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World News in Brief

British have now taken over the whole Somme front.

Highway traffic in Quebec was again tied up last week by a blizzard.

Plans have been made for the Boy Scouts of Clatham to cultivate garden plots this year.

The Dineen Fur Stores in Toronto suffered a loss of \$75,000 last week through fire from unknown origin.

According to the official figures, 94 British ships were lost through the "water rat" route in February.

The total enlistment in the Canadian army since the war began is officially given as 399,434 to March 1st.

Recent developments on the North Sea are said to foreshadow a desperate German attack on land and sea and in the air at an early date.

The New York Sun says there is a new dance.—The "Wilson" Dance,—one step forward, two steps backward, a hesitation and a glide.

Kitchener, Ont., is planning to raise \$150,000 for patriotic purposes, the city council being asked to contribute \$25,000.

A German chemist arrested at Hoboken, N.Y., had powerful explosives in his possession, and a wide plot for the destruction of ammunition plants is charged.

Sam Landers, the noted labor leader, of Hamilton, is going overseas as a sergeant, and his wife will edit the labor paper conducted by the sergeant until his enlistment.

Mr. Gerard, formerly Ambassador from the U.S. to Germany, is said to have warned Washington regarding a German plot to destroy the Panama canal.

The Russians keep on making satisfactory progress in the East, capturing many important positions and making notable advances in Persia and the Caucasus.

Poor people in Austria are said to be suffering to the point of desperation, and "almost anything" may be expected soon.

A New York man has been permanently deprived of all telephone service, because he persistently abused the telephone operators over the wire. This is a "sure-enough" item of news because it is novel,—as regards the discontinuance of service, for abusing the operator.

Another German plot has been unearthed in New York City, where a Hindu doctor and a German physician are under arrest. They admitted receiving \$60,000 from Von Igel, who is now en route with Bernstorff. The plotters were plotting to start a revolution in India.

J. Loeckie Wilson, superintendent of Fairs in Ontario, suggests that Toronto should raise sheep in the city parks. "It would not only be a profitable investment for the city," he says, but there would be produced two things the country needs,—wool and mutton.

Sir Edward Carson Kemp, Minister of Militia, last week declared that Rev. W. Hindley, Toronto, had no authority for saying that the Militia Act would be enforced within 60 days. Sir Edward said the Militia Dept. had several schemes under consideration and an announcement would be made shortly.

British claimants of the German prize ship Appam at Newport News, Va., last week won their suit in the U.S. Supreme Court to regain possession of the ship and cargo. The judges held that the British owners of the vessel are entitled to restitution because the Germans violated U. S. neutrality by bringing the vessel into port without being accompanied by the captor warship.

The evidence in the case against the three women and the man now standing trial for alleged conspiracy to murder Premier Lloyd George and other members of the British Government reads like a dime novel edition of Sherlock Holmes adventures. Among other things it shows the accused had a stock of strange poisons and among their proposals was the killing of British public men by poisoned nails to be put in their shoes and by driving poisoned pins through their heads, etc.

Dismissed because of three rejections as a recruit for overseas, Geo. Baker, 26 years old, of Toronto, hanged himself last week. This is at least the third suicide in Canada for a like cause since the war began.

Sir John Eaton has spent \$1,000,000 of his private means since the war began in supporting the families of employees at the front. Over two thousand Eaton employees are at the front, and the dependents of over a thousand of these are still being paid by Sir John from his own private purse, just as if the breadwinners were still working for him.

Twelve senators, led by Senator LaFollett, "talked out" in the senate President Wilson's law to authorize the arming of American merchant ships to meet the German submarine menace. President Wilson now speaks of revising the rules of the senate to make such minority tyranny impossible, and also suggests the calling of a special session of Congress to deal with the matter.

SUBSTITUTE RICE FOR THE POTATO

Advice of Writer in Mail and Empire in View of High Price of Tubers.

