

U. S. GOVT. WARNS AGAINST HUN PEACE MOVE

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THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24, 1917

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HOME EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

THE PEACE ENEMY ACROSS PIAVE

BERLIN PEACE MOVE MUST NOT SLACKEN WAR PREPARATIONS, BY U. S. GOVT. WARNING

Secretary Baker States That German Peace Movement is at Hand, is supported by apparently reliable information which has reached high quarters here. It is said that on Christmas Day, Emperor William will issue a declaration containing peace proposals, but whether explicit conditions of peace may be expected or merely another maneuver intended to throw on the Allies responsibility for continuance of the war cannot be ascertained.

Rome, Sunday, Dec. 23.—The report that a new German peace movement is at hand, is supported by apparently reliable information which has reached high quarters here. It is said that on Christmas Day, Emperor William will issue a declaration containing peace proposals, but whether explicit conditions of peace may be expected or merely another maneuver intended to throw on the Allies responsibility for continuance of the war cannot be ascertained.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Germany's newest peace propaganda, viewed as a forerunner to an offensive in the west unless a German-made peace is accepted by the Allies and the United States, "should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war," says Secretary of War Baker in his weekly review of the military situation.

Italy, Dec. 24.—The review points out that the fighting morale of Italy may be relied on no matter how intensive the German peace campaign becomes and says: "The Italian theatre once again is the scene of important military activity. The enemy, impatient of the delays which have occurred in bringing about the success of his peace propaganda, has decided to make a last effort to achieve a decisive result. The Germans are endeavoring to follow the precepts of classic strategy and by a successful enveloping movement effect the destruction of the Italian and Allied forces."

London, Dec. 24.—German troops yesterday attempted to raid the British positions southeast of Epehy, on the Cambrai front, but were driven off the war office announced today. The text of the statement reads: "Last night hostile raiding parties which attempted to approach our lines in the neighborhood of Monchy-lez-Reims and west of La Bassée were repulsed. Yesterday afternoon the enemy endeavored to raid our positions southeast of Epehy, but was driven off."

ALL BODIES OF HALIFAX DISASTER ARE BURIED
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 24.—All bodies at the Chelchewo morgue were buried today. Information from various sources confirms the reports that the Germans would have the world believe that the military situation is such that they are able to dictate the terms of peace. They, therefore, threaten that unless this dictated peace is accepted by the Allied powers and ourselves the German forces now being concentrated on the western front will break through the Allied line in the west.

Must Not Slacken.
The various reports of immediate peace proposals by the Germans on seemingly favorable terms should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war.

Continued on Page Nine.

TEUTON ARMY THROWN BACK ACROSS PIAVE

Austro-Germans Compelled to Withdraw Over the River.

Rome, Dec. 24.—Enemy forces which had crossed the Piave River at Vochia have been driven back over the river, the war office announces.

ANZAC PREMIER TO LOSE POWER

Hughes May Step Out and Labor Party Take Control.

Melbourne, Dec. 24.—Via Reuters' Ottawa agency, among the latest reports against the Anzac Premier, Mr. Hughes, is that he is now being urged to resign. The Anzac Premier, Mr. Hughes, is now being urged to resign. The Anzac Premier, Mr. Hughes, is now being urged to resign.

CHURCH AND CAMERON TO CONTEST TORONTO

Toronto, Dec. 24.—The nominations for the municipal elections took place at noon today. The result is that the mayoralty there has been won by Mr. Thomas L. Church, who is opposed for the mayoralty chair by Controller R. H. Cameron. Harry Weinberg, the Socialist candidate, declined not to come out, and Major Riches, who had been announced as a candidate, also declined.

PUDDINGS AND TURKEYS GALORE MAKING A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR CANUCKS IN THE TRENCHES

Real Holiday Fare and Fun for Boys From the Dominion—99 Per Cent of Vote Polled—Vimy Lectures Make Great Hit.

By W. A. Willison, Canadian Press Correspondent.
Canadian Army Headquarters, Dec. 24.—With snow and mild weather, the Canadian soldiers are enjoying the holiday season in the trenches. The messes of all kinds are being served, and the boys are having a very merry Christmas. The Vimy lectures are making a great hit, and the boys are enjoying the holiday season in the trenches.

RUSSIA'S "RED" RULERS

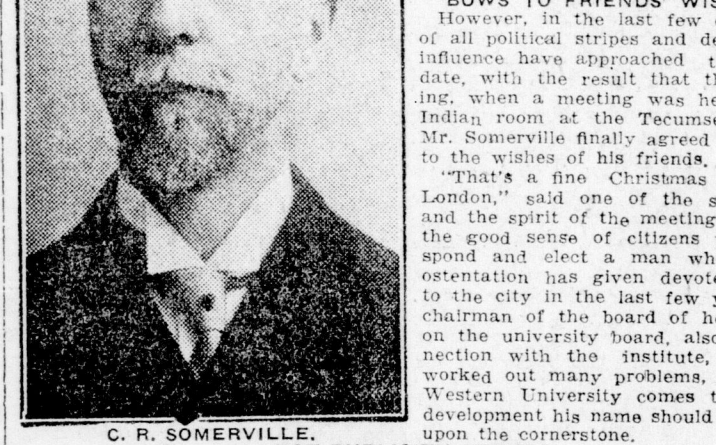


TROTSKY AND PREMIER LENINE. The Men Who Are Trying To Manage Affairs in Russia.

EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH WORK LEADER CONSENTS ON REQUEST OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS TO RUN

C. R. Somerville Listens to Concerted Appeal and Enters Mayoralty Contest With Backing Rarely Accorded Any Municipal Candidate.

With the united sentiment of hundreds of London men of both parties supporting his candidature, and the sympathy of the vast majority of the people, certain to respond to his self-sacrificing response to a public appeal, C. R. Somerville, chairman of the board of governors of Western University and of the London Board of Health, today decided to enter the field for the 1918 mayoralty.



