

of the Two Great Speaking Races Confer Once Again.

A meeting took place at Downing Street, London, in the presence of the British Ambassador...

of the American Mission... The Departments most interested in the war...

and a half ago, they spoke with a common blood and of language, of habits, character, and traditions...

men will everywhere be meeting, whose aim is one of human freedom, had no more appropriate a room in Downing Street...

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of the Prime Minister, determining how the United Kingdom best co-operate with the Allies...

The Markdale Standard

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DR. DEVAN'S FRENCH PILLS, A French Patent for Women, \$5 a box or three for \$12.

MARKDALE STANDARD

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FRATERNAL

A. F. & A. M.: Hiram Lodge, No. 460, G. R. C. Markdale, meets in Masonic Hall, McFarland Block, on Tuesday evening...

C. O. C. F., No. 399: Court Markdale, Canadian Order Chosen Friends, No. 399, meets fourth Tuesday in the month in Ennis' Hall at 8 o'clock.

MARKDALE, L. O. L., No. 1045: Meets in Sarjeant's Block on Thursday evening or before full moon in each month.

Synopsis of Canadian Northwest Land Regulations: This is the head of a family or any other person over 18 years old who was at the commencement of the present war...

SUSPECTED SPY ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH HALIFAX DISASTER

Helmsman of the Imo, Which Collided With Munition Ship Mont Blanc, Detained by Authorities—Wild Stories Afloat. A despatch from Halifax says: John Johansen, helmsman on the Norwegian steamer Imo, the Belgian relief ship whose collision with the ammunition steamer Mont Blanc led to the disaster of last Thursday, was detained as a German spy suspect on Thursday.

VENICE GUARDED BY FLOODED LAND AND TRENCHES OF DETERMINED MEN

Countless Square Miles of Inundated Country Hold Austrians in Check and Prevent Crossing of River Piave. On the Lower Piave River, North of Venice, Dec. 16—Countless square miles of desolate marsh land, intercepted and cut into numberless islands by sluggish lagoons, and land inundated to the depth of several feet, line after line of stationary batteries of guns of from three to fifteen inches in calibre and deep, muddy trenches filled with men determined that the enemy shall not advance any further.

GEN. HAIG'S TROOPS GAIN REPUSE ENEMY ATTACKS AND TAKE SOME OF LOST GROUND.

London, Dec. 16.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight says: "During the night a hostile party attacked one of our posts west of Villers Ghuilain, but was driven off by our fire. To-day an enemy bombing attack northwest of La Querrieux was repulsed after sharp fighting. "We improved our position slightly last night east of Avion. An enemy attempt at a raid early this morning south of Armentieres was successfully repulsed. "The artillery was active on both sides to-day at a number of points south of the Scarpe. There was increased hostile activity north of Lagnemare. "We captured a few prisoners and a machine gun during the night in patrol encounters south of Cambrai."

WHEAT CARRIERS ARE NOT HARD HIT

Only Small Percentage of Food Vessels to Britain Lost. A despatch from London says:—The percentage of ships carrying wheat to this country that were lost during the two months of September and October was 2 per cent. Sir Yeo G. Chomay, Member, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Munitions, announced. Of the cargoes, however, bound during the same two months to the United Kingdom, whether in British or other vessels, the percentage lost was three, and of this loss only 1 per cent. was represented by food.

ARMISTICE SIGNED BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GERMANY IN FORCE UNTIL JAN. 14

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Announcement was made to-day by the Bolshevik official News Agency that Russia and Germany had agreed upon the terms of an armistice. It is reported that a treaty has also been formulated. The Russian delegates constituting the Armistice Committee at Brest-Litovsk, have advised the Bolshevik authorities at the Smolny Institute that an agreement was reached with the Germans on Friday concerning the transfer of troops. It was to this effect: "Both sides signing this agreement bind themselves until December 30, 1917 (January 12, 1918), not to carry on operative military transfers on the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea, except such transfers as were already begun up to the moment of signing this agreement. "The armistice begins at noon, December 17, and remains in force until January 14, 1918. Unless seven days' notice is given it continues in force automatically. It extends to all the land and air and naval forces of the common fronts."

Markets of the World FRESH ATTACKS ON ITALIANS

Heavy Losses Forced Teutons to Abandon Drive. A despatch from Rome says: Attacks in force were renewed on Wednesday by the enemy upon the Italian lines east of the Brenta, the War Office announced on Thursday. The attacks continued the entire afternoon, but because of heavy losses the enemy at night abandoned his effort. Finding that the efforts of the Austrians to break through and debouch out upon the plain of Venetia were futile, the German troops under General Von Bulow, reinforced their allies, and with them delivered the new, powerful assault. At only one point were the combined Teutonic forces able to dent the line of the defenders on Mont Spioncica, where they secured a temporary foothold after having sustained severe casualties. Snow and mist are hampering the operations in this region.

