

My 1916 Resolution.

I hereby solemnly declare that during the coming year—1916—I will purchase only Tobaccos and Cigarettes that carry Tags and Coupons.

Furthermore, I pledge myself to save every tag and coupon and at some future date between Jan., 1916, and June, 1917, to exchange the said Tags and Coupons for some valuable premium to be obtained at the

Premium Department.

OF THE

Imperial Tobacco Co.
(Newfoundland) Ltd.

TO-DAY'S Messages.

10.00 A.M.

MOVING PICTURE RECORD OF GRAND FLEET.

LONDON, To-day. The British Grand Fleet, which as a Grand Fleet has never yet had an opportunity of being in action, has nevertheless from hour to hour, day by day, through all the months of war, been the foundation upon which everything has rested, was the summary by A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty. Lessons are to be derived from a moving picture record of the activities of the fleet, over the first production of which he presided yesterday afternoon, Balfour declared the film shown was packed with lessons of deepest import to Britons and the world. The success of all land operations of the Allies from Archangel on the north to the Persian Gulf ultimately depended, he believed, on the British Fleet, because were it removed the Allied nations now banded together against the tyranny of the Central Powers would be cut off from the outer world and from each other. He doubted whether the magnitude of the task thrown upon the British Navy, and so far triumphantly accomplished, was realized. "Though silent," said the First Lord, "it is performing at this moment, not alone for the Allies, but for the whole world, the greatest and most important part of the drama now being played for the freedom of the world. The world has yet to know how much it owes to the British Fleet. How assured is the victory which is coming to us in the future, it is coming at least as much as a gift of the British Navy as by the splendid valor of the Allied troops, whether British or foreign.

SWEDISH FORTS FIRE AT GERMAN TORPEDO BOATS.

LONDON, To-day. The forts on the Swedish Island of Haestholmen, opened fire on two German torpedo boats pursuing a Swedish steamer off Karlskrona, in Swedish territorial waters yesterday, according to messages from Stockholm to the "Politiken," forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Co.'s corres-

Prize Court would take the matter into consideration.

BRITISH STAFF OPTIMISTIC.

LONDON, To-day.

The despatches from both east and west express the belief that winter weather is likely to prove the most severe obstacle to war operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks. The most dreaded period of winter is from end of December to end of January, was the French General's reply a year ago to a demand for a great offensive. The same remark would apply equally this year. Reuter's correspondent at the western headquarters, after remarking that the British staff is confident the Allies are now so strong in men and munitions that they can break through the German lines whenever the right time comes, declares the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big movement, and adds: "Such a movement needs careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling up tactics always involve the possibility of counter attacks, which may end in rolling up the aggressor with the face of the country in a porous and mushy condition. It is impossible to effect essential quick movements of artillery, and without this any big offensive is foredoomed to fail. The Allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the greater part of the German front trenches forthwith, because the enemy holds these lightly, but then with ranges registered to a nicety from the myriads of artillery and machine guns, such a step would be sheer suicide until the opportunity is ripe.

A Russian correspondent writes that the most severe part of the winter has now begun in the Russian theatre. All reports agree the weather this year is harder than usual. It is increasingly doubtful if any serious events will occur until the end of January. Despite the weather the duel in the Vosges mountains in the western zone continues and may eventually prove to be one of the big operations of the war. The gains in either direction thus far have been small, but the French claim progress in their efforts to establish themselves on the crest of the foothills, which here dominate the plain. By all accounts Salonika is now safe. Certainly the Central Powers show no haste to attack the Allies' position. Seventy-five thousand Serbs have reformed at Scutari and Elossean in Albania, and the Montenegrin army which heretofore has been harassed continuously from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing itself energetically into the contest against the Austrians. The report that the Austrians are attacking Scutari are authoritatively denied. According to the latest advices the Austrians were at Kkeloploje, where they were recently repulsed by the Montenegrins and cannot reach Scutari without crossing the Albanian Alps and the flooded River Drina. No official announcement is yet available.

COMPULSORY ENROLMENT.

LONDON, To-day.

No final decision, regarding the method of carrying out the idea of compulsion, has apparently been reached as yet, but the Pall Mall Gazette believes the proposal which most commends itself is a bill providing that every unmarried man up to forty, who has not already enrolled under the Lord Derby group system, shall do so within a fixed period.