C. R. SOMERVILLE. NOT PUBLICITY SEEKER.

Mr. Somerville has not been a man to seek publicity, but to do all the good he could, personally and privately, for the community in which he met with considerable business success. But despite his desire to avoid the spotlight, his sterling qualities have become known to all citizens. He is not likely to make any high-sounding promises. Economy during wartime will likely be a very definite part of his platform, and he will produce the facts on which to build. There will be no wild spending if C. R. Somerville is mayor; neither will he serve the personal interests of any man. Once convinced of the proper course to be taken, Mr. Somerville will follow it to the end.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER WILL NOT BE ASKED TO ENTER MINISTRY

Montreal, Dec. 24.—Sir Herbert Ames told a gathering of election workers of the Conservative party that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would not be asked to enter the ministry. Sir Herbert Ames said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a man of great ability, but that he was not a man of action, and that he was not a man who would be able to lead the Conservative party.

RUSS TARS AS LENINE AGENTS BRING GOLD TO AMERICAN REDS

Bolshevik Gang Reaches U. S. With Help for Industrial Workers.

A Pacific Port, Dec. 24.—The Russian freighter Shilka, Captain Boris Dogal, which unheralded slipped into the harbor here late Friday night direct from Vladivostok, is under Bolshevik control. It is known today that a number of Shilka's sailors were fraternizing on the docks today with a party of alleged industrial workers of the World, 21 of whom were arrested by federal officials and held for investigation. Among those taken into custody were 13 Russians. None of the sailors were arrested. Shortly after the vessel's arrival a report was circulated that the had brought a fund of \$100,000 in gold for the defence of several scores of industrial workers of the World now awaiting trial at Chicago on conspiracy charges. The United States district attorney here admitted he had heard of the report, and federal agents searched the vessel, but found no gold, knowledge of which was denied by the captain and crew. Another search will be made when the cargo of foodstuffs and beans is discharged.

Controlled by Committee.
Following out the Bolshevik principles, the Shilka, it was said, is really under the control and command of a committee of five, four sailors and one officer. This committee has the power to overrule any order of Capt. Dogal at any time, but members of the committee stated that this unique division of authority had caused no trouble on the voyage across the Pacific. Members of the crew have been forbidden to leave the vessel, and 60 cadets from a naval training school working in three relays under the command of commanding officers, are guarding the ship from the dock.

RED ARMY MOVES AGAINST REAR OF THE REBELS

Gen. Kaledines Threatened by Force of 10,000 Coming From Caucasus.

Petrograd, Dec. 23.—A Caucasian army of 10,000 men is advancing on the rear of the troops of Gen. Kaledines, the Cossack leader, according to an announcement made today by the Bolshevik press bureau.

LENINE WEAKENING.

London, Dec. 23.—Petrograd dispatches report that attempts are being made by the Bolshevik commissaries to negotiate with the Ukrainians for a settlement of the differences which have arisen, and it is also reported that the authorities of the new Ukrainian Government are ready to accept proposals looking toward a peaceful arrangement. The movement for peace is being recognized to an increasing extent by the Bolsheviks. For the same reason, he says, they are believed to be inclined to modify their attitude of hostility toward the constituent assembly, which is likely to meet within a week.

OLIVER LEADING WITH SEVENTY-SEVEN VOTES

Edmonton, Dec. 24.—Returns to the Bulletin last evening give Hon. Frank Oliver a lead of 77 votes in the West Edmonton constituency. Oliver is leading with 77 votes, while his nearest competitor is 77 votes behind him. Oliver is leading with 77 votes, while his nearest competitor is 77 votes behind him.

THREE-CORNERED MAYORALTY CONTEST BECOMES FACT WHEN C. R. SOMERVILLE QUALIFIES

MUNICIPAL HONOR ASPIRANTS TO RUN IN 1918 ELECTION

Candidates for the 1918 civic election are:
Mayor
Shaw, Robert Wesley, physician, 87 King street.
Somerville, Charles Ross, gentleman, 328 Piccadilly street.
Stevenson, Hugh Allan, physician, Dundas street.
Board of Control
Garrett, Joshua, gentleman, Adelaide street.
Little, Edgar Sidney, merchant, 860 Wellington street.
Merryfield, Charles Henry, gentleman, 6 Hayman court.
Moore, John McKenzie, architect, 473 Waterloo street.
Saunders, John Huse, carriage-maker, 532 Matilda street.
Utilities Commission
Daly, Frederick W., merchant, 360 Queen's avenue.
Vining, Jared, barrister, 32 Marley place.

ALDERMEN—WARD ONE

Donohue, Michael Joseph, read estate, 222 Wellington street.
Harley, Frank Edwin, lumber, 222 Richmond street.
Keene, Oliver George, furniture dealer, 701 Richmond street.
Wilkinson, Arthur, merchant, 234 Hyman street.

WARD TWO

Donohue, Michael Joseph, read estate, 222 Wellington street.
Harley, Frank Edwin, lumber, 222 Richmond street.
Keene, Oliver George, furniture dealer, 701 Richmond street.
Wilkinson, Arthur, merchant, 234 Hyman street.

