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is the biggest weekly paper of Western Canada, and reaches especially the immigrated population throughout the West.

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# The Courier

A Paper for the Western Home

**"The Courier"**

is chiefly devoted to the agricultural interests of the Canadian West.

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## Poland is Mobilizing Army

PARIS, Dec. 22. — The mobilization of all men in Poland from 15 to 25 years of age for military service has been ordered by the provisional Polish government which places 2,000,000 men under the colors immediately. Gen. Pilsudski is in charge. The move following the ousting of the German minister is important. Despatches from Poland and the leaders of all parties here unite in the declaration that the mobilization is in the interest of Poland and also the allies.

In Poland all parties, including the provisional government, desire complete co-operation with the allies. The army has been mobilized for the purpose of working harmoniously with the allies. The reasons, as explained by the leaders here, for the mobilization are that Poland must have a strong armed force first to make a solid wall against the feared attacks by Bolsheviki and also against the spread of bolshevism by the thousands of agitators who have invaded Poland.

### Aimed at Germany

The second reason is to remove the German military forces from all parts of Poland populated by Poles in which the civil and municipal government and also political activity is permitted but the German military persist in controlling it because the Polish army is not strong enough to throw out and replace the German soldiers.

## To the Spirit of Christmas

By Louella C. Poole

Once more the Blessed Day has come  
To soothe the hearts of Christendom;—  
Like some cool hand that's pressed  
Upon the fevered pulse of pain,  
The Christmas Spirit comes again  
To quiet our unrest.

Forgot awhile are grief and loss,  
The brooding cares that irk and cross;  
From farthest sea to sea,  
From northern lands of ice and snow,  
To where the rose and jasmine blow,  
The Holy Mystery

Its influence benign outspreads:  
On bended knees, with low-bowed heads,  
With myrrh and spices sweet,  
Fit recognition we would make,  
Our alabaster boxes break  
In tribute at His feet.

O holy, blessed Christmas-time,  
Of perfumed incense, greeting chime,  
The fair gifts we pray  
In boundless measures, full and free,  
Bestow on these across the sea,  
So sore their need today!

The old and frail, forget them not,  
And these whom woe's lives are wrought  
So much of hope and prayer—  
Our little ones, the coming race—  
Bestow on them the tenderest grace  
To grow in wisdom fair!

Sweet Peace, the gift of the fullness bring  
Peace unto hearts now sorrowing,  
And unto great and small,  
To man, bird, beast—so all that live—  
Thy rest and benediction give,  
Thy happiness to all!

## SEVEN REPUBLICS SUGGESTED IN GERMAN STATES

DUSSELDORF, Dec. 22. — A Rhenish official advances the suggestion for a future Germany composed of seven republics constructed along the line of the U. S. as follows:

First, Upper Saxony, composed of the former kingdom of Saxony with Thuringia, Erfurt, Magdeburg, Anhalt and German Bohemia; capital Dresden.

Second, Lower Saxony, with Hanover, Lippe, Brunswick, Oldenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck and Schleswig-Holstein; capital, Hanover.

Third, Rhineland, with Baden, Alsace, Pfalz, Rhenish Hesse, Thuring province, Hesse-Nassau, and Westphalia; capital, Coblenz.

Fourth, Swabia, with Wurttemberg and Hohenzollern; capital, Stuttgart.

Fifth, Bavaria.

Sixth, German Austria, with Steiermark, Kärnten and the Tyrol.

Seventh, Brandenburg and Prussia, with Mecklenburg, Pomerania, Posen and Silesia; capital, Berlin.

## Saskatchewan Legislature

### Premier Martin Introduces Amendments to School Act in Favor of "English Language Only"

Three features of the debate on the amendments to the School act on Wednesday the 18, attracted crowds to the galleries when Premier Martin, Donald Maclean, leader of the opposition, and Hon. W. R. Motherwell, who left the government last week on the language question, spoke.

