

NEWS OF WORLD TOLD IN BRIEF

Russians Annihilate Austrians Force and Capture 4,000 Prisoners Including Majority of General Staff

INDEMNITY FOR RAID

Government Will Compensate Sufferers From German Escapade—Austrian Emperor Reported Dying—Dominion Parliament Meets Feb. 4th.

Russian troops in the neighborhood of Tachov, Galicia, south of Tarnow, yesterday, on observing the advance of the 26th Austrian brigade, slipped past on parallel roads and surrounded the Austrian rear, according to reports received at Petrograd. The Russians opposed the enemy's fire with machine guns and virtually annihilated the whole brigade. During the last two days fighting in Southern Galicia near the Carpathians, the Russians are reported to have captured over 4,000 prisoners, including a majority of the general staff and four of the officers, besides three heavy guns and seven machine guns.

There is heavy fighting in progress everywhere along the entrenched lines in Belgium and France and in the eastern zone virtually from the Baltic Sea to the southern side of the Carpathian mountains. But the news that has been permitted to filter through official channels to the outside world is not sufficient to show clearly to the public what any of the combatants has gained or lost.

The British government has decided to indemnify from the Imperial funds those who suffered bodily or property losses as a result of the recent German naval raid on the coast towns of Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool and West Hartlepool.

A rumor is in circulation at Rome that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary is dying. The report has it that the Emperor King has received the last sacraments.

The nations of Europe have placed contracts in the United States for more than \$300,000,000 worth of supplies since the beginning of the war, according to Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who returned to New York to-day from England aboard the steamship Lusitania. Mr. Schwab predicted that for this reason the United States was now at the threshold of the "greatest period of prosperity it has seen in many years."

Great Britain has decided that resins, products, camphor and turpentine, are to be placed on the list of "absolute contraband." The British Embassy notified the State Department at Washington of a receipt of a telegram from London to that effect. No date was given as to when it would become effective.

Amsterdam, December 23.—The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, prints an appeal, signed by leading German professors of political economy, which urges Germans to live on vegetables and rye bread, leaving meat, white bread and delicacies for the sick and wounded. "England wants to starve us, and we must therefore, do everything possible to economize in the use of our food," the appeal says.

The Dominion Parliament will meet on February 4. It is understood that this date was decided upon at a meeting of the Cabinet held yesterday, following the return from the Maritime Provinces of Sir Robert Borden. It is not anticipated that the session—which will be devoted almost entirely to war measures—will be prolonged.

The License Commissioners announced the names of three hundred and ninety-seven of the four hundred who were to be granted liquor licenses for the twelve months commencing May 1, 1915. Three of the famous cabaret places over which there was such a big fight last spring, led by Rev. Arthur French, were granted renewals of their licenses. Arbour's, Kaestler's and the Arlington but no renewals were granted of the Parisian or the Regal.

NOTES ON PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Pacific Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of the American Power and Light Company, reports increased net and gross earnings for November and the twelve months ended November 30, 1914. Gross earnings for the month aggregated \$118,642, a gain of \$7,492 of 7 per cent. Net earnings were \$62,546, an increase of 7 per cent. but owing to an expansion of 14 per cent. in interest charges the balance for the month reflected an increase of only \$234, amounting to \$29,355. For the twelve months gross earnings were \$1,265,552, a gain of \$76,557, or 6 per cent., with a decrease of \$7,781 in expenses and taxes, so that net for the period increased \$84,348, or 14 per cent. There was a balance after interest charges and dividends on the preferred stocks of \$80,958, an increase of \$4,799, or 75 per cent., over the twelve months ended November 30, 1913.

Gross earnings of the Portland Gas and Coke Co., an American Power and Light Co. subsidiary, for November were \$159,500, a decrease of \$6,490, or 6 per cent. Expenses and taxes were reduced 5 per cent., and net earnings for the month were \$58,166, or \$3,695 less than for November, 1913. Income after charges was \$26,285, a decrease of \$2,841, or 10 per cent. For the twelve months ended November 30, gross earnings were \$1,286,681, a gain of \$18,795. Net earnings increased \$22,293 and the balance after interest charges and dividends on the preferred stock was \$291,218, or \$28,225 less than for the preceding twelve months.

