded with public or private stores; great military automobiles storming through the press of slower traffic; and slipping in and out where they found a way, the foot passengers, whose homes were already in the hands of the enemy, and who were going south, not because they had anything to find there, but only because the enemy was behind. The great mass showed no signs of panic, only of patience. We asked one wild-faced man driving a cart "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm running away." We asked "Where are you running to?" He said "I don't know," and drove on, and we never saw him again. Probably there was not one man in ten of the thousands that we saw who would not have answered in the same way.

"A Nightmare of Motion."

It was the volume of this persistent stream rather than any particular thing in it that made it so terrible. It went on when we halted, and went on during the night, whirling in and out of the light of our wayside fire without ceasing, a nightmare of motion. Isolated scenes of horror were not wanting. I saw a horse pushed over the edge of the road, and watched it scramble back trembling and sweating, two hundred feet above the remorseless river. At another place a cart and two oxen had fallen eighty feet, and as we passed we could see the oxen drowned in the water, and the hapless peasants saving pieces of crockery that had been scattered in the fall. There was no more hope for an animal that fell on the road than for one that fell in the river. Neither stream would wait. I saw a great cart urged over the body of a living ox, and Gordon shot a poor horse which had collapsed in the very middle of the track, and was being crushed before our eyes.

The first night in the gorge brought us no rest. We tried to sleep out in the open, pulling our carts to the edge of the road ,while the main current roared beside us. But within two hours a shouting transport officer urged our drivers into flight again, and before we could overtake him and persuade him that we were of the Red Cross and should be allowed to rest, the carts were half amile away. Two more uneasy hours, we spent in the open, with the rain wetting our faces, and the Serbian boys, who bivouacked near us, diverting themselves by firing rifles and throwing hand grenades into the rocks. Then we rose before dawn to push on to a more open place. Five hours we trudged before we found one, and it was only a wide part of the road. Then we threw away all our tents except the sides and went on again, till the evening of the second day brought us into open fields by the village of Ushtze. Here we had another meal, and, making long, low tents we slept in a field, while the soldiers camped above us on the bare hillside beside great fires that flamed and glowed all night long. The next day, with fine weather, brought us into the little town of Rashka, where we found the Government, the Staff, the military attaches, the French aeroplanes, and all the signs of flight.

W. LYON BLEASE.

OLD LADIES' HOME.

Among the many homes and institutions that St. John possesses, there are few that can equal for comfort, and homeliness, the "Old Ladies' Home."

That is certainly saying a great deal, because there is hardly a city in the whole of Canada which is so well provided for in this matter.

The Home which is situated on Broad street, close to Courtenay Bay, is one of the most comfortable residences that anyone could desire; and as a well-known city gentleman remarked after a visit: "It's a splendid place."

There are at present some 26 ladies in the Home, and everything has been provided which caters for their comfort.

The kitchen is the very essence of cleanliness and effeciency and the dining-room as a result is seldom missed when the gong sounds.

Besides a beautifully furnished parlour, and well carpeted halls, each inmate has a cosy little room, in which she may receive any of her friends after three o'clock.

A peep into a few of these dens revealed nothing but cheerfulness and comfort, and the "old ladies" themselves seemed most happy under the care of the capable matron, Mrs. Gillatt, whose alert attention to their requirements prevents any discomfort.

Although none of the ladies are under 60 years of age, there are few absentees at mealtimes. One old lady in her 89th year [illegible] her place at the [illegible] for many years.

The religious re[illegible] looked after, each [illegible] ing their appoin[illegible] munion service i[illegible] vices the music [illegible] talented pianist [illegible] not again see h[illegible]

This Christmas [illegible] almost besieged [illegible] practical presen[illegible] mates by their [illegible] a most happy [illegible]

Space preve[illegible] to the beautif[illegible] may be obtai[illegible] of the Bay, [illegible] the warm sun[illegible] by the ladies, and the able staff, who are so much responsible for the good results obtained, but a personal visit would not only cinvince anyone that the Home, for its size, is one of the best in Eastern Canada, but creats a much greater interest in the welfare of this and other St. John institutions.

The "Old Ladies Home" is looked after by a most capable ladies committee, who meet the last Thursday each month, and by a board of [illegible] tors, whose meetings take plac[illegible] ery quarter.

Robert Chestnut of Moncton spending the holidays at his home [illegible] King street east.

Some of the New 115th Battalion.

Photographed in front of their splendid barracks, the Agricultural Building, (Exhibition Group), in South End, on Wednesday last. The 115th is fast filling up.

WE WISH OUR PATRONS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

IF THIS IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:—

The man of this birthdate is characterized by great determination and ambition.

The physical appearance is marked by strength, magnetism and good health.

Mentally, this man has keen judgment, will be eager to take the initiative in large schemes and plans and is happiest in the investment and expenditure of large sums of money.

This nature is especially adapted to organization, teaching and management.

The higher nature represents ideality, inspiration and the spiritual clairvoyance.

The governing planets are Saturn and Mars. The birthstone is a moonstone or white onyx.—(Copyright.)

BIG HOLIDAY SHOW at IMPERIAL

THE INCOMPARABLE FILM STAR

BLANCHE SWEET

In an Elaborate Picturization of the Most Baffling Detective Mystery on Earth.

"The Clue"

By MARGARET TURBULL

The Story of a Crime Committed by a Secret Agent of Japan to Regain Possession of Stolen Defence Plans.

Presented by a special cast and so devised that the keenest minds will be puzzled by the complications and amazed by the unexpected conclusion.

Chapter No. 18 "The Broken Coin." | Pathe Songs Arthur A. DeWitt

MON. Mary Pickford in F. P. Feature "CAPRICE." | South American Travel Pictures MON.

