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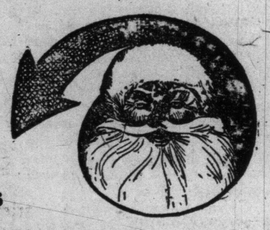

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J. G. Coombes
MANAGER.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

Naval events, including a German attack on a British convoy and a German raid to the mouth of the Tyne, afford the chief news of action from the sea heard outside of the submarine warfare for a considerable time. The German attack on the convoy resulted in the destruction of six merchantmen, four minesweepers and a British destroyer. One of the merchant ships lost was British, five were Scandinavian. They were bound from Scotland to Norway. The raid off the Tyne resulted in the sinking of two neutral merchantmen and a trawler. The Germans are thus again displaying naval enterprise, probably in support of their land campaign. Naval action also appears necessary to raise the spirits of the German sailors and to make them more valuable as recruiting material for the submarine campaign.

* * *

Tho the enemy skilfully carried out these raids they are bound to provoke angry debate in British newspapers. They, however, are the fruits of the British pre-war naval policy, continued till the present. The naval policy adopted by the British Government for eleven or twelve years before the war was pacifist and intended as wholly defensive. That program struck at the root of the British naval warfare. It began to fight on te defensive and as the sailors can use ships only for the purposes for which they were built the fleet is tied down to a defensive attitude.

* * *

The British admiralty, on the other hand, it is said, should have built the British fleet for taking a strong offensive, as the Germans designed their army to do. Experts who have deeply studied naval matters insist that it is possible to build warships impervious to mines, torpedoes and land batteries and that with a proper thought-out naval policy the admiralty before the war could have built craft capable of keeping the sea and of besieging the enemy in his ports, making it impossible for him to emerge for his raids and submarine warfare. This would have been an offensive policy. The navy, instead, by standing on the defensive, tho of necessity owing to the type of ships built for dreadnoughts, which cannot approach close to German ports, always exposes itself to local attacks from an enterprising enemy. This account for the ability of the Germans to make their naval dashes with a good deal of impunity.

* * *

the Germans are adopting a highly-provocative policy toward Norway, and they may even drive her into war against them, especially after their coming land offensive breaks down or misses fire. The accession of Norway to the ranks of the allies would enable the British fleet to control the Baltic. This would give the allies substantial benefits, including the control of Russian waters, and the possibility of outflanking the German armies east of Kiel. In fact, the Germans would have their whole Baltic coast exposed to allied attack. This coast is much more vulnerable than the North Sea coast. It is not so strongly fortified, and deep water runs close to the shore. It is not protected by shoals and a chain of fortresses, as the North Sea coast is.

* * *

Central Russia, where the Cossack revolt is in progress, still remains a closed country, with no news escaping to the outside world. Bolsheviki forces, aided by sailors of the Russian Black Sea fleet, stormed the Odessa citadel, held by the Ukrainians. A division then arose among the sailors, and part adhered to the Ukrainians and assisted them in obstructing the despatch of troops to fight the Cossacks. Owing to the strength shown by the Bolsheviki in the north, the allies probably will unofficially recognize them as the de facto government, and they will strive to prevent Russia's resources from falling into German control. The United States however, shows no intention of recognizing the Bolsheviki, either frankly or secretly.

* * *

The result of the Canadian elections, assuring the staying of Canada in the war, will have a big moral effect on all the allied countries, even, perhaps, on Russia. It proves to the world that the English-speaking people of this country are not defeated and it firmly maintains the credit of Canada abroad. It may have an important effect in inducing Australia in generous rivalry to adopt conscription, so as to maintain a strong force of Antipodeans in the field. It proves that, tho some politicians may have had traffic with Germany and that tho the Germans may have poured much gold into the country, the heart of the Canadian people remais undaunted. The strong support given conscription by a free people will further depress Germany as soon as the news becomes known. It is certain that the German Government, in a free election with a liberal franchise, could not obtain the public support from Germany which the Canadian Government has obtained from Canada. About nine-tenths of the German electors would vote for instant peace.

