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The Toronto World

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PROBS—Strong easterly winds; cold, with snow.

WEDNESDAY MORNING JANUARY 2 1918 —TWELVE PAGES

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,566 TWO CENTS

MAYOR, CONTROLLERS AND ALDERMEN ELECTED FOR THE YEAR 1918

Mayor CHURCH MAJORITY 9578
Controllers O'NEILL, ROBBINS, McBRIDE, MAGUIRE
Aldermen Ward 1 HILTZ, JOHNSTON, F. M., HONEYFORD
Ward 2 BALL, RISK, BEAMISH
Ward 3 RAMSDEN, McBRIEN, JOHNSTON, F. W.
Ward 4 NESBITT, COWAN, McMULKIN
Ward 5 GRAHAM, PLEWMAN, BLACKBURN
Ward 6 GIBBONS, BIRDSALL, SYKES
Ward 7 RYDING, WEIR

Vote on Street Railway Purchase Is 39,979 For; 3,769 Against

FRENCH DEALT INITIAL BLOW IN GOOD STYLE

Achieved Magnificent Success in Attack on Monte Tomba Lines.

TACTICS ARE CHANGED

Allies Pass From Defensive to Offensive in Italian Theatre.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Monday, Dec. 31.—The magnitude of the achievement of the French troops on the Monte Tomba region grows as full details are received in addition to 1348 men, including 44 Austrian officers, several of high rank, made prisoner, and seven large guns captured, the booty includes 60 machine guns, several trench quick-fires and a great amount of miscellaneous war material.

But the chief significance of the stroke is the change from defensive to offensive tactics, and the stirring enthusiasm and surges with which the French delivered their initial blow against the enemy lines. Thus far, the enemy has been on the offensive, with the Italians delivering telling defensive blows.

Now, however, the French have turned the scale, and the enemy is being attacked in this sector for the first time since he reached the Piave. The story of the fight shows thoroughness of preparation and heroic bravery in execution. The scene was southeast of Monte Tomba, a low, snowless mountain just west of the Piave, where the allied lines turn into the mountain region. Here the artillery preparation began Saturday.

SNOWFALL DISARRANGES ENEMY'S MILITARY PLANS

Austro-German Troops and Supplies Are Held Up by Snowstorms in Alps.

Geneva, Monday, Dec. 31.—Snow continues to fall heavily along the Swiss-Italian and Swiss-Austrian frontiers and in the Tyrol. A telegram from Chisasso, which is confirmed by Swiss soldiers on duty on the Italian-German front, states that Austro-German troops are held up on the Tyrol frontier. Many Red Cross and food convoys are stalled in the mountain passes, and regiments of central empire troops have been isolated without food supplies for several days.

FOE CLAIMS NEW GAINS TO SOUTH OF MARCOING

Germany Report New Territory and Prisoners Captured—State British Attack Broke Down.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—(Via London).—Further German gains on the Cambrai front south of Marcoing are reported today by the war office. The announcement follows: "Army group of Prince Rupprecht: At midnight the artillery fire increased at Houthuist Wood and in the neighborhood of Passchendaele. A strong British reconnoitring attack southwest of Monchy broke down. South of Marcoing the territory won on Sunday was extended as a result of minor engagements. The number of prisoners was increased by a few officers and 70 men.

"Army groups of the German Crown Prince and Duke Albrecht: The artillery fire was spirited at lines north of Proemes, on both sides of Ornes, and north and east of St. Mihiel. "On the eastern and Macedonian fronts there is nothing new."

MANY KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK.

Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—The wrecking of a passenger train near Sambor, in Galicia, forty miles southwest of Lemberg, occasioning the death or injury of many persons, is reported in a Vienna despatch to The Rotterdamche Courant. The train caught fire while traveling at full speed. Owing to the fire the emergency brakes could not be operated.

The Perennial Politician

Yesterday's elections did not indicate any great interest on the part of the citizens in their representatives. Had every voter been compelled to vote, on penalty say of a ten dollar fine, there would probably have been a different result. As it is the city is governed by a minority of the citizens, and however influential that minority, so long as we have minority government we cannot profess to have democracy. There should be no complaints from those who do not vote about any policy the council may adopt, or any consequences that ensue from their indifference to its membership. It may be contended that the citizens in general are perfectly satisfied to leave the management of civic affairs to those who do take an interest. But that again is not the way to true democracy.

Mayor Church, however, has a majority he may be proud to remember. It does not reach the magnitude of his victory in 1916, when he piled up 28,541 votes against Mr. Winberg's 9880. But his vote of 27,507 this year can scarcely be regarded as showing a loss of popularity. As a civic politician he is a perennial.

TORONTO'S PARAMOUNT PROBLEM

Toronto continues to grow in population; that is one encouraging sign, notwithstanding the number of people who have gone, either to other points in Canada or abroad, both on account of the war. We have no empty houses; houses are much sought after; new ones are being built—speculative builders can sell as fast as they get money to build, notwithstanding the high cost of material and labor. Building mechanics average over five dollars a day.

