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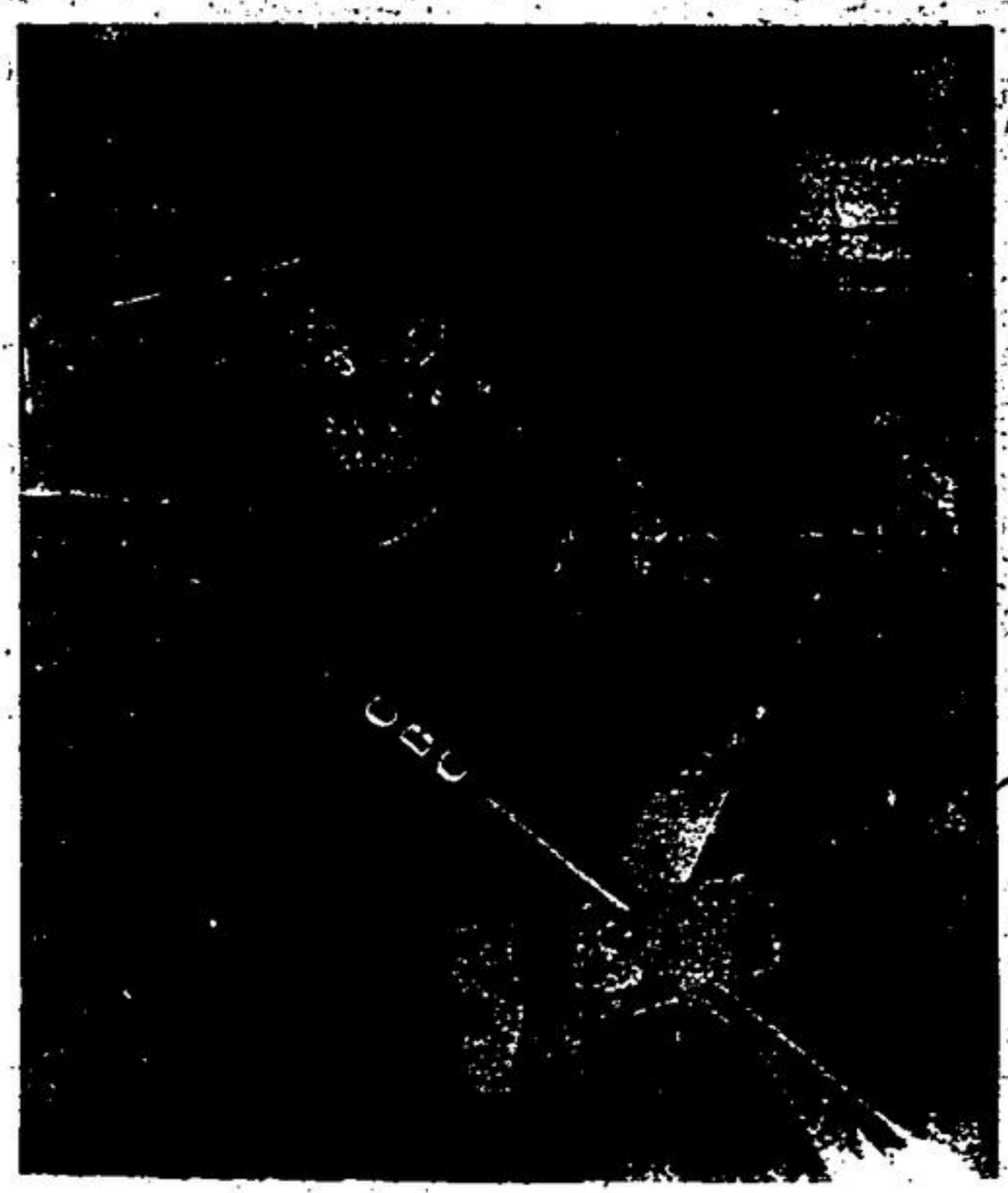
Santa Claus will find plenty of trees this season on which to place his gifts, for buyers were in the field early this year and orders have been placed on a large scale, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways.

Several million Christmas trees will contribute a portion of Canada's contribution to the Yuletide cheer in the United States this month. New York City alone takes about three-quarters of a million of these trees. In addition to the Christmas tree output, Canada lends further color to the American festive scene with large exports of holly and mistletoe. These come largely from British Columbia where holly hedges and bushes are plentiful. The New York market absorbs the bulk of these exports because of the popularity in that area of the particularly large and brilliant berries which are borne by the Canadian variety of holly.

In addition to the large cut of Christmas trees for the American market, anywhere up to 1,000,000 Canadian homes are adorned during the Yuletide season with the favorite tree of St. Nicholas—the patron saint of celebration—as well as with holly and mistletoe.

Piles of Christmas trees are now coming into evidence about country stations of the Canadian National Railways in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, these trees later being the centre of Christmas celebrations in homes across the continent.

Forest conservationists agree that the cutting of Christmas trees helps, rather than harms, the forests. Trees of a size suitable for Yuletide purposes are regarded as undergrowth which sap the strength from more hardy specimens and retard their growth. In stands of marketable timber, this undergrowth would have to be cleared out anyway.



Santa Claus received and accepted a special invitation to drop in on a pre-view of the "Children's Scrap Book" the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's special Christmas show for youngsters, which will be presented before an invited audience in the Margaret Eaton Hall, Toronto, on Saturday, December 23, at 12.30 p.m. EST. Here Santa Claus has a good laugh with Peggy, as they watch the Punch and Judy Show rehearse for the big broadcast.

