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VARNEY

The annual Christmas tree, which was held on Christmas evening, was a great success. Mr. Newnam, former pastor of Varney is visiting around for a few days.

Miss Mable, Mead, professional nurse, is spending a couple of weeks at the home of her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Melville Hoy, of Welland, spent over the holidays at the home of the former's parents.

Rev. Mr. Newnam will preach in the Varney church on Sunday evening. All will be pleased to renew old acquaintances.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hoy, Welland, are spending a few days with relatives here.

Mrs. Wilbert Blyth, who underwent an operation, is around again.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Gadd spent Christmas with the latter's sister Mrs. Will Allan.

Mr. Murray Hoy, of the 110th battalion, Stratford, spent Christmas at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Lauder had their Christmas dinner with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blyth.

Mr. R. J. Eden made a business trip to Dunkalk one day last week. Mr. Wm. McIlvride is visiting his aunt, Mrs. Will Mountain.

LAKELET BREEZES

A Happy New Year to you all. Beware of La grippe or he will catch you. He has many in his grip in this locality.

Wedding bells are ringing this week.

We are pleased to see Mr. Peter Ramage home from the west looking well and hearty.

Mr. Rob Reid and his sister Jesse arrived from the west for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. John Atchison of Sask., are home visiting their respective parents.

Some few in this part attended the Christmas tree at Zion. They report a very fine time.

Mr. and Mrs. McNally, of Zion spent Saturday evening with the latter's mother.

A Year of World War

ONE may get a swift comprehension of the results of the year's warfare in Europe by viewing the contrasts between the situation now and a year ago this time. On the western front slight progress has been made by the Allies, and there is an ever increasing weakness observable in the German artillery. The opposing lines in France and Belgium remain practically where they were at the beginning of 1915. However, this line of about 400 miles in length has been altered but little.

Hostilities between Italy and Austria began in May, and in October Bulgaria invaded Serbia. The uselessness of the German navy was apparent at the beginning of the year. The strongest squadron afloat, that of Captain Spee, comprising five cruisers, had been wiped out in the south Pacific ocean in December. A few cruisers were sailing in African waters and in the Pacific, raiding British commerce. Of these the Dresden was sunk early in the year, and the Prince Eitel Friedrich and Kronprinz Wilhelm were interned at Newport News. Finally on Jan. 24 Vice-Admiral Beatty routed the German raiding squadron in the North Sea.

Throughout the winter and spring the submarine operations furnished the chief elements of public interest in the war. However, the situation on the Russian frontier began to take on new and striking phases. The Russian chief, with his centre held to the Vistula west of Warsaw, sent an army to strike Koenigsberg, on the Baltic sea. Still another Russian force was operating toward the westward on the southern border of East Prussia, aiming to flank the German position before Warsaw. Making a fierce lunge on the Warsaw front early in February for a feint, the German general Von Hindenburg threw a column into East Prussia, surprising the Russians. This move compelled the Russians to abandon their attempts in East Prussia, and by the end of the month the Germans had pushed the foe across the Russian border.

Meanwhile interest in the movements on the eastern frontier was enlarged by the developments southward, involving most directly Russia and Austria. The Allies under the leadership of Great Britain attempted in February to open up Constantinople for Russia. The movement began by a bombardment of the Dardanelles in February by Allied warships. This failed, but in March another and more powerful fleet opened fire on the Turkish forts along shore. The ships were roughly handled, three battleships being sunk and two put out of action.

This eastward sweep of the Germans promised important developments far to the north. Austria, however, had been confronted by a new foe far to the south and west of the scene of her energies thus far. May 24th the king of Italy declared war on Austria; hostilities were begun, and the Italians set out to capture Trieste. They crossed the Isonzo river, upon which Goritz is situated, entering upon the campaign which held them upon the Isonzo all summer and fall.

Turkey has acted on the defensive in Europe, but in Asia threatened the Suez canal. Attacks aimed at the canal failed, but early in December the British were forced to withdraw near Bagdad.

Bulgarian troops, supported by Germans and Austrians, defeated the Serbian army during October and November, opening rail communication from the Danube to the Bosphorus.

WAR ON THE SEA

January.
 1. British battleship Formidable sunk in the English channel by German submarine or a mine; over 600 drowned.

24. In a German naval attack on the English coast the German cruiser Bluecher was sunk, with about 700 of her crew, and other vessels destroyed by Vice-Admiral Beatty.

February.
 4. German admiralty declared a war zone in the English channel after February 18.

18. German war zone decree went into effect.

March.
 18. British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and French battleship Bouvet sunk during a naval attack in the Dardanelles.

28. German submarine U-28 torpedoed British ships Falaba and Agulla in St. George's channel; 68 passengers and 70 sailors lost.