The minister of finance advises economy in luxuries, in unnecessary public works, in municipal loans. But cities must go on or go back. Toronto will go on, but the absolutely necessary thing for Toronto to do at once is to improve her means of local transportation. Why shouldn't we buy out the street car company now if we can do it more advantageously than four years hence? Double fares, transfers with long waiting, poor service and motive energy that has been allowed to run down for four years, and is to be let run further for four years more, by reason of expiry of franchise. This is Toronto's supreme problem and must be dealt with, notwithstanding the warning of Sir Thomas White as to economy. There is an economy that may cost too much. In this case it means untold inconveniences to over half a million people in the city and immediate suburbs—an inconvenience that costs much in money, more still in time. Two hours a day between home and work is the best two hours of the day for many a man or woman that has to work.

Toronto would shoot ahead if she had modern transportation. Factories are afraid to locate where there is dear and poor local car service. If we must stand for high cost of building we do not need to stand the loss of an inferior train service. The necessary money to buy out the Toronto Railway can surely be got; it is a lodgment on the western bank of the city. The Bloor street viaducts provide part of a tube, ready to be railed. A tube from the new Union Station to the North Toronto station—both soon to be, we hope, in a national railway system—could be built in a year if cut into short contracts!

To buy out the old lines in bits, spread over four years, may come high in money, still more costly in loss of time to the public. A million eight hundred thousand dollars, asked for the Metropolitan single-track franchise on the city portion of Yonge street, is a sample of the slow-poke or bit-by-bit method.

Isn't there a way for a quick and reasonable clean-up? The World thinks so. But our citizens must insist on knowing the facts that embrace the situation; and they are entitled to real leadership from their papers and public men. And among public men Sir Adam Beck and Sir William Hearst ought to have something to say. Perhaps the Union government at Ottawa, now faced with the bigger railway problem, may have to take as wide powers as President Wilson has, and who has already declared that radials and street car lines may yet come within the scope of his mighty task—already assigned for the working out thereof to Director-General McAdoo.

The World proposes to discuss this question of public ownership of street car lines and radials and to ask our public leaders to take a hand in the settlement.

Now is the time, the best time, to try and settle this paramount public problem for the people of Toronto and Ontario. And that is how the people votes yesterday when they voted on the question, are you in favor of purchasing the street railway franchise? Does it mean that we must wait four years more before we get a hand?

ITALIANS VICTORIOUS IN FIGHT AT ZENSION

Austrians Forced to Retreat Across Piave—Enemy Aviators Again Bomb Open Italian Towns, Killing Civilians.

Rome, Jan. 1.—The Austrians last night were compelled in consequence of Italian operations to abandon the Zension bridgehead, where they had a lodgment on the western bank of the Piave River, and pass to the eastern bank of the river, the war office reports. All the Zension bend is now held by the Italians. The text of the statement follows: "At Zension di Piave, owing to our energetic pressure begun on Thursday and continued without interruption, the enemy last night was obliged, as the result of our combined operations with artillery fire and infantry detachments, and after having suffered heavy losses, to abandon the bridgehead and to pass again to the left bank of the river. All the ground in the bend is now held by us.

DRAFT NO ONE SUMMONED TO BEGIN SERVICE

Conscripts Join Colors Thursday Next at Depot Battalions.

TO SEEK DEFAULTERS

Absentee Detachments to Provide Accommodation of Those Captured.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—The first draft under the Military Service Act joins the colors on Thursday. Every man called up has received from his district registrar notification to report to his depot battalion. As rapidly as district headquarters can handle and equip the men the balance of the first draft will be called up day by day. Full preparations have been made for giving the draft its preliminary training. Commissioners and non-commissioned officers with actual war experience have been secured, and the men will thus be familiarized from the outset with warfare under modern conditions. It is expected, however, that the greater part of the training will be effected overseas. Transportation difficulties are being rapidly met. The first batch of men is expected to be on its way over with brief delay.

Look for Deserters. Stringent regulations have been passed to meet the case of deserters and absentees without leave. Special instructions have been issued and chiefs of police districts are being the traveling expenses of prisoners and escorts and to provide facilities for men who desire to surrender, the detention of the case is made if absentees detachments. The detachments will receive and provide for the temporary accommodation of absentees. Such a detachment may be stationed in some particular locality for a period, or may be specially formed to proceed to some place for the purpose only of dealing with such absentees as may then be in custody.

An absentee detachment will consist of an officer already on the strength and such other ranks as may be necessary to maintain discipline and provide escorts. No absentee detachment is to be formed unless the expense to be incurred is likely to be substantially less than it would be if the absentees were brought in under escort to the depot battalion.

Special regulations. Special regulations meet the case of defaulters under the Military Service Act, men who failed to register under the proclamation calling out the first class, if "without reasonable excuse," they are liable to five years' imprisonment, and subject to arrest by a civil or military authority. A defaulter who comes into the custody of the civil police and is not punished by a civil magistrate will be delivered up to a military escort and conveyed to a depot battalion or absentee detachment.

Defaulters who surrender will be detained leniently. Unless the circumstances of the case warrant, it is probably nothing more than a normal punishment will be imposed. Where it appears also that a man should be granted exemption from military service provided for the hearing of his case before a tribunal.

