

The Halifax Times Star

VOL. XV. No. 69.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 10, 1918

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

Hospital Ships To Portland, Me.

This Being Considered After The Trouble At Halifax

Ottawa Despatch to Montreal Gazette Refers to Matter—Comments in St. John on Receipt of the News

Montreal, Dec. 9.—A special despatch to the Gazette from Ottawa says:— In the hope of facilitating the transportation of returning troops and avoiding in future such delays as have recently occurred, the department of militia and defence is considering the advisability of having hospital ships disembark their passengers at Portland, Maine, instead of at Halifax.

This plan would leave the Halifax terminals free for the handling of soldiers coming home on the ordinary transports, and would obviate the difficulties which arose in moving up hospital cars when the hospital ship Araguay arrived in Halifax the other day.

Surgeon-General G. Carleton Jones is to leave for Portland tomorrow to look over the terminals there.

When shown this despatch, Premier Fisher commented that the comfort of the invalided soldiers and their quick transportation to their destinations were the first considerations to be borne in mind, but he saw no reason why the port of St. John should not be considered when the plans for caring for the soldiers were being prepared. The distance from St. John to Montreal was not much greater than from Portland and he believed that this port should be able to care for at least a part of the business.

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate have been recorded as follows:— Trustee of Joseph Bullock to F. C. Woodley et al, property in Sheffield street. Coldbrook Realty & Development Co. to Susie, wife of Walter Peterson, property in Simonds.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Formal notice has been given the United States government that the Serbs, Croats and Slovaks, formerly held by the Austro-Hungarian government, propose to unite with the kingdom of Serbia in a single Jugo-Slavic state and to insist upon the evacuation of Jugo-Slav territory now occupied by Italy.

Manchester, Dec. 9.—A strike of 100,000 cotton spinners for an increase of five per cent in wages is in full swing in the South Lancashire. Only a few firms have conceded the men's terms. Fully fifty million spindles are idle.

London, Dec. 10.—According to advices received yesterday the Canadian Northern ship "Canora" has arrived at Victoria, B. C., completing the long journey from the yards of the builders at Lewis. She will proceed to Vancouver, going into the car ferry service between the British Columbia mainland and Vancouver Island.

Completes Trip From Lewis To Victoria Via Halifax and Panama

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"FREEDOM OF SEAS" ONE OF BIG PROBLEMS

British Attorney General Speaks of It

Thinks Britain Will Have to Hold Position of Being Able to Do Again What She Did in This War

London, Dec. 10.—One of the gravest problems at the peace conference will be based on what is meant by "freedom of the seas" and what concessions Great Britain is going to make in that direction, said Sir Frederick E. Smith, attorney-general in a speech in Liverpool. He added that he was engaged in preparing a memorandum on the subject for the war cabinet.

"The United States has rendered brilliant service in the cause of civilization," Sir Frederick said, "and Great Britain is bound to approach the conference with a determination to concede everything possible to American sentiment and American views, having regard for national security and existence of the empire."

"Americans must remember that the seas are free to everyone in peace time and that to none has that freedom been denied. In time of war, however, one might as well talk of the freedom of the land as the freedom of the seas. Imagine Belgium, northern France or Serbia talking about freedom of the land. The moment war arises great coercive and primal forces assert themselves and the region of law is abandoned for the assertion of naval and military forces. Belligerents during the war had a right to carry on war. Neutrals had the right to carry on trade. But if there was a dispute between the right of belligerents to put restraint upon the enemy and the right of neutrals to carry on trade, the subordinate right of the neutrals had to give way to the superior primary right of the belligerent."

"It has been recognized for more than three centuries that a nation which is supreme in as much entitled to impose its will maritime on inferior countries by blockade as a nation stronger on land is able to impose its will on a weaker nation."

"I am not sure that Great Britain will not have to say to the Allies at the peace conference, 'We shall be quite satisfied with such a restriction of the freedom of the seas as will enable the British navy in the unfortunate event of future wars to do exactly what the British navy has been doing for the last eighteen months.'"