April.
 26. French steamer Leon Gambetta torpedoed by an Austrian submarine in the strait of Otranto; 500 seamen drowned.

May.
 7. The Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk off Kinsale, Munster coast, Ireland. Out of 2,100 persons on board 1,100 were killed.

13. British battleship Triumph torpedoed in the Dardanelles, with loss of 500 lives.

25. British battleship Triumph torpedoed in the Dardanelles.

28. British battleship Majestic sunk by a torpedo in the Dardanelles.

June.
 17. Italian submarine Medusa torpedoed by an Austrian submarine.

30. British Admiralty steamer Armanian, with Americans in her crew, torpedoed off the British coast. 22 Americans lost.

July.
 3. British submarine sank the Turkish battleship Barbarossa in the sea of Marmora.

14. British transport Royal Edward sunk by an enemy submarine in the Aegean sea; loss of nearly 1,000 lives.

19. A German submarine torpedoed the White Star liner Arabic off Cape Clear, Ireland; many Canadians on board.

October.
 23. German cruiser Prinz Adalbert sunk by British submarine; crew of 557 nearly all lost.

November.
 7. Italian liner Ancona sunk by Austrian submarine in the Mediterranean; 208 lives lost.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM

January.
 13. The Allies began to retreat south of the Aisne at Soissons, abandoning five miles of trenches.

14. Allies withdrew south of the Aisne, losing 5,000 prisoners and many guns.

March.
 10. Beginning of British attacks at Neuve Chapelle, France.

12-13. French attacks and German counter-attacks continued at Neuve Chapelle, with heavy losses.

April.
 22. Germans recaptured Hartmannswillerkopf, in the Vosges mountains. They repulsed an attack by Allies along the Ypres canal with asphyxiating gas and crossed that barrier to the west side.

30. German artillery at Nieuport, Belgium, bombarded Dunkirk, France, at 23 miles range.

September.
 25. Great drive of the Allies from the French seacoast to Verdun. Heavy capture of guns reported and 20,000 unwounded prisoners. German front broken five miles in length at Loos, La Bassée and Souchez, and 25 miles in the Champagne.

28. Allies continued western drive.

November.
 18. Allies held joint war council in Paris.

SOUTHERN WAR ZONE

February.
 3. Turks estimated at 12,000 attacked British guards along Suez canal south of Ismailia, Egypt, and were defeated.

24. Allied fleet bombarded Turkish forts guarding the sea entrance to Constantinople.

April.
 25. Allied troops landed on the shore of the Dardanelles under fire from the Turkish guns.

May.
 22. Italy made formal proclamation of war.

25. Austrian navy and airships attacked Italy's coast. Italian troops seized Austrian territory.

June.
 7. Italian troops, led by General Cadorna, forced the important river Isonzo in advance toward Trieste, Austria.

9. Italians captured Monfalcone, an important strategic town northwest of Trieste.

August.
 3. Italy sent an ultimatum to Turkey.

5. Austrians launched counterattacks on the Italian line at Goritz.

September.
 19. Turkish artillery drove the allied troops from their works on the Dardanelles.

22. Bulgaria mobilized her army.

October.
 3. Russia sent an ultimatum to Bulgaria demanding dismissal of German officers, etc.

7. Greece protested against the landing of troops at Salonica to defend Serbia.

7. Austro-German forces under General von Mackensen invaded Serbia. Bulgaria sent 24-hour ultimatum to Serbia.

8. Germans recaptured Belgrade, capital of Serbia.

11. Bulgaria declared war on Serbia.

28. A general attack by Italians at Goritz failed after an all-day struggle.

November.
 6. Bulgarians captured Nish, great railway centre in Serbia.

24. Germans and Austrians captured Mitrovitza and Pristina, Serbia.

December.
 1. British withdrew before superior force of Turks near Bagdad.

2. Germans and Austrians captured Monastir, Serbia.

10. Allied troops in Greece fell back on Salonica.

20. British troops withdrew from the Anzac lines and Snola Bay.

22. Turks began march on Egypt.

RUSSIAN FRONTIER

January.
 5. Russian forces were south of the Carpathian mountains invading Hungary.

28. A large Russian army was advancing on the Russian border against Koenigsberg, a German fortified city in East Prussia.

February.
 3. Germans checked in a desperate attack on Russian lines at Bollmow, before Warsaw.

7. Germans, by a forced march, turned the Russian flank at Johannesburg, in East Prussia, forcing the enemy to retreat back to Russian territory.

8. Germans in Russia cut the railroad behind the retreating Russian army. North of Augustowo the Russians deserted their positions east of the Masurian lakes.