Mr. Martin upheld the fair fame of Saskatchewan as he saw it in educational matters and made a plea for tolerance towards the French. Donald Maclean moved an amendment that the French be shown no special consideration and that no language save English be permitted in the schools of the province. Hon. W. R. Motherwell, in a speech which contained considerable criticism of the government for what he said was its failure to act upon Dr. Foght's recommendations, declared he would support the bill on its second reading but would want some assurances that several points in the School act would be made plain in committee. He read what he said was the language amendment as it was considered before the cabinet and which he refused to accept when in the government, stating that he had told the premier the last thing be

fore resigning that if he (Mr. Martin) would "fix me up on the language question" he (Mr. Motherwell) would "swallow Union government in silence for awhile longer." He resigned and afterwards the premier changed his plans. The stumbling block had been removed. Premier Martin reviewed the educational question in Saskatchewan in a speech of 2 hours, declaring that English must be the language of instruction and the aim of the government was to provide every child with an adequate knowledge of English. The question of language in no way concerned the separate schools. The government had been asked to abolish them, but this was impossible as not even the federal parliament had this power. The rights of the minority, be it Protestant or Roman Catholic, could not be curtailed under the constitution of the territories and the provinces.

Mr. Martin quoted figures to show that Saskatchewan compared favorably with other provinces in educational standing. There were 4,157 school districts and of these 19 were separate schools, 15 being Catholic and four Protestant.

(Continued on Page 4.)

## Fifteen Persons Perish When C.P.R. Tourist-Sleeper Caught Fire

CAR COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN FEW MINUTES—CAUSE UNKNOWN—NEARLY ALL VICTIMS WESTERNERS — ONE YOUNG REGINA WOMAN AMONG DEAD.

An unofficial list of 15 dead and a dozen injured has been compiled as the result of a fire in a tourist sleeper on No. 4 C.P.R. train, eastbound, at Bonheur, Ont., 130 miles west of Fort William, one station east of Ignace, early Tuesday morning of last week.

Originating, it is supposed, from an exploding or overturned spirit lamp, used, against the regulations, by some early rising passenger in the coach, the fire spread with incredible rapidity and in a very few minutes reduced the coach to cinders on its trucks, while other passengers and the train crew made heroic efforts to rescue the occupants from a living death.

Between 5 and 6 a.m., while the conductor was returning from the front end of the train, after handing the engineer the orders received at the station, a trainman, in the act of giving the starting signal, noticed smoke issuing from the space between two coaches, close to where he stood, ready to grasp

a hand-rail and pull himself aboard the train. The alarm spread rapidly, and every one available lent instant aid, the train crew rushing to the burning coach to rouse and carry out as many of the sleeping passengers as possible, while some escaped unaided.

The scene, according to reports of eyewitnesses interviewed at Fort William, was indescribable; panic seized almost everyone, and the frantic efforts of the imprisoned passengers and of their rescuers were pitiful to behold. Three of the injured rescued are somewhat seriously burned, and are now in the Fort William hospital.

Among the victims are: Mrs. G. M. Hunter, Regina; two Regina men and two Regina women, unidentified; and two women and a little boy, son of one of them, unidentified, from Winnipeg.

Advices from Kenora state 13 coffins had been sent from there to the scene of the disaster.

### FOOD BOARD ORDERS THAT ARE REVOKED

OTTAWA, Ont. — The Canada Food Board last week revoked three of its orders which had fulfilled their purposes. Order No. 9 of December 21, 1917, regulating the "spread" in the cost of milk, was passed to meet conditions which existed then, but which have since then quite changed. Order No. 14, January 19, 1918, controlled the "spread" on the retail sale of bran and shorts, and is not applicable to part of the conditions obtaining. Order No. 47, June 5, 1918, is inoperative at this time of the year, and fixed maximum prices to be charged consumers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for dressed, summer-caught white fish.

Control of the wholesale maximum prices and profits on bran and shorts, eggs, butter, cheese, meats, and winter caught fish in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Al-

### GERMANS FIGHT BOLSHIEVICS

BERLIN, Dec. 22. — German troops have been sent against Bolsheviki forces who are advancing on Mitau, about thirty miles southwest of Riga, from Friedrichstadt, on the Dvina, according to the Lokai Anzeiger.

### RECONSTRUCT GERMAN ARMY

LONDON, Dec. 22. — The German government has accepted Field-Marshal Von Hindenburg's plan to form a people's guard, or national army, according to a Copenhagen despatch. It is said the German army under this plan will be a stronger force than ever.

berta, and of the flat fish on the Pacific coast remains in force, as also does the general control of wholesale prices.