PEACE MOVE OF ENEMY IS GRAVE WAR FACTOR

Entente Authorities to Take Official Cognizance of Terms. Advanced at Brest-Litovsk.

London, Jan. 1.—The British Government recognizes that the Brest-Litovsk peace proposals constitute a grave and new fact of which official cognizance must be taken. The Daily Chronicle in reporting, as did The Manchester Guardian yesterday, that the British Government intends to return a serious and reasonable reply to the Austro-German peace terms when presented officially. The Chronicle adds that Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States already are exchanging views regarding the peace proposals.

The reported visit of Premier Lloyd George to Premier Clemenceau, it declares, is an intelligent anticipation which may or may not be realized.

T. L. CHURCH IS RE-ELECTED TO FOURTH TERM AS MAYOR



PURCHASE OF RAILWAY FAVORED BY TORONTO

Majority in Favor of Taking Over Physical Assets in 1921 Was 36,210, With Only 3769 Adverse Votes.

Public ownership received a great boost from the citizens of Toronto yesterday, when by a vote of almost eleven to one they placed themselves on record as in favor of taking over the physical assets of the Toronto Railway Company at the expiration of the company's franchise in 1921. The final count, as given out last night, was as follows:

Table showing vote counts for purchase of railway assets: For the purchase 39,979, Against 3,769, Majority 36,210.

The vote of the citizens, however, does not settle finally the many problems that will arise when the line is taken over in 1921. The question was put to the ratepayers merely to feel out public sentiment, as one of the aldermen put it. There is nothing in the city bylaws to make a plebiscite on the question necessary. Under the agreement with the company, the city is required to give a notice of one year to the company before taking over the line.

NEW BRITISH ADVANCE IS MADE IN PALESTINE

Allenby's Forces Victorious North of Jerusalem—More Than Thousand Turks Killed and 750 Are Made Prisoner.

London, Jan. 1.—British forces in Palestine, under command of General Allenby, have made further progress along the battle line north of Jerusalem. The British war office announced today. More than a thousand Turks were killed and 750 were taken prisoner. The text of the statement follows: "Palestine: The British line has been still further advanced north of Jerusalem. From Thursday to Saturday inclusive we took prisoner 750 Turks, including 10 officers. Up to the present 1000 enemy dead have been counted."

U. S. AMBASSADOR HONORED

Sheffield University Confers Degree on Walter Hynes Page.

BOLSHEVIK-COSSACK FORCES FIGHT AT KURSK

Battle Rages for Three Days and Casualties Are Heavy—Famine at Moscow.

O'Neill, Robbins, McBride and Maguire Are Chosen to Sit on Board of Control—Mayor Has Substantial Majority.

Thomas Langton Church, Toronto's "war-time mayor," will again be the chief magistrate of this city during 1918. By giving him a substantial majority over his only opponent, Controller Robert H. Cameron, in the civic elections yesterday, the ratepayers endorsed his actions during the past three years and asked him to sit for a fourth term in the mayor's chair. The final vote was as follows:

Table showing election results: Church 27,587, Cameron 19,009, Majority for Church 9,578.

Three new men were elected to the board of control for 1918. Two vacancies had been caused by the elevation of Controller Foster to the house of commons, and the aspirations of Controller Cameron, who sought the mayoralty. Controller Shaw was defeated, and the three empty chairs will be filled by Ald. Robbins, Ald. Maguire and ex-Ald. Sam McBride. The final vote was as follows:

Table showing board of control election results: Robbins 24,928, Maguire 18,985, McBride 17,901, Maguire 15,240, Shaw 14,180, MacGregor 8,921, Archibald 2,884, Vokes 2,362, Meek 2,362.

Majority for Miles Vokes. The large vote cast for Miles Vokes was one of the features of the election. Mr. Vokes had been forced to

MAYOR T. L. CHURCH.

Re-elected yesterday as mayor of Toronto for a fourth term.

retire from the contest several days ago because he had failed to resign from the board of education within the time required by statute, but seemingly many people were unaware of that fact. As a result their votes were wasted.

The vote was undoubtedly much heavier than last year, despite the impression that was prevalent all day that polling was very light. Controller Cameron headed the polls last year with 16,275 votes, whereas this year four candidates went over that mark. Controller O'Neill, as had been generally expected, headed the polls, but very few people expected that Ald. Robbins would come second. The small vote accorded to Ald. Archibald was one of the surprising features.

Mayor Church arrived at the World office shortly after the returns began to make his election a certainty. Addressing the crowd which had gathered in Richmond street to see the figures flashed on The World screen, the mayor said: "I take this opportunity of thanking all those who supported me in this election. I had no organization working for me today, and no conveyances to get the voters to the polls. I give a great deal of the credit for my victory to The World and other Toronto newspapers who supported me. The vote on the street railway question I consider a great victory for public ownership." The mayor promised a continuation of good government at the city hall. "Economy. I give a great deal of the credit for my victory to The World and other Toronto newspapers who supported me. I do not feel that the loss is mine," he said. "I have given good, faithful service, and was prepared to give more to the city."

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 1).