

News Notes

The temperature in Ontario for the six months April-September was 1.5 degrees below normal, there were 14.2 hours less sunshine than normal and the rainfall was 0.69 inches above normal.

The United States War Industries Board announces that the restriction heretofore imposed on the domestic uses of gold and silver for industrial purposes has been terminated.

The Canadian War Trade Board announce the cancellation of the resolution passed at their meeting held on the 9th of October last, prohibiting the use of structural steel, steel shapes, plates, bars or any other form of steel, the value of which exceeds \$2,000, in the erection of any buildings or structure of any kind, form or description.

It is, therefore, no longer necessary for manufacturers or dealers in steel, or the party requiring the steel to obtain a permit from the War Trade Board to use steel in the erection of buildings.

The War Trade Board announce that they will now give favourable consideration to applications for the importation of the following restricted commodities.

Automobiles, value over \$1,200, expensive pictures, picture frames, pleasure boats, collections of coins and stamps, fireworks, perfumery, manufactures of gold and silver, polished marble, art works, electric lamps.

The United States Navy Department reports the discovery of a new non-inflammable inert gas designed for use in balloons, dirigibles and other lighter than air craft. The official name of this new element is argon, and it is obtained from wells at Petrolia, Texas.

South Africa urges the retention of German African Colonies by the Entente.

The University of Toronto, along with other Canadian universities, has decided to add a faculty of aviation to its other branches of study. Aeroplanes will be secured from the R.A.F., both for demonstration and actual flying.

During the week ending November 19 there entered western Canada from the United States 219 persons with \$318,009 in cash and \$17,897 worth of effects. During the corresponding week last year 519 persons entered, with cash \$87,970 and effects \$43,067. The nationalities of those entering were: British, 3; Canadian, 7; American, 193; Scandinavian, 14; and 2 others.

Their occupations were: 24 farmers, 1 farm labourer, 9 domestics, 2 miners, 1 clerk, 160 women and children, and the remainder were unclassified.

According to an official estimate applications from relatives of dead soldiers are being received by Toronto at the rate of fifty per week. This means \$50,000 weekly from the insuring companies.

The war-time restrictions in regard to travel have now been entirely removed and passports are being issued by the Department of External Affairs for travel overseas.

It is reported that the steamships Empress of Russia and Empress of Asia are soon to be returned to the trans-pacific trade. Both vessels have been employed transporting American troops overseas.

Nova Scotia has 100,000 h.p. available close to commercial centres.

At the National War Savings Committee meeting on December 11, at Ottawa, it was urged to make the War Savings plan permanent.

Since the outbreak of war gold and bullion to the value of 1,300,000,000 dols (approximately £260,000,000) have been received at Ottawa by the Dominion Department of Finance, acting, as trustee for the British Government and the Bank of England. The heavy demand on the gold refinery at the Mint necessitated the construction of a second plant with a monthly output of 1,000,000 ozs. of fine gold. As a result of this extension, the Canadian Mint has now the largest capacity of any gold refinery in the world.

Conscription cost Canada \$4,000,000 as \$32.00 per man drafted into the army says the Montreal Gazette.

The Postmen in Canada have joined the Civil Service Federation.

Trade figures for the first eight months of the year show a decrease of \$351,215,777 when compared with 1917.

The Public Works Department, Ottawa, have awarded the contract for the construction of a light and power transmission line at St. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q., to the Artistic Brass Works Company, 250 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal. The line is in connection with a group of military hospital buildings recently erected. The price is \$5,500.

British Columbia derives one-third of her annual revenue from her forests.

Apples are an unexpectedly good crop in portions of Western Ontario. Many farmers are having them ground to make cider and apple butter, the latter to be used as a substitute for potatoes, which, in some districts, were a failure this year.

Washington dispatch says: "Negotiations between Argentine and Great Britain and France for the delivery of Argentine's great grain crop to those two countries have been about concluded, according to official information reaching Washington. In order to facilitate payment for the crops, the Argentine government, it was said, has offered to loan the British and French governments \$240,000,000 for two years."

Cuba's total production of sugar for the season was 3,447,000 long tons.

The total exports to date have reached 2,930,104 tons.

The total exportation to European countries of the season's crop to date has reached 919,024 tons, and to the United States 1,985,712 tons.

Great difficulty is experienced in securing sufficient labourers for planting new ground in cane. Wages for cane workers have more than doubled in the last three years.

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME.

Welland Canal and Other Works to be Resumed.

As a part of the reconstruction programme of the Dominion Government, Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways, will at once proceed with the delayed construction of the Welland canal. The estimated cost of the work embraced in the four main contracts under which construction was being carried on at the outbreak of the war was \$20,000,000, of which \$12,000,000 had already been expended. In addition to the estimated value of the main contracts referred to, there were other estimated necessary expenditures in contemplation for land, cement, structural steel bridges, lock gates, valves, etc., amounting to \$8,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 has already been expended. The Minister of Railways expects that there will be engaged during the winter a force of about 800 men preparing for the reopening of the work in the spring, when some 4,000 will be engaged.

Hon. Dr. Reid also expects to finish up work remaining to be done to complete the Trent canal. This will employ a few hundred men.

As already announced, orders have been placed through the War Trade Board here for 200,000 tons of steel rails to meet the requirements of the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, and the Government railway systems. The value of this order is about \$10,000,000.

In addition, the boards of directors of the several railway companies will proceed with the construction of such car equipment and locomotives as are needed.

It is understood that the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk will fill their requirements in their own shops. The aggregate value of car and locomotive equipment required by the several railways will be some \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

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