WARD THREE

Drake, Gordon Bart, grocer, 413 Hamilton road.
Lerner, Maxwell, coal merchant, 494 Hill street.
Winnett, Frederick Richard, carpenter, 182 York street.
Winnett, Harry, boiler-maker, 75 Wilket street.
Yeo, William Duncan, salesman, 180 William street.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Barnard, John Shore, merchant, 324 Central avenue.
Collier, Thomas, barrister, 70 Helmut avenue.
Collier, Herbert, carpenter, 740 Nelson street.
Gray, James, merchant, 845 Helmut avenue.
Manning, Wilbur Nelson, manufacturer, 325 Queen's avenue.
Rowe, Thomas, merchant, 270 Ridout street.
Russell, Ernest Hamilton, plumber, 76 Cathcart street.
Schoen, Chester, cigarmaker, 50 Pipe Line road.
Smith, Edwin, traveler and director of C. R. & Co., Limited, 582 Dufferin avenue.
Taylor, Albert Thomas, merchant, 17 York street.
Thomas, Mitchell Albert, dentist, 381 Queen's avenue.
Thorne, Charles Henry, cigarmaker, 115 High street.
Waide, Frederick Gordon, manufacturer, 31 Colborne street.
Wakeling, George Frank, painter, 2254 Dundas street.
Ward, George Frank, machinist, 1204 Florence street.

BEST YEAR YET FOR ALLIES, SAYS HUGH NIVEN, D.S.O.

Distinguished London Soldier Declares 1917 Most Successful of War.

20 TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED BY FRENCH ON WORKS OF HUNS

Petain's Airmen Down Eighteen Boche Fliers in 100 Combats.

Paris, Dec. 24.—Intense aerial activity is reported by the war office. In the course of the last few days, the French have dropped eighteen tons of bombs on the works of the Germans. The French have also downed eighteen Boche fliers in 100 combats.

HON. RICHARD TURNER DEAD.

Quebec, Dec. 24.—Hon. Richard Turner, member of the Quebec Legislative Council and one of the most prominent business men in the city, died here Saturday afternoon after a brief illness, at the age of 74 years. He is survived by a widow and six children, among whom is Major-Gen. Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C.B., D.S.O., commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces in England.

ROWLAND HILL
RELIABLE FOOTWEAR
100 Dundas St. W. 4th Floor

The business of the past week was tremendous, but there is a good supply of most of our best lines for the last hour shoppers. Have a "look in" tonight if you are looking for Christmas footwear.

ROWLAND HILL
RELIABLE FOOTWEAR
100 Dundas St. W. 4th Floor

THE FAIR

15 DOMINION SAVINGS BUILDING.
NEW TOY STORE.
BEST PLACE FOR GOOD TOYS.

26-inch pretty Baby Dolls, long and short dresses, for \$2.00
Dolly's Trunk, with tray 50c
Girls' Musical Piano 50c to \$2.00
Folding, substantially-built Dolls' Go-Carts for \$1.00
Rooking Horses, very durable and neatly finished, for \$2.00
Teddy Bears, made of best quality plush, with voice 75c to \$2.00
Beautiful Dressed Dolls, unbreakable head, full jointed, stuffed body, large assortment of beautiful costumes to choose from, complete with headgear, shoes and stockings \$1.00 to \$10.00
Child's China Tea Sets, Cups, Saucers, Teapot, Sugar and Creams 50c
Best Slate Blackboards for \$2.00
Cowboy Horse on Rooker, Cowboy, Bridle, Saddle, Stirrups and Lasso \$4.00
Horse and Cart, complete with harness \$1.00 to \$5.00
Doll Swings, Toy Violins, Pony Cars, Drums, Come to the Fair for toys.

THE FAIR

15 DOMINION SAVINGS BUILDING.
Facing Market Square.
ANNUAL BAZAAR. — St. Mark's Church's annual bazaar and sale of home-made cooking will be held at 780 Dundas street, Friday evening and Saturday.

Those Interested
In the Election of
Controller
SHAW
For
Mayor for 1918

Kindly attend meetings at the following committee rooms on Monday, Dec. 24:

WARD 1.
Trentlock's Hall, corner Bruce and Wortley road.
WARD 2.
West of river at 42 Dundas and corner Wilson avenue and Blackfriars. East of river at 58 Dundas (upstairs).
WARD 3.
Corner Colborne and Simcoe and Rectory and Van.
WARD 4.
Foresters' Block (upstairs), corner Dundas and English.
61u.

Will There Be a CAMERA in Your Home This Xmas?

It will bring the greatest pleasure to everyone — Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, the Kiddies—all will enjoy it. Prices from \$2.50 to \$125.00
A pleasure to show them to you.

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216 DUNDAS STREET.
Phone 880.

GETS BRIEF LEAVE AFTER SERVICE OF THREE YEARS' TIME

Young London Officer Home for Few Days.

ON NAVAL PATROL NOW

Invalided From R. F. C., Lieut. Howard Yates Joined Mosquito Fleet.

Lieut. Howard Yates, son of William Yates, 251 Hale street, who returned to this city Thursday night after experiencing three years' service in various branches of the imperial service, is now in Hamilton on a brief visit and will leave Canada to report for duty next Friday.

Lieut. Yates was studying law at Toronto at the time of his enlistment with the Royal Flying Corps three years ago. He went to England shortly after the outbreak of war and saw some months' service with the R. F. C. He was taken ill with pneumonia from exposure to the wet and cold in the performance of his duties and became unfit for further flying duty. After recovering from his illness, Mr. Yates was transferred to the navy, where he received an appointment on a torpedo-boat destroyer as a lieutenant. For two years he did patrol service on the lookout for submarines and on one occasion his boat was ordered to send to the bottom one of the German under-sea craft.

For the past six months the young officer has been at the Gibraltar station, and it is from that fortress that he sailed to New York for seven days' leave in Canada. Mr. Yates came over on an Italian boat and landed in New York last Monday. He saw his parents in this city and then journeyed to Hamilton on a brief visit.

Lieut. Yates secured leave of absence owing to an accident to his torpedo-boat which was sent to drydock for repairs.

He will revisit the city on Christmas Day and will leave for Gibraltar, via New York, Friday next.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC
FEATURED SERVICES
IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Many Fine Sacred Programs
Rendered by Choirs.

The coming of the Christ child to bring peace on earth and good will to man, was the subject of sermons preached in practically all the pulpits of the city yesterday, the theme on which anthems, carols and hymns for the musical services were built.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union is to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 8 and 9.