WILSON WILL NOT VISIT GERMANY

So Quoted in Reported Statement in Reply to Invitation

Paris, Dec. 10.—According to a wireless despatch from the United States transport George Washington, says Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris, President Wilson had been informed that Premier Ebert and Foreign Minister Haase, of the Berlin government, and Premier Eisner of Bavaria were about to make an effort to get him to visit Germany. The president is quoted as having made this reply:— "Only by long years of repentance can Germany atone for her crimes and show sincerity. No true American could think of visiting Germany unless forced to do so by strictly official obligations. That is to say, I decline in advance to consider any suggestion of the kind."

FUTURE OF RED CROSS WORK

Toronto, Dec. 10.—With reference to future supplies and comforts for the Canadian soldiers the executive of the Red Cross Society has issued the following information:— No more shipments of hospital supplies or garments, including socks to be made except by request of the Red Cross commissioner overseas.

For Siberia, hospital supplies will be needed so long as Canadian troops are stationed there. The C. W. C. A. will forward to the association's warehouse in Vladivostok shipments of comforts so long as the Canadian contingent continues to serve in Siberia.

The Japanese armored cruiser Nishin, with two torpedo boats, has arrived at Constantinople.

Say Former Kaiser Attempted Suicide

Man Who Tried to Prevent Him Wounded

MORE STORIES ABOUT HIM

Meeting at Dutch Border Said to Have Been All Arranged—Now Reported Waiting Story of His Life

London, Dec. 10.—William Hohenzollern, former German emperor, has attempted suicide, following mental depression, according to the Leipzig Tageblatt, which is quoted in a Copenhagen despatch to the Morning Telegraph Company. It is said that a member of the former emperor's retinue who prevented Herr Hohenzollern from carrying out his intention received a wound in the stomach, that his reception and that of the crown prince and suite at the Dutch frontier was a "mere comedy."

Paris, Dec. 10.—The Motta says that the city council at Spa has documentary evidence that the German emperor was to meet the former Kaiser at Spa before his flight into Holland. It would appear, therefore, says the newspaper, that his reception and that of the crown prince and suite at the Dutch frontier was a "mere comedy."

London, Dec. 10.—The former German emperor has had several interviews at Amersfoort with two German experts on international law with whom he discussed his personal position, according to an Amsterdam despatch to the Express. These experts arrived at Amersfoort in a rather mysterious manner.

"It is understood, according to the despatch, that Herr Hohenzollern is writing his autobiography and a history of his reign. It is said he will explain his attitude during the war. The book, which will be long, is intended for publication or if its author is tried before an international tribunal, may be a part of his defence."

Amsterdam, Dec. 8.—An interview given by Frederick Hohenzollern, former German emperor, to the Associated Press recently was widely quoted in the German press. Referring to his statements that Germany was aided by the American navy, the Marne and the German staff lost its nerve, an Essen newspaper remarks that "it is impossible to tell what is true and what is false," regarding these assertions.

NEW YORK TO HAVE A VISIT FROM FOCH

This is Indicated in Reply by Marshal to Mayor Hylan

New York, Dec. 10.—That Marshal Foch may visit the United States when his duties permit was indicated by a letter to the mayor yesterday by Mayor Hylan from the marshal in response to a recent message. Marshal Foch's reply follows:— "I am profoundly touched by the sentiment which has inspired your message and I thank you for your invitation. I appreciate highly the honor of the freedom of the city which the people of the City of New York offer me. Please transmit to them, with my acceptance, expression of my warmest gratitude."

FURTHER REMOVAL OF WAR RESTRICTIONS

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—The war trade board announced "a few of recent developments which have made the steel situation somewhat easier, and especially in view of the fact that certain United States restrictions have been lessened and others modified, permitting shipments of plates, boiler tubes, etc., being made to Canada more easily than in the past, it will in future be unnecessary to apply to the war board for releases from stocks which were provided for this purpose, neither will it be necessary to supply monthly reports as in the past."