A HOLIDAY PROGRAM WHICH WE THINK WILL PLEASE

LYRIC THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

4 PICTURES and VAUDEVILLE ACT

THE HALLINGFORD PICTURES WILL NOT Shows This Week

"CUPID BEATS FATHER" COMEDY DRAMA

"DAHOMEY WEST AFRICA" EDUCATIONAL

"THE DRUMMER'S TRUNK" A Comedy With a New Idea

PICTURESQUE JAVA SCENIC

VAUDEVILLE--BEAL & STILLWELL (LADY AND GENTLEMAN) SONGS AND DANCES

MATINEE Today 3.15 OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

THE W. S. HARKINS PLAYERS

THE BEST COMEDY EVER SEEN HERE

"BABY MINE"

First Time Ever Produced at Less Than $1.50 Price.

SPECIAL MATINEE NOTICE

Owing to the Parade today THE MATINEE WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL 3.15. The Parade starts at 3.—See it—Then Come Here and see "BABY MINE"—Thus taking in the Two Big Events of the Day.

SPECIAL MATINEE PRICE 15c To All Parts Of The House

Established 1826 | Our 90th Year in Business | Still Filling Orders 1916

We extend thanks for the liberal patronage during the year closed. And wish one and all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

T. RANKINE & SONS LIMITED

Biscuit Manufactures St. John, N. B.

"The Baby and the Boss"

A TWO CHAPTER STORY of exceptional interest, introducing the lovable Thanhouser Kiddet, the New York Police Force in athletic Mack, and entwined therein a very pretty romance

- - COMEDY - -

"Postmaster of Pineapple Pie"

UNIQUE

Friday - Saturday

Have You Noticed

The Improvement in Our Programs This Week? Many have Mentioned it and We Think They Saw Aright.

ARMORED CRUISER OF THE BRITISH FLEET SUNK

London, Dec. 31—The [illegible] ed cruiser Natal has sun[illegible] plosion. Official announ[illegible] effect was made here t[illegible]

The Natal was sunk [illegible] noon while in harbor, [illegible] internal explosion. Th[illegible] 400 survivors.

The sinking of the [illegible] verest loss which the [illegible] sustained in several [illegible] tish naval vessels of [illegible] been sunk since la[illegible] Triumph and Majest[illegible] at the Dardanelles. [illegible] though a powerful [illegible] said down eleven years ago, and her displacement was only about one half that of the largest British sea fighters. The Natal's normal complement was 704 men. Her displacement was 13,660 tons. She was 480 feet long, and 73 feet of beam. Her largest guns were 9.2 inch. Of these she carried three forward and three aft. She was armed also with four 7.5 inch guns, twenty-four three pounders and three torpedo tubes.

The Natal brought to New York from Portsmouth the body of Whitelaw Reid, United States ambassador at London, in 1912, remaining at New York for two weeks.

ALL PARCELS ARE LIABLE TO SEIZURE

It sent by mail and containing goods which it is forbidden to send to enemy countries.

London, Dec. 31—According to official information supplied to The Associated Press the stand that all parcels sent by mail, no matter what class of post, duty is paid on them, and liable to seizure if they contain goods which, under the orders-in-council may not be shipped to or from Germany or her allies.

First class, actual postal correspondence, according to this statement, is inviolable on [illegible] is stopped on the high seas, and only subject to British municipal law when carried on ships which [illegible] British ports.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS ASSOCIATION MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL

Owing to the urgent and constant appeals from our Overseas Contingents now in the trenches for socks, the above association has decided to hold a "Special Sock Week" commencing January 3rd, 1916. It is hoped that every town and village throughout the Province will make a special effort to assist in supplying socks or money to buy them. Our hearts are so much in sympathy with those who have gone to [illegible] on our behalf that this effort seems a worthy and fitting way [illegible] on the New Year. Please do your best, as by this special effort we hope to be able to have enough to provide a pair of socks to every man in all the Battalions from the Maritime Provinces.

Please address all parcels Soldiers' Comforts Association, C. P. R. Building, Corner Germain and Princess sts., St. John, N. B.

KAISER UNLOADS CARGO OF IRON ON POLISH SOLDIERS

Several officers and privates decorated by Emperor with Iron Cross for their bravery.

Berlin, Dec. 31—(By wireless to Sayville)—Emperor William has [illegible] red the Iron Cross on a large number of officers and soldiers of the [illegible] of Polish Volunteers. General [illegible] ski, commander of the Legion, issued an order of the day, in which says the emperor's action is in [illegible] nition of the bravery of the Polish volunteers, adding:

"The traditional fame of the Polish warriors is the heirloom of our race. We shall carry our colors victoriously for the pride and [illegible] the Polish fatherland."

In Tropical Countries Liver Chill Very Common

In Northern latitudes also the liver is a very unruly organ and requires careful watching. The concentrated vegetable juice in Dr. Hamilton's Pills act directly upon the liver to stimulate its action to a normal basis. The blood is purified, the skin grows clear, headaches disappear and robust health is firmly established. No medicine for the stomach, liver or kidneys can compare with Dr. Hamilton's Pills. 25c. box at all dealers.

HANDSOME CONTRIBUPTION TO PATRIOTIC FUND

The Canadian Patriotic Fund has just secured a very handsome New Year's gift of five thousand dollars from the Paint and White Lead manufacturing firm of Brandram-Henderson, Limited. A division of this contribution was made among the different branches of the organization as follows:—

Montreal, $1,000; Halifax, $1,000; St. John, $1,000; Toronto, $1,000; Winnipeg, $1,000. This is the second contribution which has been made by Brandram-Henderson, Ltd., since the Patriotic Fund was started at the beginning of the war.