Important Agricultural Problems Will Be Discussed.

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EXPERIMENTAL UNION
TO MEET AT GUELPH
ON JANUARY 8 AND 9

Important Agricultural Problems Will Be Discussed.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union is to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 8 and 9.

In spite of the great scarcity of labor throughout the country there were fully 1,000 more co-operative experimenters throughout the province in 1917 than in the year previous. This was likely due to the fact that the farmers were anxious to secure pure seed of the best varieties as foundation stock for crop production, and also that they may keep in touch with the best methods of farming operations.

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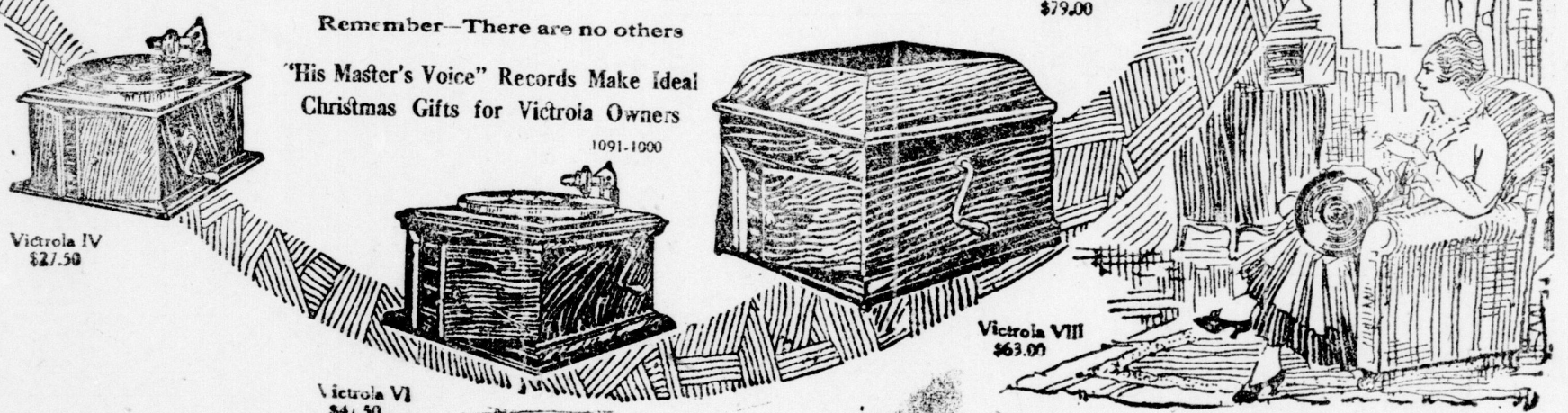
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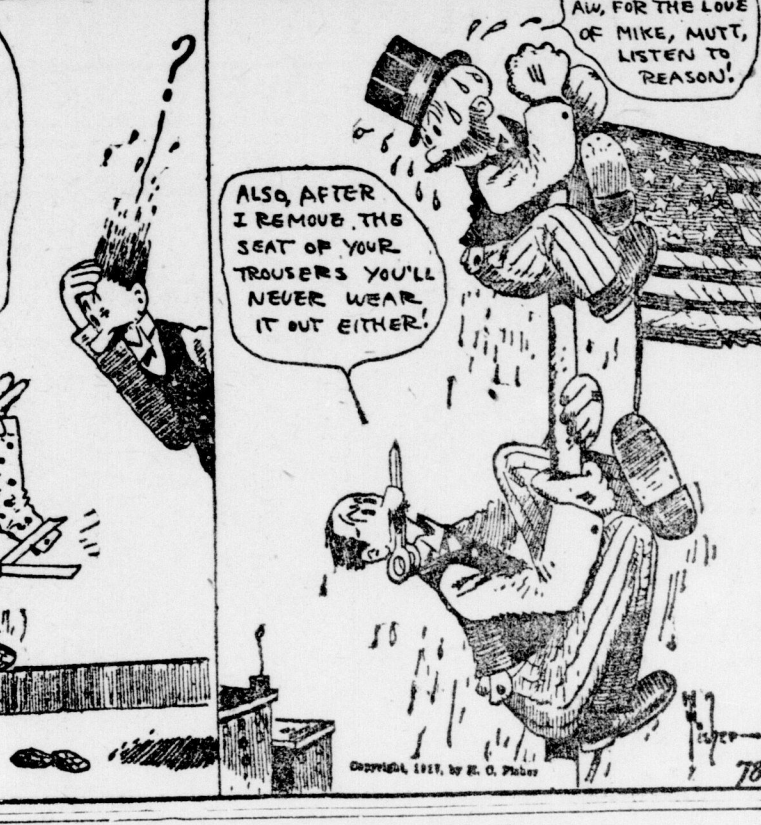
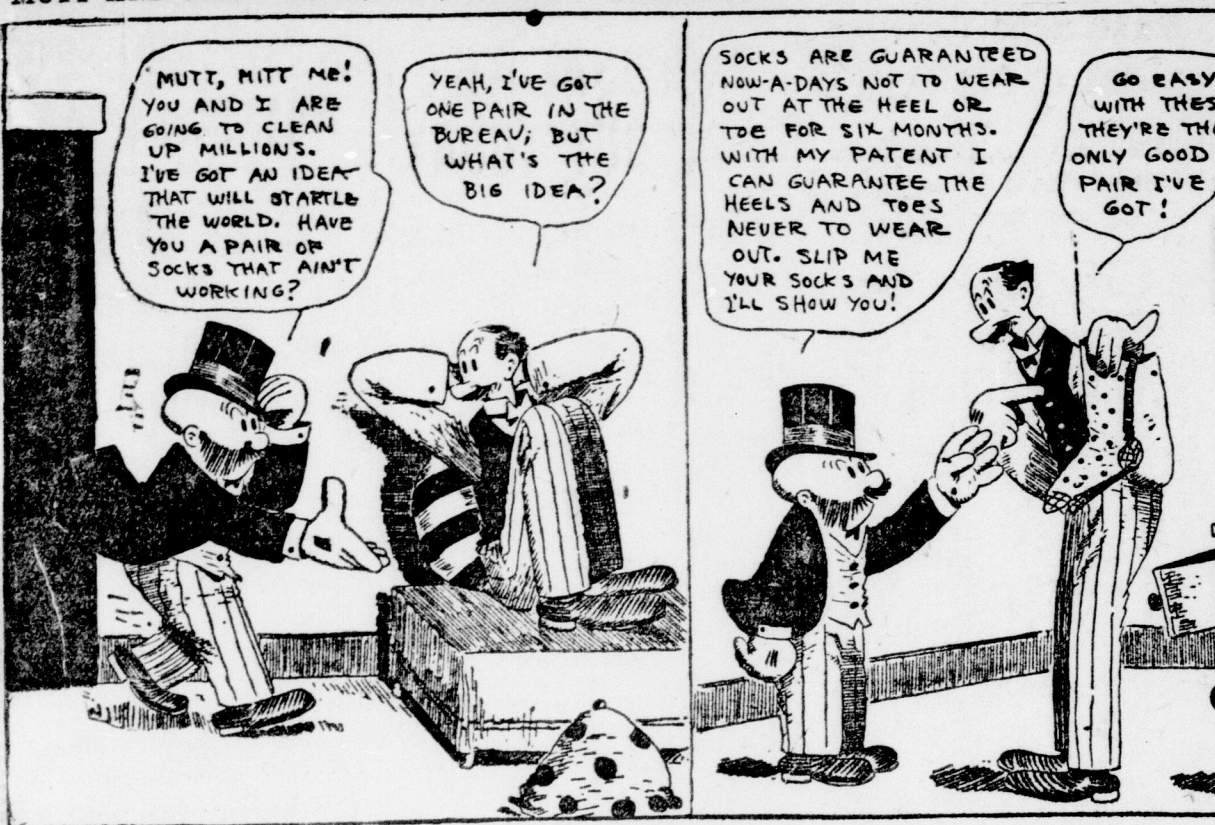
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"The Home of the Victrola"