The president of the Northwestern Electric Company, which built a hydro-electric plant on the White Salmon River in Oregon last year, says that the new company is making good progress. He says that the Northwestern Electric has about 6,000 electric consumers and that current earnings are approximately \$16,000 a month in excess of operating costs and bond interest. A complete statement of the affairs of the company is to be issued shortly.

The Arkansas Valley Railway, Light and Power Co. has secured a contract from the El Paso Consolidated Gold Mining Company to install 150 horse-power of electric service and is later to install an electric compressor. The connected lighting load of the company increased 120 kilowatts for the week ended November 23.

Because the Pottsville, Pa. Water Co. is held responsible by the city officials for Pottsville's \$800,000 water supply, they have been retained by business men who were burned out to prosecute the water company. The latter is said to be the wealthiest corporation in the anthracite region. It is alleged by merchants that it was the desire of the water company to keep up its big earnings by raising water rates that resulted in the calamity to Pottsville, and caused some of its most important business structures to be laid in ashes.

The Kansas Gas & Electric Company reports gains in gross and net for the month of November. For the twelve months ended November 30, 1914, gross earnings were \$1,129,942, an increase of \$121,158, or 12 per cent. Net earnings were \$419,231, increase of \$58,000, or 16 per cent. The balance after payment of preferred dividends was \$133,328, an increase of \$52,071, or 65 per cent.

GLEANED FROM MANY SOURCES

Stock Exchange Committee cuts minimum prices on six more stocks.

Federal Reserve Bank of New York reduces its discount rates to 4 1/2 per cent. for bills having not more than 30 days to run and 5 per cent. for others.

New Haven car shops will resume operations next Monday.

Mercantile Stores Corporation organized to conduct retail business of H. B. Claflin Company.

Chas. M. Schwab returns from Europe optimistic regarding business outlook in the United States.

England puts resonious products on list of absolute contrabands.

Holland to issue \$110,000,000 war loan.

Average price of 12 industrial 73.57, off 1.33; twenty railroads 87.91, off 1.82.

Petrograd reports large volume of Russian troops are moving toward Cracow. An important battle is developing near there.

Another unofficial message from the Russian capital intimates that the Russians have been forced to raise the siege of Cracow and reform their lines on a narrower front.

Russian offensive in Galicia is developing rapidly and claims are made of another severe Austrian check.

Rome hears that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is dying and has received the last sacraments.

Copper and slate deposits are to be worked on the completion of the proposed railroad from Pan de Azucar in the direction of Minas, Uruguay.

A statistician from Boston estimates that the Braves drew \$39,000 persons at home last season and \$51,000 on the road.

An American dredging company has been awarded the contract for deepening the Panuco river in Mexico, to a depth of 300 feet along the docks and to the middle of the river.

Alfred Henry Lewis, newspaperman and writer of books, is dead in New York as result of an intestinal disorder. He had been ill only a few days.

Nearly 7,000 men are employed on the Pacific Great Eastern from Pemberton to Fort George, B.C.

A technical commission of engineers to plan the route for the Pacific railway extension from Girardot to Palmira has been appointed by the government of Colombia.

Nominations for aldermen and school trustees for the seven wards of Toronto were held last night. For aldermen there were 48 aspirants and for the school board 28.

A gift of eight hundred and eighty-nine bags of flour from Welland County for the relief of the Belgians was shipped from Welland, Ont., to Halifax.

T. AND P. COATS REPORT UNSATISFACTORY BUSINESS IN CANADA AND STATES.

Glasgow, December 11.—(By Mail).—Addressing shareholders at their annual meeting, Sir Thomas Glen-Coats, chairman of T. and P. Coats, told at great length of the company's condition. Briefly his remarks were:

"The dividend received from one of the subsidiary companies is larger by about \$10,000, but that received from all the others and the profit made by the parent company have been less. Trade in a number of markets has been unsatisfactory from a variety of causes, and the margin of profit has been reduced by the steady increase in the cost of production and keener competition.

"The circumstances in which we find ourselves are, however, of an exceptional nature that we cannot shut our eyes to the possibility of serious losses. Only a small part of our profit is derived from the home trade, we have very large interests in mills in foreign countries. Those situated in Germany, Austria and Hungary employ in normal times more than 2,500 workers. The information we have received regarding their present position is neither precise nor of recent date, but there is no doubt that work has been much restricted and that it is carried on under unfavorable conditions.