* * *

The Italians have recovered the Col Caprillo, lost temporarily to the Austrians, and they have also defeated Austrians and Germans on the northern front from the line of San Marino. Their defence thus remains impenetrable. The Austrians probably had to give up their hard won ground at Col Caprilio because they had paid too heavy a price in losses to retain it. The Italians also most probably enfiladed it with their artillery fire. British troops have gone into action on this front and have driven the Germans rearwar din a counter-attack. Thus wherever the Germans go the British go, too, and prove more than a match for the malso.

GORDON WILSON WINS AGAIN IN WENTWORTH

Has Four Thousand Majority Over Dickenson—Six Thousand Over Flattman.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 17. — Gordon C. Wilson, Unionist candidate in Wentworth County, had a majority of 4566 over Herbert Dickenson, Liberal, and a majority of 6268 over A. H. Flattman, Socialist.

Gordon C. Wilson.

Thruout the campaign, previous to the election it had been prognosticated that Dickenson would poll a large vote and would be returned with a slight majority. In no instance did the returns show that Dickenson was seriously in the running and the totals were: Wilson, 7791; Dickenson, 3225, and Flattman, 1483.

While the Unionists were confident that they would elect their man they did not expect such a large majority. The votes polled by Flattman were secured mostly from that portion of the city which is in the county riding. In Glanford, Dickenson's own holding, the Unionist candidate topped the polls. It is said that the Liberal standard-bearer broke down when he heard that Glanford had refused to give him a majority.

The newly enfranchised women voters took a prominent part in the election and like their sisters in the two city ridings had the majority of their votes in early in the day. They also acted as scrutineers and helped the motor car squad to bring in the voters.

There was slightly over 19,000 names on the voters' list and the number of votes polled was 12,499. This is considered to be a fairly large vote when the condition of the roads is taken into consideration.

T. J. STEWART ELECTED FOR WEST HAMILTON

Unionist Candidate Has Over Thousand Majority in Bitter Fight.

Special to The Toronto World.

Hamilton, Dec. 17.—Union government forces secured a victory in West Hamilton tonight when they elected T. J. Stewart, endorsed candidate, by a majority of 1096 over Walter R. Rollo, Laborite, and 2573 over Lieut.-Col. J. I. McLaren, Soldier - Independent Unionist. Stewart polled 4863 votes, Rollo 3767, and McLaren 2110.

T. J. Stewart.

When the local returns were received they terminated the most bitter contest ever held in the west riding. The three candidates and their organizations went to the polls with every confidence of defeating their opponents. It was freely predicted that Rollo would slip in between the endorsed Unionist and the Independent Unionist, and his defeat will be a hard blow to the labor forces in Hamilton.

One of the main factors in returning Mr. Stewart was the women's vote. Their organization worked hard all day, and by noon had the majority of the votes of the newly enfranchised polled. Without their assistance it is freely allowed here that the labor man would have headed the polls. There were 13,500 names on the voters' list and 10,740 polled.

CROTHERS RETURNED BY LARGE MAJORITY

West Elgin Women Give Strong Support to Unionist Candidate.

St. Thomas, Ont., Dec. 17.—After a strenuous campaign in West Elgin Hon. T. W. Crothers was elected by the handsome majority of 833. The vote was the largest ever polled in this riding, both sides being well organized and bringing out every available vote. The women voters did valiant service, there being three women deputy returning officers and 14 women poll clerks. At every booth there were both outside and inside women scrutineers.

E. W. NESBITT WINS.

Special to The Toronto World.

Woodstock, Dec. 17.—E. W. Nesbitt, Unionist candidate, defeated Col. Sutherland, the soldier Unionist candidate, by 294 majority. Added to this Mr. Nesbitt secured a majority of 71 at the military camps at London and Guelph. The majorities in different municipalities were:

	Nesbitt.	Sutherland.
Woodstock	...	345
Embro	9	...
Tavistock	37	...
Blenheim	45	...
Blandford	...	9
East Zorra	298	...
East Nissouri	87	...
West Zorra	172	...