248 Dundas Street, London

the meeting of the Ministerial Alliance. Just a few words in acknowledgment of Mr. Snell's letter in this morning's paper. I have absolutely no personal paper to pour out on Mr. Peever. I have only spoken to him once that I remember. I refer to him as pastor of the First Methodist Church, purely in his official capacity, and had his name would have been the same to me. The essential fact is that as pastor of a leading church he attempted to influence votes for a certain political party—in itself an absolutely tactless and unwise procedure. As a result of his action a deplorable incident occurred, the outstanding facts of which are not disputed. The pulpit is no place for either party. The church is altogether losing its influence on the people as a spiritual force because, instead of intently applying itself to its specific duties, it is gradually but surely allying itself with material interests, and effectively stultifying the work of moral and spiritual regeneration, which is its proper function. It is time the church the incumbent of the First Methodist pastorate, and it was as pastor of said church I criticized him. I do not intend to reply in these columns to any more letters. If the editor wishes to print any further castigations of my humble self, I do not ask him to withhold any that may be submitted to him for insertion. Yours sincerely, HAROLD PEVEER.
London, Dec. 22, 1917.

MUTT AND JEFF.—TRUE, YES, INDEED, QUITE TRUE.



HOCKEY SCHEDULE FOR OPENING WEEK

The hockey games this week are:

N. H. L.
Wednesday.
Canadians at Toronto.
Ottawa at Windsor.
Toronto at Canadiens.
Wanderers at Ottawa.
O. H. A.
Tuesday.
St. Marys at Kitchener.
Thursday.
Stratford at Kitchener.
Friday.
Kitchener at Hamilton.
Junior—
Paris at Woodstock.
Saturday.
Preston at Sarnia.
Junior—
Beaches at Aura Lee.

player who was with the line-up last season is Joe Richardson. He is fast and plucky, and should have no difficulty in catching a place, probably at centre. Other youngsters are being worked out and carefully looked over, and it is expected a team will soon be mustered that will be the equal if not superior to last season's aggregation. Three of last year's prominent players are in khaki. Hoppie, the star centre player, has been overseas for some time. Moulton, the heavy defence player, started overseas recently, and Grieve is in London and is a candidate for the military team of that city.

KITCHENER FANS PLEASED OVER HOCKEY OUTLOOK

KITCHENER, Dec. 23.—Great satisfaction exists among local fans over the hockey outlook here. There is an abundance of excellent material for senior, intermediate and junior teams; the principal difficulty being in the selection of the two upper teams. The hockey fans have escaped the odium of the local political strife that has been existing here, not one of them being under the slightest suspicion of pro-Canadianism, which for the past three years has been the great bogey of every campaign in the city. It is believed that the club is seriously considering taking the name Unionist club, in commemoration of the recent election results.

The junior material this year is especially strong. Never before have local fans felt so sure of the youngsters' aggregation. They will not be known as the mystery seven this year, as it is expected that they will show unusual form from the first sound of the official whistle. Indications are that the intermediate team may not last the season, but the senior team will set a pace for the major league.

The selection of the senior and intermediate teams has not been definitely decided upon. Johnstone Hinchey, who was with the team last year, is being considered for the senior team. The choice for defence is among Trushin, Selbert, Leroux, McKay, Karg, and the forward line will be Hillier, centre, formerly of the 18th Battalion; Parkes, right wing, formerly of Riverdale; Solomon, left wing, formerly of the intermediate team, with Kiehn as a centre spare. Polarity, Krus and Ferriman are also material for the forward line. The junior line-up has practically been decided upon. Bowman will look after goal, Brickman and Selling, defence; Jamieson and Colmerburg for centre; and Clark, left wing, Berger and Schnarr right wing, undecided; Schell and Dauterger remain to be picked.