Writing in the Woman's Kingdom recently, a writer thus shows a way to avoid the festive high-priced potato without suffering any ill effects:

"There has been a general scurrying about among Toronto housewives to find a substitute for potatoes, since the homely tuber has soared to class one, formerly known as luxuries. Restaurants have substituted rice and spaghetti for the potatoes and stews that have potatoes, carrots and onions are now as highly-priced as the so-called veal outlets. There are many housewives, as well as many people who have to eat their meals in restaurants, who feel that with a rice substitute they are not getting a food equal in value to the potato. Now rice is about the one food that has remained normal, for the advance in price has been so small as to be negligible. It has great food value and is easily substituted for other foods which are not anywhere so nourishing. The Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C., has issued the following information about rice which at this particular time is most helpful:

Food Value	Per cent.
Rice	86.09
Wheat	82.54
Rye	82.79
Oats	74.02
Maize	82.97
Potatoes	23.24
Fat beef	46.03
Lean beef	26.83
Detail of Comparison of Rice and Potatoes.	
Water	12.4
Protein	7.4
Fat4
Starch	79.4
Mineral matter..	.4
	100.
	100.

Such information should prove of value. It will help the average housewife to prepare her daily menus on more intelligent and economic lines, at the same time increasing the nourishment over the present average menus of most families. Used as a vegetable every other day, rice would quell the hysteria that is now taking place over the dearth of potatoes.

The present scarcity may prove a blessing in disguise if it drives the housewife to study substitutes, their values and the values of what is used every day in times of plenty. It will ensure a variety from the deadly monotony of plain boiled or mashed, the common variations played on the potato.

When the French paper bag cookery man gave demonstrations in Toronto, he electrified one class by telling them there were 100 ways of serving potatoes, and eggs also. Till both are back to normal in Toronto, housewives will have to study serving rice spaghetti, macaroni and soup in forty-seven different ways."

One of the Maxim guns, says Sir Hiram, was designed to fire a shell weighing about a pound. These shells were, of course, expensive, costing about \$1.60 each. On a demonstration of the gun before Li Hung Chang it fired 400 of the shells, costing about \$650, in one minute. The old Chinese statesman, on being told the cost of the shells, said, "This gun fires altogether too fast for China." The King of Denmark's comment was, "That gun would bankrupt my little kingdom in about two hours."

100 TRACTORS PRESENTED TO BRITAIN BY TORONTO MAN

Prime Minister Lloyd George received a cablegram from David J. Johnson, Canada Nitro Products, Toronto, presenting to the nation to aid in agricultural work 100 farm tractors of a type considered the most efficient yet designed. The gift includes harrows, binders and other implements. A skilled mechanic will accompany each tractor. Lloyd George replied gratefully accepting the generous gift on behalf of the nation.

TIMES DO CHANGE

The interviewing of "Old Prospector" has become a good habit with The Canadian Mining News. Here is a typical interview:—

"I met an old prospector friend of mine the other day in Haileybury, and we travelled over to Cobalt. Old Bill took a squint at the fine brick station that now replaces the one he first saw on the site and it put him in a reminiscence state. 'Do you know,' he says 'this is all a dream to me, when I look back to the time we both tented around here in the wilds. Talk about the power of gold—it's got the power all right, but what about the power of nerve and endurance of the fellows who go after it and make these railroads and stores and homes? Somebody has got to have confidence in gold and silver mines or the metal would soon run out for good. There will always be gold mines, gold miners and level-headed people who will buy stock in mines and make the profits."

HAILEYBURY MAN HAD STRENUOUS TIME

Pte. A. B. Harris returned to his home in Haileybury recently, according to The Haileyburian. He has been confined for a long time in hospitals in England, and after spending a week or two at his Haileybury home it is probable that he will undergo a further operation before being formally discharged from the military forces. Pte. Harris has had many thrilling experiences, and as The Haileyburian says, has seen sights that would unnerve the strongest of men. For thirteen months he fought and played his part unflinchingly in the great battle on the West Front. Ypres, Courcellette, Somme and other battles were among those in which he took part. His "occupation" was a dangerous one. He was what is known in the army and in general parlance as a "sniper" at the front. He knows what it is to lie out in the dangerous, dark, shell-swept stretch of No Man's Land, with nothing but his rifle and his courage for company, and he also knows what it means to "go over the top" and rush upon the death-showering machine guns. At the great Battle of the Somme in September a bullet struck Pte. Harris over the eye, tearing its way along and fracturing the skull for a space of several inches. For many hours he was unconscious and for three months he had to be kept blindfolded. But skilled surgery saved his life, and though he will always carry the scars of battle there is every reason to hope that he will recover most of his old-time strength and health and soon be "his own man" again.

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