WEICHEL DEFEATED IN NORTH WATERLOO

W. D. Euler, Laurier Candidate, Has Lead of Over Two Thousand.

Kitchener, Dec. 17.—W. D. Euler, Laurier-Liberal candidate in North Waterloo, today was given a majority of 2018, the largest majority ever polled in the riding. Kitchener gave Euler a lead of 590, while the Town of Waterloo, the home town of the Unionist candidate, gave Euler a majority of 337. There are still three rural divisions to be heard from.

Wellesley gave Euler 577 majority, while Elmira swung to 39 in Euler's favor.

When the election of Euler was assured, W. G. Weichel, the defeated Unionist candidate, who was receiving the returns at the Union headquarters in Kitchener, addressed the crowd. He said: "You cannot beat the kaiser in North Waterloo. The iron has entered my soul tonight and I will make every man that defeated me face the music. The country is going union and I tell you that when Euler takes his seat in the house he will be hissed out of parliament."

When W. D. Euler, Laurier Liberal candidate, heard of his election at his headquarters, he said: "I attribute my victory to the fact that in spite of the opposition of the press, the people of North Waterloo have clearly expressed their free opinion. My majority in Kitchener would have been bigger, but there was strong opposition."

The streets are thronged here tonight with Laurier paraders. The parade was led by a coffin borne on the shoulders of six and represented the Weichel organization. The feeling is running high here, and the Unionists are claiming that the soldiers' vote will swamp the Laurier majority. This was the final sentiment expressed by W. G. Weichel before departing for his home in Waterloo.

UNIONIST WINS EASILY IN SOUTH WATERLOO

S. Scott Has Majority of Over Nineteen Hundred Over Liberal.

Special to The Toronto World.

Galt, Dec. 17. — South Waterloo elected S. Scott, Unionist and late member, by a record majority of 1902 over Dr. Thomson, Liberal candidate, and a plurality of 477. Scott's home city, Galt, piled up a majority of 1570 for him. His majority in Galt, Preston and Hespeler was 2461, and in Galt every sub-division gave him a majority. In only the rural districts did his opponent outvote him. The latest totals are: Scott, 4568; Thomson, 2666; Hall, 1425.

VICTORY FOR GUTHRIE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Unionist Minister Got Great Support Where He Was Expected to Make Poor Show.

Special to The Toronto World.

Guelph, Dec. 17.—Hon. Hugh Guthrie, solicitor-general of the Union government, was once more returned the victor in South Wellington, his majority over Lorne Cunningham, the Socialist candidate, being close to 4000. The City of Guelph did what was expected—it rolled up a majority of 2645. His total vote was 3609, against 964 for Cunningham. The vote in the county went much stronger for Guthrie than was expected, as he had met with considerable opposition from the farmers. The Village of Fergus gave him 360 majority; Erin, 21; Elora, 168, and there is not much doubt that Cunningham will lose his deposit. The women's vote went strongly for Guthrie, and he was given a flattering reception on his appearance at the Winter Fair building, when the Great War Veterans showed the returns. Hon. Mr. Guthrie is greatly pleased at the result in South Wellington.

SOUTH OXFORD GIVES UNIONIST PLURALITY

Sutherland Gets Majority of 779—Won in Six Out of Eight Subdivisions.

Ingersoll, Dec. 1.- By a majority of 779, Donald Sutherland, Conservative Unionist, was elected in South Oxford today over Malcolm S. Schelt. The election was marked by a horo organization on behalf of Union government, and a large vote was polled. Ingersoll gave a sweeping majority of 128 for Union government. The majorities in other parts of thet riding were: Norwich village 44, Tillsonburg 920, South Norwich 18, Dereham 104, West Oxford 33, East Oxford 13. North Oxford gave Schelt a majority of 21 and North Norwich 71.

TWO COCKSHUTTS WIN BRANT AND BRANTFORD

Soldiers' Vote May Wipe Out Col. Cockshutt's Lead in County.