"Our interests in Russia are very large. Over 9,000 workers are employed. The mills are all working short time, with the exception of one at Lodz in Poland, which had to be closed shortly after the war broke out.

"The Belgian mills in which we are interested and which in normal times employ more than 1,500 workers are in a locality in which there has been severe fighting on several occasions. These mills have been closed for about three months and there is apparently no prospect of their being reopened.

"With reference to the sale of our goods, I am glad to say that in this country, business is almost normal and that the same can be said of most of the Colonies. Sales in the United States and in Canada have, however, been anything but satisfactory. It is most unfortunate that trade conditions in so many countries were already in a bad state before the war broke out."

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A decrease of \$17,452 in gross and \$9,717 in net earnings was reported by the Northern Texas Electric Co. for the month of October. For the twelve months ended October 31, gross earnings totaled \$2,132,565, an increase of \$42,877, and net earnings at \$942,110, a decrease of \$4,425. Surplus over charges was \$632,005, a decrease of \$26,891.

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HOW CANADA MIGHT GET LOANS IN THE STATES

Banking Interests Likely to Follow up Broad Intimation Given From Across the Line

BASIS OF ARRANGEMENT

If Dominion Government Can Arrange For Loans in New York There is Nothing to Prevent Provinces and Large Municipalities Taking Similar Steps.

(H. M. P. ECKARDT)

The quotation made by the Journal of Commerce the other day from an article in the Wall Street Journal, discussing the question of a big Canadian loan in New York, raises some interesting points for our bankers and financiers. The American paper, commenting on the Hon. Mr. White's recent intimation to the effect that the Dominion Government would require to borrow \$100,000,000 per year while the war lasts, stated that it would probably be practicable to arrange the credit in New York, notwithstanding the recent intimation from Washington that the President and his advisers disapproved of loans to the belligerents.

In this connection it is to be remembered, of course, that Secretary Bryan afterwards made a statement which modified the attitude of the Administration on this question. He said that there would be no objection to American bankers undertaking credit business for banks and other companies belonging to the belligerent nations; but that it was not desired to have loans made by the United States to any of the governments that were at war.

The American Secretary of State some time ago declared that Canada might be considered as one of the belligerent nations. There has been another reason, apart from the American Government's stand in this respect, which has had a tendency to prevent the negotiation of war loans in New York. Many of the experts there considered that the financial situation in the United States was not strong enough to warrant the granting of credits to other countries, even if the credits were granted on the understanding that proceeds would be expended largely in purchasing supplies of one kind or another in the United States market.

During the last few weeks the financial situation here and in the United States has been noticeably strengthened. Our neighbors have succeeded in clearing away most if not all of the emergency currency negotiation of the banks have been strengthened. The cash reserves of the banks have been strengthened materially; and the inauguration of the new banking system has created confidence in all parts of the country.

So the proposition in regard to making sundry foreign loans does not now appear so objectionable. Inasmuch as loans to the belligerent countries promise to yield very good profits to the bankers undertaking them, and also to help American industry quite substantially, it is altogether likely that the bankers would sooner or later find a way to make them, even if the Washington authorities had not modified their attitude.

The Wall Street Journal, in its article, said: "In various ways credits to the order of the Dominion might be established, and it would be easier still without any subterfuge whatever, to make arrangements through Dominion banks which would have all the effect of assistance in Canadian government financing. Undoubtedly a transaction of entire neutrality could be carried through if the Dominion Government or

NEWS OF THE PLAYHOUSES

The initial tryout of the French comedy by Le-maitre, "Poor Little Thing," which has been reduced to the terms of Jerome K. Jerome, was given at the opening of the Grand Theatre, New York. It is a story of artistic life in Paris. The cast includes Eric Blair; Beverly Sigsbee, William Raymond, Janet Dunbar and others.

Edward Sheldon's play made from Herbert Sudermann's novel "Das Hohen Lied," called in English "The Song of Songs," has reached the New York stage after a somewhat cautious approach by means of the provincial cities. A. H. Woods has engaged in the interpretation of the play, which is his property, such well-known actors as John Mason, Forrest Winant, Cyril Kelschley, Dorothy Donnelly, Ernest Glendenning and Thomas A. Wise.