THISTLE CLUB

Eight rinks of curlers ended in two games of eight ends each at the Thistle Club on Saturday afternoon, and the winning rink comprised of Thomas E. Baker, W. J. Anderson, A. E. Chapman, and Skip J. H. Cameron.

An attractive followers of the game turn up at the North End rink tonight a little bonspiel will be held for the benefit of the curling club. The annual president vs. vice-president competition will be staged.

Other Sport on Page Seven

THE SPORT-LIGHT

By Grantland Rice.

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CHRISTMAS EVE IN CAMP. There is no dream that could be half so sweet, On Christmas Eve—at twilight—just to drift To far-off lands through winter's starless beat, Where, in a dream, one sees Time's curtains lift And show the old remembered hearth of home, And as the dream drifts by, dim wraith on wraith, To anchor there—a stranger from the foam Of stormy seas that almost wreck one's faith.

There is no dream like this when dusk swings low On Christmas Eve—when from the wintry gloom Dim voices come and speak from long ago. Soft hands reach out—and from the barracks room, Home far by tender memories we leave Across the night, as some lost soul is sped, Until we reach once more the Christmas Eve. We know before the reeling world turned red.

For now we know just what the old life meant, Before the age of battle was unfurled, The peace of home, the ease, the quiet content That must have been within another world; And none will ever know the brooding pain Until his time has come, through waning light, At Christmas Eve, for arms that reach in vain, Or vanished voices blown across the night.

THE REVIVAL AGAIN.

It is impossible to appreciate now the tremendous sporting revival that is coming when this war ends.

This revival will come from two important factors: 1. The fact that several hundred thousand young men, through camp life, and the different games attached, have found out what the outdoor game means. 2. The fact—and the more important one—that when the tension from the war has relaxed there will be a feverish rush to competition that doesn't mean death and destruction, blood and horror, pain and sacrifice.

Some one has said, for example, that after one had served in the trenches a game such as golf would seem dull and tame. On the contrary, we figure that that isn't to be suddenly checked by a big shell or a gas wave or a machine gun sweep.

CHASE VS. TENNEY.

Several readers have contended that, in their opinion, Hal Chase was a greater first baseman than Fred Tenney. Chase is very likely the most brilliant first baseman ever played. If Hal had displayed his best genius through his entire career he would undoubtedly have been a star.

But there were several seasons where Chase was not at his best and where his work was well below par. Whereas Tenney was a great first baseman and a fine hitter for over ten consecutive years.

The man who should earn this title in time is George Sisler, of the Browns. He is now the leading candidate for an all-star array.

NOT ALL—

The statement was recently made that almost every British and French athlete of note had been killed.

It isn't quite as bad as this. Georges Carpentier is still living, after three and a half years of war. So is Larry Jenkins, British golf champion. So is Tom Longboat, the great runner. And the list shows many others who are still on deck.

The situation is bad enough without piling on the indignities. The perennial war, which started half a dozen years ago, is rampant again. So old Homer is still a soldier. And where was he when the world was in a state of peace? Well—as Tom Roberts, the eminent guide of Great South Bay, would say—"Mebbe 'tis; and then again, mebbe 'tain't."

Personally we prefer to await next Maytime's gentle rhapsody from the south. Why, didn't the old soldier quit a year ago? And where was he when the world was in a state of peace? Right out there where he has gloried in all his graceless awkwardness for twenty years or more, and hitting at a clip that would have added a couple of inches to the hatband of any recruit.

Wagner is inclined to hang up the mitt and lay aside the mighty willow. He is forty-three years young and has enough laid by to toll every rainy day between now and the time he must take the last strike from Umpire Grim.

But Wagner is the youngest man of his age between the confines of the Atlantic and Pacific.

There is nothing the matter with the hinge in his whip. His underpinning may be a bit more brittle than in days of yore; he is more easily hurt these days. But he is right there yet with a mighty fair turn of speed, and, though his batting eye has dimmed, he doubts far above the average.

A man who could be lured out of announced retirement, as was Wagner last summer, will have to stay put a long time before we believe him gone forever. It would be not to a tragedy in the National League, this proposed retirement of John Henry Wagner. For he is quite as much an institution as the National League itself.

He must go some time, it is true. But why just now? His is not the case of a mere shadow of former greatness. Wagner is still a grand player. And in these plying times of war, when the going away of the flower and youth of the national game must of necessity leave baseball hard put to survive the dawn of peace, men of the Honus ability, stability and character are needed more than ever. He is too grand and glorious a soldier to desert a stricken field.

If Wagner quits it will be because he has deteriorated physically to an unbelievable degree since the close of the 1917 campaign.

LONDON CURLERS' SATURDAY BONSPIEL

Alex Wanless' rink was the winner of the London Curling Club's Saturday afternoon bonspiel, taking the top place in a hot game with J. Manning's quartet. At the end of the game the rinks were tied, and the Wanless collection captured the extra end. Mr. Wanless' score was 2, plus 1. His rink was composed of W. Hodgins, J. Chisholm, W. J. Stark and A. Wanless, skip.

Only six rinks took part in the 'spiel. The skips and scores were: A. Wanless, 2, plus 1; A. D. Hef-

MONTREAL GAME WAS CINCH FOR THE CANADIENS

Defeated Wanderers 11 to 2 Without Much Trouble.

MONTREAL, Dec. 23.—Barely 1,000 fans attended the initial game in the new league between Wanderers and Canadiens here Saturday night, when the Canadiens trimmed their old rivals 11 to 2 in a contest that lacked excitement and contained little of interest. Mayor Martin faced the puck after an address to the players.

