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## World News in Brief

Women's meetings in Toronto last week passed resolutions favoring compulsory military service.

Rev. Peter Bryce, of Earlecourt, is agitating for a minimum wage of \$20 per week for all workmen.

General Carranza has been re-elected President of Mexico, only a comparative few voting against him.

A premature explosion of dynamite near Sturgeon Falls last week resulted in fatal injuries to two workmen.

A bill has been passed by the Ontario Legislature providing for the superannuation of school teachers after a certain length of service.

Britain is meeting the submarine menace. Forty-eight German "subs" are said to have been destroyed in 16 days recently.

The French made noteworthy gains in the Champagne sector last week, while the British "push" held all won on the Somme.

Russian successes against the Turks continue in Asia Minor, Bagdad being among the noteworthy captures made last week.

More than 187,000 windows are now on the British pension list which will now involve a capital charge of nearly \$2,000,000,000.

The Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada has already applied for a \$10,000,000 slice of the new Canadian War Loan. Financiers now assert the loan will be much oversubscribed, but as previously the preference will be given to the smaller subscriptions in making the allotments.

British papers are resenting strongly the suggestion in the Commission's report that Lord Kitchener was to blame for the Dardanelles failure. Dead men tell no tales.

At a Kitchener, Ont., foundry recently the employees went out on strike because of the employment of an inspector whom they claimed was a German.

A prominent Spaniard just returned from Germany tells a Madrid newspaper that the Kaiser is in very poor health and is only "kept going" by the liberal use of drugs.

According to semi-official figures, the total cost to the warring nations of the present war will be one hundred billion dollars before the end of this year.

At Newcastle, Indiana, last week over thirty persons were killed, three hundred houses swept away and one million dollars' damage done by a tornado.

A trunk consigned by the Swedish Ambassador in the United States is said to have been seized on the steamer that carried Bernstorff to Copenhagen. The embassy seals on the trunk are said to have been broken to allow the insertion of German documents.

Toronto's veteran soldiers have been given an elegantly furnished and appointed club house at the corner of Church and Carlton streets by the women of Toronto. The President of the Great War Veterans' Association was also presented with a cheque for \$5,000.

United States merchantmen are now ordered to be armed and are instructed to shoot on sight any submarine encountered on the seas. The U.S. Government is also said to be planning to issue a "White Book" giving details of all the German plots in the U.S. This book will be distributed among the neutral nations as well as in the United States.

Denis Murphy, former M.P.P., and member of the T. & N.O. Railway Commission, died on Saturday, March 10th at his home in Ottawa, aged 75 years. He was born in Cork, Ireland, and came to Canada where he engaged in the forwarding business on the Ottawa River. He has been on the T. & N.O. Commission since 1905.

Germany is said to be protesting to Washington regarding the thoroughness of the search to which the Hun Ambassador and his party were subjected at Halifax. It is claimed that even the toes of the party were examined, the women's mouths pried into and the insoles taken from the noble ambassador's boots to be sure nothing was hidden. Now the Hun Ambassador feels it is no use trying to conceal his thoughts.

At the Wheeldon trial in London, Eng., the Hindu, who is acting as counsel for the quartette accused of conspiring to murder Lloyd George and other members of the Government asked that the centuries old "trial by ordeal" be revived and that the accused women walk over hot plowshares to prove their innocence. The court, of course, treated this plea as pure nonsense.

Several men and women who left Germany with U.S. Ambassador Gerard's party assert that the German people are practically on the verge of starvation. They also claim that the 1917 crop promises to be a failure on account of lack of men and fertilizers, and that the people have reached the despairing state when neither victory nor defeat particularly interest them, the iron hand of Prussianism holding them just as they are.

Count Zeppelin, the alleged inventor of the aircraft bearing his name died last week in Germany—from a child's disease it is said. Many children died from the devils of the Zeppelins whose sole successful specialty seemed to be the murder of women and children. Zeppelin lived long enough to admit the failure of his invention as a weapon of war. He was 79 years of age at the time of his death.

## A BIG OAK TREE

At Ellerslie, where William Wallace was born, there is an oak which is twenty-one feet in circumference. One summer, when the tree was in full leaf, Wallace and 300 of his soldiers are said to have hidden away in its upper branches, so escaping capture by the English.