GOOD THING THAT KALMIKOFF WAS SETTLED BY ALLIES

Vladivostok, Dec. 4.—(By the Associated Press)—The suppression of General Kalmikoff, commander of the Cossacks on the Ussuri River front, by joint action of the American and Japanese military authorities has removed an element which threatened open hostilities at Khabarovsk. The situation had become tense. It had its origin in the arrest, persecution and execution, by Kalmikoff, of apparently innocent inhabitants of the region. In some instances it is alleged that the bodies of the victims of executions were left for the dogs to eat.

GERMAN EXCHANGE DOWN; FRENCH SCORES RISE

Paris, Dec. 10.—(Havas Agency)—Despatches from Geneva report German exchange in Switzerland has fallen considerably, dropping to 65. French exchange, it is added, has risen slightly in Switzerland.

British Troops End Trouble in Cologne

Riots and Pillaging Had Caused Terror

CARNIVAL OF THE MOB

Restraint Of With German Soldiers Away, People Went Out to Take Forably What They Could Not Buy—Burgomaster's Statement

Cologne, Dec. 7.—(By the Associated Press)—Order has been re-established in Cologne as the result of the arrival of an advance guard of British troops. There had been several days of the keenest anxiety, caused by extensive riots and pillaging on the part of the mobs of the lower classes, with attendant bloodshed when the turbulent element clashed with hastily organized guards of responsible citizens armed with rifles and machine guns. The disorders began on Wednesday night after the withdrawal of the German troops from the city. They continued the next night in various quarters on a large scale.

According to Burgomaster Admair, the removal of the restraint exercised by the presence of the German troops, the overwrought nerves of the people seem to have given way and they went out to take forcibly what they were unable to buy.

The trouble ceased with the appearance of the troops yesterday. Today a cordon of British forces was thrown out from the city along the Rhine. Affairs in Cologne are now moving smoothly, to all outward appearances. Burgomaster Admair, however, told the correspondent that the city was facing starvation as only one week's supply of food was in sight. Other German cities, he declared, were in equally dire straits, being unable to obtain food quickly and not knowing what might happen as a result of the scarcity, while fresh supplies, he declared, could be obtained only from the Allied countries.

"We have been enemies, but for the love of humanity come to our aid now," the burgomaster urged vehemently.

At least one of the best known Cologne hotels today was serving an excellent luncheon consisting of soup, fish, (Continued on page 12, third column)

CASE OF SCOTCH, A GUN AND CIGARETTES BEFORE HE'D START THE BOAT

Canadian With Siberia Force Writes of Experience With Basher Skipper

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—A cable from the overseas military authorities to the director of public information states that the Canadian contingent employed in Northern Russia consists of three parties. The first and third parties are engaged in training and tending the local forces raised in Archangel and Murmansk and in administrative duties. The second party forms part of the Allied expeditionary forces operating from Archangel and including, in addition, British and Canadian contingents, American, French and Russian troops whose object is to protect the Russian people from the ravages of the Bolsheviks and to maintain the status of the Allies.

"October 4—Starting loading guns and vehicles on barges and reported to move at 11 a. m. Sailing postponed until 8 p. m., as no tugs had shown up. At 3.30 p. m. found the naval transport officer and the reasons for the delay in the form of a captain of the steamer Basher, who absolutely refused to start until his ultimatum was accepted, viz., a revolver, 2,000 cigarettes and a case of Scotch. By spending an hour and a half using a combination of diplomacy and vocabulary got him to agree to start."

SMALLEY BUILDING IS PURCHASED BY W. J. WETMORE

Another wholesale dealer has taken up larger and permanent quarters in Prince William street in William J. Wetmore, New Brunswick representative for Moirs Ltd. of Halifax. The premises at No. 91 Prince William, known as the Smalley building, have been purchased by Mr. Wetmore for himself from the Gen. E. Fairweather estate, and in a short while he will remove from Deek street. Mr. Wetmore, a St. John boy, has been representing the sister city manufacturers for some years and his personal purchase of the new quarters is a testimony to his efforts and enterprise.