The beautiful spectacle "The Wars of the World," continues for four weeks longer at the Hippodrome.

The seventh week of the present season at the Metropolitan Opera House will open Monday evening with a repetition of "Euryanthe," with Mimos, Hommel, Ober and Garrison and Messrs. Sembach, Weil Middleton and Bloch. Mr. Toscanini will conduct.

CHICAGO WHEAT, 11:30 A.M.

Chicago, December 24.—Wheat, Dec. 125 1/2, off 1/4; May 128 1/2, off 1/2; July 119 1/2, off 1/2. Corn—May 71 1/2, unchanged; July 72 1/2, off 1/4. Oats—May 53, off 1/4.

"Dominion bankers so desire."

This is a pretty broad intimation, and it is altogether likely that our financiers will follow up the lead. No doubt there will be ingeniously enough displayed on both sides to make any transaction which is arranged appear as entirely unobjectionable. If the hint is taken as to the advisability of arranging the loan through the medium of the Canadian bank agency in New York, one would expect to see our Finance Minister arrange a loan with the banks in Montreal and Toronto, this transaction being followed by a transfer of the loan from the Canadian banks to New York institutions.

The American bankers, of course, might take their Dominion bonds as collateral to loans made by them to our banks, and hold them in that form for a time perhaps using them again as collateral in London to a certain extent if the necessary arrangements could be made. This, however, would be a complicated scheme, and it would be more satisfactory in every way if the Americans bought the bonds outright from the Canadian banks and subsequently distributed them among the investment public.

Perhaps this could be done with but a modest amount of advertising. For example, the big insurance companies and other institutional investor having funds to spare could take round amounts. All large capitalists who happened not to be too much tied up, would doubtless take considerable portions if the interest rate were made attractive.

With respect to the rate of interest at which these bonds could be placed one cannot be guided altogether by the low rates now prevailing for call and short loans in New York and London markets. The loan recently issued by the British Government was on practically a 4 per cent. basis. We could scarcely expect to place a Dominion loan in London on the same basis as that on which the British Government borrowed. So, even in case of a London loan, we should have to pay more than 4 per cent.—perhaps 4 1/2.

It should be remembered that New York would likely be disposed to charge us a slightly higher rate than London, but the difference might not be very marked. All things considered, we might have to pay 4 1/2 per cent. for a New York loan, and it is quite possible that it would be considered good policy to make the loan especially attractive through offering the American investors practically 5 per cent.—even at that rate we should be borrowing more cheaply than Germany can borrow at home.

This the banks would be supplied with funds in New York on which they could draw to pay for purchases of supplies, etc., by the Dominion Government in the American market. This would suffice to protect our gold supply—for otherwise we should perhaps have to part with substantial amounts of gold in order to prevent the quotations for New York funds amounting to a very high premium which would severely penalize all parties in Canada who had occasion to remit funds to the United States or Great Britain.

If of course if the Dominion Government can arrange in some manner for loans in New York there would be nothing to prevent the Provinces and larger municipalities from taking similar steps. In this way our banks might relieve themselves of special loans which are now absorbing a considerable part of their liquid assets.

HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Forty-Two Rounds in all Will be Fought Monday at Montreal Sporting Club

SPORT AT PRINCETON

Francis Ouimet, the Former American Golf Champion, Has Formed a Hockey Team From Followers of the Links.

The Canadiens are now fully prepared for their opening game with the Torontos at the Arena on Saturday. Newsy Lalonde is still an absentee at the work-outs.

The Washington club has agreed to assume all responsibility in any legal fight that may arise as the result of Walter Johnson breaking his Federal League contract. It is safe to say that Washington will not act for moral backing if the case is aired in the courts. Ban Johnson will be in there batting 500 as usual.

Five preliminaries and a feature bout will be the attraction at the Montreal Sporting Club next Monday night. Young Loutig and Harry Condon will arrive up the feature set-to and should prove a good go. Several well known boys come together in the preliminaries and in all forty-two rounds will be fought.

The Toronto News says that the race this year in the N. H. A. promises to be, like the war, one of unprecedented ferocity. The Canadians, Wanderers and Dawas are all out after the scalp of the Torontos.