FOOD NECESSITY OF WAR

"Britain has for at least eight years been giving a demonstration of the fact that she realizes that when armies march they still march on their stomachs." The morale of the civil population of any country remains high only when the people are well housed and fed. It is a well known fact that the German armies of the

last war, the best trained and equipped at the beginning which the world had seen, only wavered and retreated when the British blockade prevented supplies getting to the civil population. Britain has, therefore, been giving great attention to the encouragement of food production at home and food production in countries easily accessible during time of war. Canada occupies an enviable position in the early stages of the war because of the ser-

vice she can give Britain and France through the fact that: (1) she is one of the great surplus food producing countries of the world; (2) she is so located as to be comparatively safe from attack and yet is within easier distance of Britain than any other of the surplus food producing countries.—Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, in an address to the United Grain Growers at Winnipeg.

Canadian Legion

War Services

(By F. H. Wooding)
A year ago, when Herr Hitler led Europe to the brink of war, vast behind-the-scenes preparations were being made throughout the Empire for any eventuality. The possibility of a new and more catastrophic conflict, constituted then, as it does today, the threat against democracy and all the sacred things in life that people of British blood hold dear. Canada was not found lagging and authorities began formulating plans to place this country in a state of readiness.

The Canadian Legion, representative of 175,000 veterans of the 1914-1918 struggle, did not underestimate the significance of the situation. A rallying cry was sounded. The old warriors who had left home and loved ones 25 years ago to answer the call to duty, responded as one man. The Legion from Halifax to Vancouver, was united in effort.

At the height of the crisis the Dominion President, Brigadier W. W. Foster, D.S.O., V.D., now Director of Auxiliary Services, Department of National Defence, convened a meeting of the Dominion Command. Speakers from the thousands of men who are members of the Legion's vast organization approved what was to become one of the most historic peace-time communications ever forwarded to the Government. That communication conveyed the message that the entire resources of the Legion and the Legionnaires of the Dominion against the emergency of war.

During the jittery months that followed, the task of putting Canada in a state of preparedness was never relaxed. Nor were the efforts of the Legion. When the Allied Powers finally were forced to declare that a state of war existed against the German Reich, the Legion again convened. This time war was a grim reality.

The Legion executives discussed matters with the Minister of National Defence. The same day the waiting Legion presented concrete plans whereby the Legion could make its maximum contribution to Canada's war effort. The result was notable for its expression of confidence.

Thousands of veterans, of course, had already enlisted in the armed forces and there were thousands of others who, until for active service, were anxious to do their bit. As a result of representations made by the Legion on behalf of all veterans' organizations these men volunteered to assist the R.C.M.P. and provincial and municipal police in guarding harbors, power plants, bridges, railway stations and other vital points subject to sabotage by enemy agents. The military authorities, in addition, were offered more than 600 Legion branch headquarters to be used as canteens, and the Legion's own regional headquarters for the new recruits for the armed forces, magazines and local en-

tertainment were also provided. At the outset, however, the experience of the first Great War had impressed upon all veterans the necessity of providing for the welfare of the young men enlisting in Canada's navy, land and air forces. As old soldiers who knew the suffering, the hardships and the deprivations of that struggle and as, in thousands of cases, the father of new recruits, they felt that it was their duty as well as their indisputable right to provide for the needs of these young men who have taken up arms.

During his consultations with the Prime Minister, therefore, the Legion had offered to establish a special organization for this purpose. The offer was officially accepted following creation of the Directorate of Auxiliary Services, Department of National Defence, and a few days later a Dominion Charter was issued to "The Canadian Legion War Services," with Lt.-General Sir Percy Lake, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., of Victoria, as Honorary President, Major-General John A. Gunn, C.M.G., D.S.O., of Toronto, as President, and Lt.-Colonel Ralph H. Webb, D.S.O., M.C., of Winnipeg, as General Manager.

The new organization which, by mandate laid down by the Legion itself, is to be non-profit-making, has undertaken certain specific obligations which it will discharge in the interests of Canadian soldiers here, overseas, and in actual theatres of war. These include establishment of facilities for education, personal services, entertainment and education as well as canteens where required.

In collaboration with the Canadian Association for Adult Education the Legion is making it possible for young men of the forces to continue, in a large measure, their educational studies even though on active service. Committees, comprised of outstanding educationists, are being formed in every military district, and facilities are being made available for the continuation of public school education and for such general studies as current events and economics, stenography and secretarial work. Advanced students may even obtain their articulation or B.A. degree by correspondence through arrangements being made with certain universities.

The years of experience behind their parent body in dealing with personal problems of veterans of the first Great War enables the Canadian Legion War Services to be of tremendous help to the new recruits. Long-established facilities are at the disposal of the men where they may receive advice and guidance from their older comrades.

An important part of the Legion's war work will be its entertainment programs. Experienced personnel are now developing concert parties within the forces and the men chosen are being moulded into self-contained com-

panies. These companies, when equipped and equipped, will entertain the units. From time to time, and dependent upon future needs, there will be amplification of certain other entertainment features such as lectures by outstanding speakers, musical programs and dramatic presentations. Various types of moving pictures are presently being shown and it is contemplated that, when finance permits, mobile moving picture units will be utilized to permit of greater expansion in this important field.

When requested to do so by the Commanding Officers, the Legion will establish and conduct canteens. It is the determination of the organization that a wholesome and homelike atmosphere will be maintained throughout, and, with this in view, plenty of books, magazines and facilities for letter writing are being made available.

While the value of the work which this new organization will perform in Canada cannot be over-estimated, at this early stage one can but speculate on the magnitude of the work which it will do in France when the Canadian forces arrive overseas. There the same facilities, but to a much greater extent, will be provided. In addition, leave hostel centres will be established where the men will be provided with beds and meals and where they may enjoy comfortable recreation and reading rooms free of charge. Another important undertaking by the Legion will be that of procuring invitations from warm-hearted British families who will offer Canadians on leave the hospitality of their homes.



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