SITUATION BETTER WITH "ONLY 70" NEW CASES

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 9.—Only seventy new cases of influenza were reported yesterday and the authorities say that conditions are very greatly improved.

AMERICAN ARMY REACHES RHINE

French And Americans In Aix-La-Chapelle

General Degoutte Recalls the Days of Chalmagne There—French Welcomed As They Penetrate Into Germany

Washington, Dec. 10.—The American army of occupation marching into Germany has reached the Rhine. General Pershing, under date of last night, reported:— "The American Third army, continuing its advance into Germany today, reached the Rhine from Rolandseck to Brehl, and at night-fall was on the general line, Rolandseck-Brehl, Duesenach-Bunstermafeld-Rheinbollen."

London, Dec. 10.—American forces entered Mayen, near Coblenz, on Friday. This was reported by the Wolff Bureau of Berlin as an entry into Mayence. The Wolff Bureau reports that newspaper representatives at Trier called at American headquarters there on December 4, at the request of the American commander. They were told that the Americans wished to avoid interference with the liberty of the press and the public generally and assured that there was a desire that matters should remain normal in the city.

In Aix-La-Chapelle. Cologne, Dec. 9.—French and American troops officially entered Aix-La-Chapelle today and took over the occupation of that German city from the Belgians. Allied flags were flown in the Frederick William Palace where the Allied general assembly took place the salute of the troops.

Paris, Dec. 9.—The Franco-American forces which occupied Aix-La-Chapelle on Saturday were commanded by General Degoutte. In addressing the troops, General Degoutte recalled that Charles the Bold had made Aix-La-Chapelle the capital of the horridly destined to stem the tide of Teutonic invasion. The tomb of Chalmagne also was decorated with French flags.

General Degoutte declared that the former German emperor was the fount of the war, and that he was awaiting now unavoidable punishment.

French Occupation. With the French Army of Occupation Germany, Dec. 7.—(By the Associated Press)—As General Mangin's troops penetrate farther into Germany the resignation of the population to foreign occupation becomes more apparent. Inhabitants from whom it has been possible to get an expression of opinion, not only submit with docility to the presence of the French troops, but invite them to make their stay permanent.

Strasbourg, Dec. 10.—Strasbourg's welcome to President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau and other French officials, took on a more popular aspect yesterday afternoon. Great crowds filled the gaily beflagged streets and there were waves of enthusiastic cheers while the veteran soldiers of France were being reviewed by the president.

Field Marshal Haig was welcomed by cheers for Great Britain, while General Pershing was received with cries of "vive l'Amérique."

CANADA'S DEBT IS \$1,307,429,661

Increase of \$20,000,000 During November—Increase in War Expenditure

Ottawa, Dec. 10.—Dominion revenues and expenditures for November both show increases over November of last year. Revenue on consolidated fund account last month was \$29,518,692, as compared with \$24,229,946 in November, 1917. For eight months the revenue was \$198,982,828, as compared with \$170,042,006. Expenditures for the same account were \$26,884,011 last month; in November last year, it was \$12,922,685.

War expenditure for the month was \$21,768,261 in comparison with \$18,714,472 for November of last year. The net debt during the month increased by more than \$25,000,000. On November 30 the net debt stood at \$1,807,429,661.

BURGLARS FAILED TO GET TO THE MONEY

Whitby, Ont., Dec. 10.—A daring attempt to force the safe of the Brooklin branch of the Standard Bank, six miles north of here, was made on Sunday night. The township tax collectors had deposited a large sum of money in the safe on Saturday evening. The burglars found the job too hard.

WILSON TO ARRIVE AT BREST THURSDAY

Paris, Dec. 10.—(Havas Agency)—Stephen Richen, foreign minister; Georges Leygues, minister of marine; Captain Andre Tardieu, head of the Franco-American general commission for war matters; General John J. Pershing and Colonel E. M. Hase will leave Paris on Thursday night for Brest to meet President Wilson. The George Washington will enter the roads at Brest early in the afternoon, escorted by Allied and American warships.

Decided improvement in internal circulation in China is noted in the latest diplomatic advices received in Washington.