GEN. CURRIE RETAINS COMMAND

Has Consented to Forego Much-Needed Rest at Request of Gen. Haig. Ottawa, Dec. 16.—At the request of the British commander in France, Sir Douglas Haig, General Currie has consented to forego a much needed rest, and will continue in command of the Canadian corps in France. General Currie has been continuously in the firing line since the first Canadian division went to France. Since shortly after Vimy Ridge he has been in command of the Canadian army, and fought the two great battles of Arras and Passchendaele. General Currie has for some time felt the strain of three years' fighting, and was urged by his associates to take a furlough to recuperate, but will acquiesce in the request of the British commander and retain command.

HALIFAX TOLL REACHES 1,226

Official Figures Include Four Hundred Reported Missing. A despatch from Halifax says: Official figures of the death toll exacted by the explosion of the munition ship Mont Blanc were issued on Wednesday night. The total dead is put at 1,226, which takes in the dead, identified and unidentified, and the missing. The figures, which were issued by A. S. Barnstead, Chairman of the Mortuary Committee, follow: Identified in various mortuaries... 450 Dead who can be identified... 225 Unrecognizable remains... 200 Missing... 250 Dartmouth... 26 Total... 1,226

BRITISH OCCUPY THREE PALESTINE VILLAGES IN ADVANCE ON 5-MILE FRONT

Aeroplanes Dropped Bombs on Turkish Troops at the Mouth of the River Jordan With Good Effect. London, Dec. 16.—An official statement bearing on the campaign in Palestine says: "General Allenby reports that on December 15, his left centre, northeast of Ludd, advanced on a five-mile front to a maximum depth of about one and one-half miles without meeting much opposition. Kibbiyah-Khannah, Kheil, Bornat and the ridge overlooking El Treh were occupied. "Our aeroplanes dropped 50 bombs on motor boats and sheds and on troops at the mouth of the Jordan with good effect obtaining 24 hits. "In an earlier despatch Gen. Allenby reported that he further extended his line north-east of Jerusalem on Thursday, capturing 140 prisoners. Otherwise the situation is unchanged. Since Wednesday three enemy aeroplanes have been destroyed and another has been brought down."

CROWN PRINCE LAUNCHES DRIVE

Met With the Customary Repulse by British Troops. A despatch from London says: The British lines are still holding firmly against onslaughts of the Teutonic armies, delivered with heavy reinforcements that have been drawn from the Russian front since the cessation of hostilities there under the armistice. The latest attack of the Germans, made in the Cambrai region between Bullecourt and Queant, was a complete failure when the Teuton losses in men killed and made prisoner, are put in the balance with their small gain of ground against the British; another attack by the German Crown Prince in the Caurieres Wood, on the Verdun sector, which was delivered with large effectives, has met with the customary repulse.

NOTED MUSICIAN OF MONTREAL

Advice The Use Of "FRUIT-A-TIVES", The Famous Fruit Medicine.



FRUIT-A-TIVES, Montreal. In my opinion, no other medicine in the world is so effective for Constipation and Indigestion as "Fruit-a-tives". I was a sufferer from these ailments for five years, and my sedentary occupation, Altered Paralysis—with constipation, indigestion, gas, nervousness, etc., and pain in the back. I tried pills and medicines of physicians, but nothing helped me. Then I was induced to try "Fruit-a-tives", and now for six months I have been entirely well.

TESTING TIME FOR BRITAIN

Foe Must Be Held at Bay Until Spring, Says Lloyd George. A despatch from London says: The speech of Premier Lloyd George before the House of Commons on Friday night was delivered at a period which in the current phase is described as "Britain's testing time." During the coming winter and spring, until such time as the effort which America is making to come to the aid of Britain's burden, it is generally recognized here, will be a heavy one. Secretary Baker's speech at the end of nine months is not to be done as well as the United States could do. Satisfaction here is in that fact that America will be able to make the weight felt on the European battle front at a much earlier date than Germany has calculated as possible. Meanwhile, however, Great Britain will have to increase on steadily her efforts and her sacrifices to hold the enemy at bay.

MARGARINE RELEASED FOR EXPORT TO CANADA

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Food Controller has received telegraphic advice from a representative of his office, who has been in Washington, stating that he has delivered personally to the War Trade Board Mr. Hoover's order releasing 75,000 pounds of oleomargarine for exportation to Canada. Other licenses have been issued by the United States authorities so that there should be no further difficulty with regard to the supply from across the international boundary.

THE CORRECT TREATMENT FOR COLDS

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion, featuring the text: "The National Strength-Builder which first builds up the forces by carrying rich nourishment to the blood streams and creates real body warmth. Its cod liver oil is the favorite of physicians for correcting bronchial disorders and chest troubles." Includes an image of a man carrying a large fish on his back.