Brantford, Dec. 17.—Two Union government supporters, one endorsed and the other not endorsed, were returned by the electors of Brant and Brantford. In Brantford with six polls in Brantford Township to hear from the vote totals: W. F. Cockshutt, endorsed Unionist, 5157; Mayor J. W. Bowlby, independent Liberal Laurierite, 1749; Ald. M. M. MacBride, 1673. This gives Cockshutt, who was the late Conservative member for the riding, a majority of 742, and a plurality of 2410. His election was conceded from the start, but the surprise was the comparative poor showing made by MacBride, who, under the Independent Labor Party auspices, put up a hard fight before the election. That he did not make as good a showing as the Laurierite candidate, was a big suhprise, and showed that the workingmen lined up pretty solidly behind the Union government choice. The women's vote aided largely in polling the big majority for Cockshutt.

In Brant the total figures received are: Col. Harry Cockshutt, Great War Veteran Unionist candidate, 2367; John Harold, endorsed Unionist candidate, 1797; Blackwell Doran, Laurier Liberal, 1730. The total majority for Cockshutt with totals for two polls, which have not been received, is placed by his organization at 378. John Harold's supporters are confident that the soldiers' vote will wipe out this majority.

The election passed off very quietly, there being no untoward incidents. W. F. Cockshutt and Col. Harry Cockshutt are brothers.

THE FUNNY GERMAN CLERK.

The organ of the German National League of Clerks, the German Commercial Watch (Handelswacht), commenting upon the statement made by Lord Selborne that after the war no more Germans will find employment in England, says:

"We German clerks can await the result of this cleansing process with perfect calm. We know that after the war they will need us in England—indeed, they will have urgent need of us. We shall then carefully consider whether we shall go to England or not. In any case, we shall not again work in England for the same low salaries they dared offer us before the war. We shall decide the price to be demanded for the work of German clerks. Messrs. Englishmen must then pay, or they will not get us. That will be the situation. It is necessary to explain this to the bragging lords."

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KAISER HAS SCHEME TO SAVE REMNANTS

Wounded of War Are Compelled to Learn New Trades.

MEN SELF-SUPPORTING

Business Employers Required to Guarantee Soldiers Work for Life.

From one point of view the great German relief society which aims to make the wreckage of the war self-supporting is perhaps the most important. It is difficult to get at the truth of what is done here because of the enormous camouflage which surrounds it. The semi-official claims, for example, are that Germany is able to send back from 85 to 90 per cent. of her wounded to the war, and that of the remainder only a small portion will not be completely self-supporting before the war ends. These statements may be heavily sprinkled with salt, but they are probably more nearly true than they would be in any allied country.

It is likely that Germany is able to make use, in military ways, of 70 per cent. of her wounded. Her hospital service at the beginning of the war was incomparably superior to that of the allies. It is probably infinitely superior to that of France today, if I may judge by descriptions of recent German hospitals and what I know of conditions in the French medical service. It is entirely likely that Great Britain is saving as many of her wounded today as Germany ever did, but there is a vast difference in the treatment of the wounded after they are headed.

Uses Scraps of Men.

Great Britain releases from service men who have been seriously wounded. Germany makes use of mere scraps of men in her various subsidiary services.

That willingness to use lopped and broken trunks in which only guiding intelligence remains may possibly justify the German claim that 85 to 90 per cent. of all wounded are returned to the service. In any case a residuum is left at the bottom of the medical bowl of men who cannot possibly be of further military value. It is such men as these that the great relief society referred to has been organized to deal with. The plan is to make every man self-supporting after the war, no matter how little of him may be left. It is infinitely better for the man and for Germany when the war ends. The Germans never forget the hideous nightmare of their present existence. It is recognized that the work of every hand will be needed. The man who has but one hand must be fitted to do his part for his country's sake if not for his own.

During the latter part of the stay in the hospital of these torn and broken men they are carefully studied by the men who have made themselves experts to meet this exigency. Their intelligence, their education, their nervous reactions, everything about them is card-indexed and tested. All this time they are kept under the sternest military discipline, so that those who have seen it have described to me how these legless and armless bulks have yet stiffened their poor bodies in bed when an officer walked down the aisle between the cots for the "respect" salute of the Germany army. The Germans say this is better for the men. If the mutile is coddled, they say, he goes to pieces and becomes soft.