The Canadiens showed superior combination work. Their team play seemed bewildering to the Wanderers, who failed to stop their rivals. Lindsay did good work in the nets, but he could not withstand the whole opposing forward line, and invariably when a goal was made by the champions he was out trying to break up the attack single-handed. He had little support from his team-mates.

It was the debut of Skilton in professional hockey, and he made a fine impression. His work and McDonald's being the feature of the Wanderers' play. Malone and Lalonde showed their old-time form, and shared the scoring honors for the Canadiens with three goals each.

Art Ross started with the Wanderers, but lasted only one period, when he was replaced by Gerard. The line-up:

Canadiens.....Goal.....Lindsay
Corbett.....Defence.....Skilton
Hall.....Defence.....McDonald
Malone.....Forward.....McDonald
Lalonde.....Forward.....Ritchie
Lavoie.....Substitute.....Gerard
Lefebvre.....Substitute.....O'Grady
Centre.....Substitute.....O'Grady
Referee, Jack Marshall; Judge of Play, Johnny Bennett.

QUERRIE'S SQUAD APPLY WHITEWASH TO OTTAWA BUNCH

Speedy Toronto Team Captures Saturday Night Event.

TORONTO, Dec. 23.—Charlie Querrie's Toronto professionals ushered in the 1917-18 season with a victory Saturday night, when they defeated Ottawa by a score of 11 to 2.

The Toronto squad was a fast, clever hockey, with both teams traveling at top speed. In the closing period the Toronto players made the better of the play, and all the Ottawa forwards tried to check, but unsuccessfully.

The scoring: Toronto scored five goals to one registered by the visitors. The hockey fans were surprised by the work of the Toronto team. Displaying a speed and stamina which was of midseason quality, they swept the visitors before them in the 50 minutes of play, and were not at all surprised by the work of the Toronto team.

Ottawa scored their first goal, while Meekling evened up for Toronto. Toronto then tallied five times in a row, and the period ended with the score Toronto 5, Ottawa 1. Reg. Noble, who started at centre for Toronto, was probably the most effective man on the ice. Besides scoring many of the Toronto goals, he checked back so hard and fast that he provided a third defence, giving Randall and Cameron great support.

Noble's experience with Ottawa has known all over Western Ontario as one of the shining stars of the Querrie rink this season.

Harry Meekling, who succeeded Noble at centre when the former went to left wing, was another boy whose improvement was noticeable.

Harry Denny played a good game for Ottawa, but marred his efforts with considerable rough work. Shore played up to his usual good form, while Bennett appeared to be off color. He made many good stops, but some comparatively easy shots got away from him.

Toronto (11)—Goal, Brooks; defence, Cameron and Randall; centre, Noble; left wing, Corb. Denny; right wing, Skinner.

Ottawa (4)—Goal, Benedict; defence, Crawford and Shore; centre, Darragh; left wing, Cyril Denny; right wing, Gerard.

Subs—Toronto: Meekling and Oughlth. Ottawa: Lowrey, Bruce and Boucher. Officials—Major Marsh, Toronto; Scott, Steve Vair, Barrie.

LACK OF PLAYERS NOT EVIDENT IN LOCAL GROUPS

Senior and Junior Teams Entered in O.H.A. Report Plenty of Material From Which to Pick Teams—Good Season Promised by Clubs in Local Groupings.

Despite the coming of the draft law and the strain on the country's manhood from four years of war there are still plenty of hockey players to don the colors and keep sport going at home as usual. An inquiry into the supply of players made by The Advertiser reveals the fact that clubs with teams in the O. H. A. senior and junior series, have, in several cases, almost the same line-up as last season. The junior round is exceptionally well off in this respect, their players being below the military draft age. Among teams in this situation are the London Hermits, who will turn out with a strong backbone of last year's speedy Northern League collection. Just what the Military Hockey Club's club depends on the draft for its fastest men. The Hamilton team is reckoned as slower than last winter's by Manager Jones. "Billy" Coir and Harry Reid are overseas, which weakened their squad appreciably. Preston, on the other hand, has the fastest bunch yet produced by that place, and look for big things from the real thing in hockey players, while Kitchener is confident of being able to keep on top of the standings all the time. Ingersoll and Galt may be depended upon to show up well.

From the following dispatches it can be easily seen that hockey will be as much a real big sport this winter as it ever was. Familiar names are missing from the senior teams, but those who are taking their places look like snappy puck-chasers, and competition will be as keen as ever.

THINKS HAMILTON SQUAD IS WEAKER

HAMILTON, Dec. 23.—As the result of Hamilton breaking into the Western Ontario senior O. H. A. group a great deal of speculation is being indulged in as to the material that Manager Jones has available for the ranks of the Ambitious City's aggregation.

Compared to the net and going outwards there is goalkeeper Billy McPhail, who was on Barrie's senior team last year. Harold Parker and Leo Reise, on the defence, are a dangerous pair, and owing to their speed and well in practice, and at his new position looks as if he is in for a big season. The Central Ontario Regiment, will be right wing man, and from his stick-handling, and a formidable stick-handler, and he is also a hard worker. On left wing Alexander Murray will reign supreme, and if he lives up to his last year's performance it will be a real big sport.

There are also a number of good all-around utility and spare men. Manager Jones has a spare man who can play defence nicely. Sgt. Snowden, of the C. O. R., and Dabralah, a former city leaguer, are both men who are expected to be in the line-up as emergency players before the season ends.

A newcomer is Frank Mitchell, who was with the Belleville intermediates last year, and upon whom Manager Jones is depending. Mitchell is a left wing man, and is expected to be a real passageway a wicked shot. He will divide the work with Murray.

"I do not think that the team is as strong as it was last year, owing to the loss of Reid and Cameron, and Harry Reid away with the 26th Battalion. I am depending a lot on Mitchell, and even though he is a new player, I think we have to beat," said Manager Jones, with a confident smile.