GREEK STEAMER SAFE.

LONDON, To-day.

The Greek steamer Thessaloniki, about whose safety considerable apprehension has been felt, was 190 miles east of Sandy Hook at 7.30 o'clock with the boiler room flooded. She is making four knots. All aboard are well, according to a wireless from the steamer.

TURKS STOP OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, To-day.

Official—General Townshend reports entire cessation of attack and bombardment since Christmas Day. He also reports a heavy thunderstorm on the 26th.

CARRIED CONTRABAND FOR ENEMY.

LONDON, To-day.

Official—It is ascertained that 55 bags of rubber, all consigned to a well known enemy forwarding agent in Sweden, were removed from the parcel mail on board the S. S. Oscar II. The estimated weight of the rubber received is about four thousand pounds. The remainder of the mail, which consisted of 734 bags was handed over to the post office for immediate transmission to its destination. The Oscar II. is the vessel which carried Henry Ford's peace party to Europe. On the voyage across she was taken into Kirkwall by the British authorities and her cargo examined. The Oscar II. was detained for more than 24 hours, but she was allowed to proceed on December 16th. There were reports at the time that part of the cargo was contraband and that the

conscientious objections to military service.

PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, To-day.

Arbitration for all disputes between American nations was the keynote of practically all the addresses at yesterday's session of the Pan American Scientific Congress. While many delegates were engaged in scientific discussions in sections into which the meeting had been divided, the general subject of the political means for binding all Americans closer was the outstanding feature of all the conferences.

COMPULSION FOR CHINA.

PEKIN, To-day.

China is to have compulsory military service. The Government announced conscription will be inaugurated on January 1st, 1916. It has also been decided by the General Staff to organize an aeroplane corps.

WIDESPREAD APPROVAL.

LONDON, To-day.

As to the discussion of the Cabinet in favour of compulsion, the political atmosphere has been considerably cleared up by the admission that its principle of compulsion is accepted by the majority of members of the Cabinet. Public opinion has not yet crystallized but there is a wide spread approval of Premier Asquith's general attitude and there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced. The difficulties within the Cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself into a practical form.

SMALL ACTIVITIES ON FRONT.

LONDON, To-day.

The British official statement on the progress of the campaign issued to-day reads as follows:—The enemy made an unsuccessful attack on one of our aerodromes. Of four machines only two reached their objective. No damage was done. One of our aeroplanes was shot down. Last night there was a successful enterprise near Armentieres, the enemy's trenches were entered and bombed with good effect, casualties were numerous. After ten minutes the party withdrew. Our casualties were light. To-day our artillery was effective against trenches and billets in many places between Hamets and Monchy. Enemy exploded two small mines near Givenchy. There was no damage either to troops or trenches. The day was quiet south of the LaBassee Canal. About Ypres a heavy reciprocal bombardment occurred.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL.

PETROGRAD, To-day.

Official: Russian War Office. On the left bank of the river Asa Lettish a detachment attacked an enemy detachment with bayonet. The Germans fled leaving many killed and wounded. On the rest of the front as far as Pripet region there have been artillery duels and fusillades in places south of Pripet, and in Galicia there have been encounters. There is no change on the Caucasian front.

KITCHENER FOR CONSCRIPTION.

LONDON, To-day.

In order to give time for possible reconciliation of conflicting operations on the recruiting question, the Cabinet Council which was called for to-day has been further postponed until Friday. There is very great hope that it will then be found the Cabinet is in practical agreement on the acceptance of Premier Asquith's proposals. It has become known that the Prime Minister found much greater support than he had been supposed, some anti-conscriptionist ministers having realized that the peculiar situation calls for exceptional treatment, among those are Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, whose influence is very great, and Arthur Henderson, who, however, will be guided by the views of the Labour Party. Earl Kitchener, War Minister, also has at last defined his opinion and that the time is ripe for compulsion. Much depends now on the attitude of Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade. Both are important members of the Cabinet.

EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS TOWN.

SAN SALVADOR, To-day.

Earthquake shocks which began early on Monday morning are still being felt here. A wall collapsed during the shock to-day, killing two persons and seriously injuring two others. Late advices from Honduras confirm the previous reports that the town of Gracias was completely destroyed by an earthquake on Monday morning. This town which lies 70 miles northeast of San Salvador had a population of four thousand.

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