When they have gained enough strength the training for their future lifework is begun. Practical Germany never wastes time on raffia and leather work-bags and souvenir boxes and the rest of the tragic uselessness that the maimed man is too often set adoing. The German theory is that there is no active market for hideously ugly bags made out of knotted cord, or for hand-hammered tin biscuit boxes which counterfeit unconvincingly a silversmith's handiwork. Furthermore, the German theory is that the maimed man realizes this and that the heart is taken out of him by it. If he can do something—even a very little thing—which is of real use in the world he chirps up and is happy. But if he feels himself condemned to be an object of charity for all his remaining days the heart dies in him.

Work If They Can.

So that whatever it is the mutile is trained to do, it is at least practical and salable. He may only have one arm left of his original complement of limbs, but the poor remnant of what was once a man can still run a lathe. One such a man is handling a steam trip-hammer in Essen, I am told. A man without arms and with only one leg is able to run a heavy press in a Bavarian factory, since it is directed by foot treadles. The training is conducted by real "efficiency experts," who develop the last ounce of capacity in the man, and who are, of course, aided by the impassioned efforts of the man himself, for he is invariably pathetically anxious to make himself a really valuable producing member of society again.

Many of these men, according to my information from German sources, are earning more money than they did before the war. Very few, indeed, have had to be abandoned as wholly useless wreckage, to be supported by public charity until death shall release them. None of the mutiles are released from the army until their training has been completed, in order that they may be held under rigid discipline during the training period. But the time comes when Fritzie has been taught how to grind knives or tinker watches or run a dynamo.

"Is he satisfactory?" the German government asks of his employer.

For Fritzie has been regularly employed at his regular wage. He must report to the hospital nightly, but he is off to his work in the morning just like any other workman. If the employer says that Fritzie is doing his work all right the German government thrusts a blank under the employer's nose.

"Sign here," says the German government. "Along the dotted line. Thank you."

By that document the employer obligates himself to give Fritzie work at a specified wage as long as he lives. There are loopholes in it, of course.

If the employer goes broke, or if Fritzie neglects his work or goes on the loose the contract is broken. In the one case the imperial government promises to get another job for Fritz, and in the second contingency it promises to punish Fritz. I am not able to find out whether Fritz's services are forced on an unwilling employer, but my impression is that the latter's agreement to take on the man as an employee is entirely voluntary—perhaps slightly under pressure.

KINGSTON RETURNS W. F. NICKLE TO OTTAWA

Former Member Gets Biggest Majority Yet Recorded in Riding.

Special to The Toronto World.

Kingston, Dec. 17.—W. F. Nickle, the Unionist candidate, was elected, defeating Dr. A. W. Ricardson, Liberal, by a majority of 2777, the biggest majority ever given a candidate in any election in this city. Mr. Nickle polled 4451 votes and Dr. Richardson 1674. The Liberal candidate will thus lose his deposit. The Unionist candidate had a majority over his opponent in every subdivision in the city, while in the Village of Portsmouth he also had a majority of 141. Following the results W. F. Nickle addressed a large gathering of men and women in the Union headquarters, and in returning thaks for his re-election stated that the victory was a magnificent one. He declared that he would rather have gone down to defeat than to have stood for any other policy than that of sending reinforcements to the front. The women of the city worked hard for the election of Mr. Nickle.

INVALIDED SOLDIERS' WORK

German Employers Must Have One Returned Man in Every Fifty Employes.

At present, owing to the acute labor shortage in Germany, it has been possible to find work for all but four per cent. of wounded soldiers medically unfit for further service. The reichstag committee on reconstruction has adopted a proposal to compel all employers to have at least one invalided soldier in every 50 employes. The proposal causes mixed emotions in industrial quarters. Dr. Horton, superintendent of welfare for invalided soldiers in the Rhine Province, thinks better results would be got by allowing employers to take on wounded men voluntarily. The steel and ironmasters' association of northwestern Germany states that up to July 1, 1917, its members had given employment to 11,182 semi-incapacitated men, including hundreds minus an arm or a leg.

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The English Bolo colony is using Sir John Bradbury's innocent, if elusive, notes for propaganda purposes. Now and then a note that comes into England is found to bear on the back some such message as, "8,000,000 of these notes are spent in murder each day. Damn the government."

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