## Six Million Lives Lost in Great War

Germany Estimates About Two Million of Her Soldiers Were Killed; Russia 1,700,000; France 1,400,000; Italy 500,000; and Britain 658,704 — Other Deaths From Wounds and Diseases Not Yet Added.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 22. — Russia's war casualties were 4,200,000 men, according to a telegram received here from Petrograd today. Of this number 1,700,000 were killed. The disabled men numbered 1,450,000, while 3,500,000 others were wounded. The Russian air-prisoner total 2,500,000.

Estimates of the Russian casualties in the war made last week by the Russian information bureau director, Sakin, in New York, figured the total at not less than 5,000,000 men, of whom 3,000,000 were killed and about 2,000,000 disabled for life.

Figures compiled by the Guggen-Gazette and published November 25, placed the German casualties at more than 6,000,000. Of this number, it was estimated that about 2,000,000 were killed. The German soldiers killed in the war, according to a statement made in the French chamber of deputies on December 2 by Lucien Voilin, numbered 1,400,000. Italy lost 500,000 men in killed or died of wounds. The British army's official losses total 658,704.

Italian Statement: Paris, Dec. 22. — Five hundred thousand Italians lost their lives in the war. Of this number 300,000 were killed in action. This statement was made to the correspondent yesterday by Salvatore Barzile, former member of the Italian cabinet, who accompanied King Victor Emmanuel to Paris, explaining Italy's sacrifices and heroisms to territory previously held by the enemy.

Signor Barzile said: "On the eve the peace conference, when Italy must claim the territory sheher for reasons of nationality, it will be the world should know the sacrifices sustained by her. All Italians trust America as an impartial judge. Italy lost 500,000 dead. To these actually killed in the action must be added 300,000 who

## Farmers Demand Reciprocal Free Trade With U. S.

### Big Convention at Toronto Desires All Tariff Bars on Manufactured Goods Be Swept Away

Toronto, Dec. 22. — Reciprocal free trade with the United States in everything from A to Z is the demand of the United Farmers of Ontario. They will not be satisfied now with the reciprocal agreement of 1911, which affected natural products only, but want the tariff bars swept away on all manufactured articles as well.

At a tremendous cheering, they passed a resolution to that effect at their convention in the Labor Temple this evening and free trade with the United States is to be one of the biggest planks in the Ontario farmers' platform. No longer will the organized farmers of this province be accused of being behind their western brothers. They want the farmers of the west one better today. The Winnipeg platform, which was recommended for their approval, simply provided: "That the reciprocity act of 1911, which still remains on the statute books of the United States be accepted by the parliament of Canada." On motion of E. C. Drury, of Barris, Ont., seconded by W. C. Good, of Brantford, Ont., this was amended by the following addition:

"And that any further reduction of tariff on the part of the United States toward Canada be met by similar reductions by Canada towards the United States."

While the tariff changes were being carried out one delegate said: "Don't stir up the manufacturers." "We don't give that for the manufacturers," said President Halbert, snapping his fingers.

A storm of cheers greeted this. R. W. E. Burnaby, of Jefferson, announced that the farmers have now subscribed nearly \$30,000 towards the founding of a daily paper of their own. "We only need another \$15,000, and then we can start our own farmer's daily," said Mr. Burnaby.

The following tariff changes were unanimously adopted: The agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizer, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating fuel and lubricating oils should be placed on the free list and that all raw materials and machinery used in their manufacture be placed on the free list.

"That all tariff concessions granted to other countries be immediately extended to Great Britain.

"That all corporations engaged in the manufacture of products protected by the customs tariff be obliged to publish annually comprehensive and accurate statements of their earnings.

"That every claim for tariff protection by any industry should be heard publicly before a special committee of parliament.

"The farmers propose to make up the revenue lost by the tariff redistributions in the following manner: "By a direct tax on unimproved land values, including all natural resources.

"By a graduated personal income tax.

"By a gradual inheritance tax on large estates.


"By a graduated income tax on the profits of corporations."

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**To All Our Readers!**



**A Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year!**

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C. E. Eymann, Manager