The two Chicago clubs are among the busiest in the city to secure new talent. Roger Bresnahan has been turned down by Cincinnati. He offered Lavender Leach and Ted Corbitt for being Cubs. Charles Amiskey very much desires a third baseman of the first rank. He had designs on Fritz Blasnik.

Francis Ouimet, the amateur golf champion, has organized a hockey team from followers of the links. He has issued a challenge to any pro club in New England. Ouimet has made arrangements with Amos Apple in Boston for practice hours and the one drawback at present is about six inches of slush that covers the ice.

There is a possibility that George Sullivan may be Jack Combs a third time. The Milwaukee man was the only member in the show who did it at once while claim to the one-franchise Athletic trainer. Combs, who is a free agent, is anxious to try to come back with the Tigers.

Tom McCarthy, another "white hope" was eliminated last night at the Empire A. C. in New York. Gumbert Smith, McCarthy was knocked out in the fourth round after he had been doing all the leading.

The weights for the Christmas hand-up took place at the coast on February 12. Charles Watson, a professional, carried 127 pounds, while O'Brien, the favorite, on her performance Tuesday, is carrying 118.

Jack Brown and Alf Skinner, who have been in the main with the Americans, are the only ones with a position from the O. H. A. because they, like all others, are professionals.

The White Sox will start on their training trip to the coast on February 12. They will be the largest to set an early start for the coast trip, and condition for every 1915 season which is specific to arrange for the beginning of the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

James Gilmore's arrival Toronto will be in the Federal League in 1915. In connection with this rumor that the Kaiser promised to give his General Staff Buckingham Palace Christmas Day.

Figures published at Princeton University indicate that football and baseball are the only pastimes that pay for themselves at that institute of learning.

TORONTO'S HOME GUARD

The Home Guard at Toronto has been organized by the authorities at Ottawa as an eight-company militia regiment, with Captain W. T. Stewart, who has been raised to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in command.



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IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE FINANCIAL QUARTER AT

Halifax, N.S., December 28.—The purchase of the Eastern Trust Company of the Mackintosh marks an important change in the financial position of Halifax. The price paid was \$50,000, and the closing of the year the new owners, will have in the four-storey freestone building corner of Prince and Hollis streets.

The Eastern Trust sold their building to the new owners, which required further consideration, for a sum not stated, but which was estimated to be \$40,000. The Eastern Trust's was built fifty years ago, and is one of the finest structures in Halifax. It was erected on the site of the building in the basement of which were the offices of the Eastern Trust, and was used as a warehouse for storing stocks of wines.

The building now purchased by the Eastern Trust was erected for a wholesale drygoods warehouse and became the property of the Bank of Montreal after a large sum in changing and renovating the building. The Eastern Trust Company has now premises at a "far corner" of Prince and Hollis streets.

J. C. Mackintosh and Company are moving into the building they occupied before their change, but the place has been rebuilt and improved. They have dropped the stock department, and are devoting themselves more to the investment and bond and security business, in which they have been eminently successful.

The French Communiqué Official Paris, December 28.—The official 3 p.m. announcement follows: "In Berlin we continue to advance. To Lombardzie we have actually gained a position in the dunes upon which the enemy has been unable to resist."

To the south of Ypres we have lost position. Near Hellebeke in region of Lens a German battery has yielded 800 yards of ground to our troops. In Champagne the region of Ribemont and in Perthes where there has been particular attention to positions captured west of the locality.

In the heights of the Meuse there has been progress by our troops along the entire front. The enemy has been repulsed at the station of Die but railway service has not been interrupted. In the Upper Alsace to northeast of St. German counter-attack has been repulsed.

FRENCH BOMBARDING FORTS AT METZ Paris, December 28.—Three forts in the outlying Metz on the southwest are being heavily bombarded by the French, according to the front, and the German attacks against the lines near Prey have been repulsed with severe results.

New Year Gifts

IN THE CELESTIAL STORE at the busiest spot in England and opposite store. Monday, and exclusive privilege to choose "The Best" IN THE CELESTIAL STORE those gifts which can show you what a Jeweller is. Leather class novelties. The Big Gift Savings Branches

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