PRESTON AGGREGATION REPORTED STRONG ONE

PRESTON, Dec. 23.—The local senior hockey team will be the strongest aggregation that has ever represented the town. Manager Irvin Bowman, who has charge of this year's team, is known all over Western Ontario as one of the cleanest and best defence players in the game, and he will wear a star bunch of players who will wear the orange and purple this year. The players have been in the form for their first exhibition game in Galt on Christmas night. The team will play for Preston in the senior company of the O. H. A. has not been away from the town for a number of years, trying out for every position. Short, the veteran rover, and downy Blum and Hemrick are also trying for a place in the team. There are Ruppel, Otto, Quinn and Kahn, and Manager Bowman. For right wing, downy Blum and Hemrick are also trying for a place in the team. There are Ruppel, Otto, Quinn and Kahn, and Manager Bowman. For right wing, downy Blum and Hemrick are also trying for a place in the team. There are Ruppel, Otto, Quinn and Kahn, and Manager Bowman.

The locals will play their first league game in Sarnia on December 22. Secretary Schiess is arranging an exhibition game at the arena on New Year's night.

PLENTY OF SENIOR MATERIAL AT SARNIA

SARNIA, Dec. 23.—Sarnia's senior hockey team is busy practicing every night, and getting rounded into shape for the coming O. H. A. fracas. At a meeting of the players held Friday night, Joe Dwyer was elected captain of the team. "Joe" is a veteran of the game, and one of the best goalkeepers in Ontario. He would look well in the goal of the Toronto pros. Jim Granary is back in the game again, and with Jack Murray will make a good pair of defence men. Lawrence, who has been making his debut in senior hockey here last year, is on the team again, and from that day he showed up in practice he will likely be the star of the team. Being rover, he has a chance to show all his speed. E. Schumaker and Jack Adams make a dandy pair of wing men, and both are developing speed. Adams is one of the best wing men in this part of the country. These are the boys who will bear the brunt of the work in the O. H. A. games. On Monday and Tuesday the team goes to Detroit to play a two-game series, and each man confidently expects to bring home the bacon. Eleven men will be used in these games, with T. Hillman acting as centre. Hillman is a fast man, and few can equal him when he is in shape, and up to the

Junior Round Going Strong This Winter

Youngsters Will Have Peppery Team on Ice—London Should Be Well Represented by Hermits.

The Junior round should have plenty of pep in this winter, judging from the line-ups the teams entered have. London will be in the swing in earnest, and as soon as the ice will permit Manager A. T. Taylor will be working his squad into shape. The locals are well off. They have more than enough men who played at various times on the last year's Juniors to form a team this winter. Their men are known to have speed and endurance, and the Hermits once they get working will be able to take care of themselves.

Other teams are said to be in good shape. With many older players at the front the Junior brand will be more prominent than in former years, and will attract much more attention. Ingersoll, Sarnia, Paris, Woodstock, all will be out with teams that can show the real stuff in puck chasing.

SARNIA BOYS ARE PRACTICING HARD

SARNIA, Dec. 23.—Sarnia's Junior hockey squad will play seven men this season, as usual. Each man is out practicing practically every night. McAllister plays goal. Brown right wing, Burgess rover, Jenkins left wing, Crouchman and Montgomery defence, and Wright centre. Montgomery will have a chance to show some of his speed when he gets into a game. In practice he has been showing up remarkably well. McAllister is showing good stuff and will give a good account of himself. Every boy is right on edge, and is anxious to get into the first game. Taking it all in all, Sarnia has two of the strongest hockey teams that ever represented this city.

NO LACK OF HOCKEY PLAYERS IN LONDON

If the London Hermits can get on the ice and secure some practice they should be able to keep London's end up in the junior series this winter. The locals have plenty of material. Nine men who played last year's Northern League seniors at various times are out this season, and some fast hockey is expected. As well as these old-timers quite a bunch of promising newcomers are at hand to take the place of the old-timers. Harry McPhail, who was with the Hermits last year, is expected to be a real passageway a wicked shot. He will divide the work with Murray.

SPORT NOTES

The soft ice of the past few days has been a real help to the Hermits' chances of winning out in the local group. With the season to open in a few days the London squad hasn't been on the ice yet, although they have been ready for the last week to practice.

The Christmas "spells" of the curlers will also be ruined by the thaw.

Charley Weegman, having paid his cash down for Killifer and Alexander, now comes forth with a statement to the effect that he was willing to pay \$25,000 more than he did to get the pair.

On hearing this 'tis said Bill Baker almost broke his leg trying to kick himself.

And also 'tis said that if Quaker fans could get hold of the aforementioned Bill Baker they would break more than Bill Baker's legs.

It looks as if Fred Fulton must accept Willard's challenge to fight for the Red Cross or quit the game. Fulton has been having all kinds of fun and getting lots of publicity at the big fellow's expense, but now he is up against it right.

Whether it is the honor of getting the champion or the money that comes from such a bout that Fulton is after will be shown now.

Jess Willard said, "He thinks I am an awful simp; Into his challenges I'll proceed to put a crimp. And forthwith to the world his challenge went. To meet all comers and not take a cent. "It's a war for coin," he said. "But honor and the Cross of Red." And the whole world rose and of him said, "He's right to fight for the Cross of Red." We thought he was a different sort. But now it seems he's a real sport. —A. B. C.

It certainly looks as if Willard has struck a blow that is certain to bring results gratifying to students of boxing. If Fulton has been merely gaining cheap advertising at Willard's expense he will be shown up. I trust he will accept the challenge and fight.

A rumor from New York has it that Willard would insist on a 20-round no-decision affair, and had inserted a clause in this draft of his contract, but this statement has not been verified yet.

Willard made scarcely a cent out of his match with Johnson, but since his sudden rise to fame has cleared a fortune from the show business. Here is a chance for Fulton or any other fighter who might think it worth while to do the same. Honor was about all Willard got out of it until he entered the circus business.

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