First Algonquins Were  
Broken Up in Drafts

DESPITE HOPES OF KEEPING TOGETHER 159TH BATTALION FOLLOWED SAME COURSE AS OTHER CANADIAN UNITS—FINAL 20 MILE ROUTE MARCH—A BATTALION SOUVENIR — LT. COL. ARMSTRONG'S POPULARITY.

Shoreham, England, Feb. 13th.—The Advance are again favored with another interesting and informative article on the 159th Battalion by that able writer, Pte. Chas. Hinks:—

Shoreham, England, Feb. 13th.—Owing to the fact that no copy of The Porcupine Advance has been received by any member of the 159th Battalion since the beginning of December the writer has naturally speculated as to whether the articles despatched at one time and another have reached their destination or have been held up by censorship restrictions. Assuming, however, that they have been received, and published, the reason for no knowledge on the point at this end could only be through non-delivery in the mails. Christmas mail was so late in delivery here that the probability is quite a number of parcels of newspapers are lying at some point or other unsorted. Private letters, however, have come to hand from time to time which indicate the interest still maintained in the 1st Algonquins by friends and relations of members from the Gold Camp, and accordingly I decided that whether or no other articles had been published, I would send this last series of notes, bearing on doings of the Battalion.

## Final Route March

The reason why these must perforce be the final contributions is because the 159th Overseas Battalion no longer now is known under that name and has been broken up to supply drafts for various other purposes. The beginning of the end came on Tuesday, January 30th, when the Battalion moved out with full pack to march from Seaford to Shoreham under orders to become part of the 5th Reserve Battalion at this place. This meant covering a distance of over twenty miles and to the credit of the boys it should be said that few fell out on the way, they being unable to continue after some twelve miles to Brighton owing to different reasons, many of which were not due to their own physical condition. Reaching Shoreham that night the Unit was soon quartered along with other Canadian units here but few anticipated that before the following week-end arrived over 300 would have been again removed to another point as an Engineering section of a Battalion for that purpose. Such was the case, however, and in four days more an equal number had been despatched thus bringing down the curtain on the decisive breakup of the 159th.

## Soon in France

That much disappointment was created cannot be denied as up to the last minute hope had been held out that the whole of the Battalion would proceed to France as a unit even if not as infantry at any rate all together for constructional purposes. Lieut.-Col. E. F. Armstrong, Officer Commanding, had worked continually with those higher up in this endeavour, but according to what can be learned unofficially it would have been an exception had the authorities permitted this and would have created a precedent over which others would have wished to take advantage.

Resignation therefore to the conditions was the only resource and despite the fact that chums were separated and friendships which had been made had to be promised with correspondence, the boys took things in the proper spirit realizing indeed that they were even fortunate to be able to keep together to some extent at least. In a few days more it is altogether likely that the remainder of the 159th still in these lines at time of writing will be despatched to some other point and at an early date those at home will be receiving letters from some of them across the Channel.

## The 159th Souvenir

Having reason to expect something of the kind above related a few put their heads together with the purpose of having some souvenir of the Battalion which would be suitable to keep in remembrance of the days they were lucky enough to be able to hold together and accordingly "The Algonquins Gazette", a small four page newspaper was compiled and published just before leaving Seaford. As nearly two thousand of these were disposed of among the boys it is every way likely that several have already reached the Porcupine district and the recipients will be better able to judge for themselves what was aimed at. If time and space had permitted there would have been many more newsy items concerning the doings of the boys but speed was the predominant feature and the fact that the number mentioned were taken up instead of about seven hundred estimated is probably sufficient proof of the appreciation extended the venture.

## A Popular O.C.

The dissolution of the 159th should not be passed over without a word of appreciation of the Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong had won for himself a place of very great esteem among his men. If any criticism were directed towards him it would unanimously be that he was too lenient. Unknowing to the men generally he exerted efforts to hold them together until peace was declared which very few officers probably would have put forward and when all the facts are taken into consideration sympathy was extended him which perhaps he never knew of. The only consolation he had was that the breakup of his unit was not by any means due to incompetency but in accordance with those strictures which the military authorities deem advisable for the final outcome for which every man joined up. Perhaps no greater compliment could have been paid the late Commanding Officer of the Northern Ontario Battalion than to mention that very many of the boys have been heard to express the wish that at some future date they may be able to re-gather in the District of Temiskaming and invite their Colonel to preside at some function periodically.

Mr. Thos. G. Carscallen, M.P.P. for Lennox, died at Napanee last week, aged 74 years.

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