24. Germans stormed and captured Przasnysz, Poland, an important Russian post north of Warsaw.

March.
 23. The Austrian fortress of Przemysl, in Galicia, surrendered to the Russian army after a gallant and prolonged defense. About 50,000 armed Austrians were among the trophies.

25. Russians recaptured Przasnysz, in Poland, north of Warsaw.

April.
 8. Russians advanced through Bostok pass, piercing the Austrian lines in the Carpathians.

May.
 14. Austro-Germans recaptured Jaroslav, on the west bank of San river, Galicia, forcing the Russians to abandon the Carpathian mountains.

June.
 3. Germans, led by General von Mackensen, recaptured Przemysl, Galicia, which the Russians had occupied March 22, after a siege of 20 days.

23. Lemberg, Galicia, recaptured by Austrians after ten months' occupation by Russians.

July.
 15. Germans again captured the post of Przasnysz, 50 miles north of Warsaw.

20. Austrians captured Radom, 57 miles south of Warsaw.

August.
 5. German army captured Warsaw, after campaign which lasted over eight months. The Russian garrison retreated east of the Vistula.

13. General von Mackensen's German troops captured Sedice, cutting the Warsaw-Moscow railway.

19. Novo Georgievsk, the second greatest Russian fortress in Poland, with its garrison, estimated at from 40,000 to 85,000 men, captured by General von Beseler's German army.

September.
 4. Germans captured Grodno and advanced on Riga.

November.
 8. Germans after desperate attempts to reach city abandoned important positions in front of Riga.

MINOR WAR EVENTS

January.
 26. The German Government ordered the seizure of private stores of corn, wheat, and flour.

February.
 15. Germany informed the United States that she would insist on maintaining the war zone in the English channel.

March.
 1. England announced her intention to stop all ships to and from the seaports of Germany.

14. The German cruiser Dresden, which survived the battle of Falkland islands, sunk in battle with a British fleet near San Juan Fernandez island, off Chili.

July.
 8. Germany replied to note of the United States (June 10), promising to safeguard Americans under their own flag.

August.
 4. Great Britain sent notes to the United States upholding her blockade.

24. Berlin informed Washington that the killing of Americans on the Arabic was not intentional.

September.
 1. German ambassador announced that liners would not be sunk by submarines without warning unless they resisted or attempted to escape.

8. German airships raided London, injuring 84 persons and killing 20.

October.
 5. Germany disavowed the sinking of the Arabic and agreed to pay indemnity.

13. Fifty-five killed and 114 injured in London by Zeppelin attack.

December.
 11. London recruiting offices crowded with volunteers under the Lord Derby plan.

CANADA AT WAR

January.
 11. Orders were issued at Ottawa for the mobilization of a third contingent.

15. The Princess Pats distinguished themselves in a violent action at Deadman's Alley, near Ypres, Flanders.

25. Canada's first base hospital for soldiers in England opened at Clevedon.

February.
 16. First Canadian troops went into the trenches in France.

March.
 10. Canadian troops distinguished themselves in battle of Neuve Chapelle.

17. The Militia Department issued orders for the recruiting of a fourth contingent of 25,000 men.

April.
 24. Canadian troops at St. Julien Ypres saved the day when Germans attacked with poisonous gases.

May.
 5. Colonel Lord Brooke appointed to command Ontario infantry brigade at the front.

26. Canadian and Indian troops repulsed a severe attack at Richebourg.

28. Ontario Government announces establishment of a hospital for Canadians in England.

June.
 8. Major-Gen. Hughes announced another call for 35,000 recruits.

11. The second Canadian division arrived in France.

July.
 20. Ontario Government announced a gift of \$500,000 for machine guns.

21. Forty million dollar Canadian loan floated in New York.

25. D. A. Thomas arrived in Ottawa to reorganize munitions methods.

Necrology of 1915

OUTSIDE of war casualties the obituary list of notable men during 1915 is not an imposing one. Canada's greatest loss has been the death of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., the last remaining father of Confederation. Another important man who disappears from Canadian affairs was Sir Sandford Fleming.

January.
 9. Hon. Geo. A. Clare, M.P. for S. Waterloo, died at Preston, Ont., aged 61.

10. Marshall P. Wilder, humorist and author, at St. Paul, Minn.; aged 55.

12. W. H. Rowley, ex-President of the C. M. A., died suddenly in Toronto, aged 64.

17. Gen. A. M. Stoessel, noted in the defense of Port Arthur in 1904-5, at Petrograd; aged 67.

February.
 4. Lieut. Wm. Sharpe, of Ottawa, killed while flying at Shoreham, Eng.

12. Fanny Crosby, blind hymn writer, in Bridgeport, Conn.

20. Charles Francis Adams, historian and publicist, in Washington; aged 80.

21. Colonel F. D. Farquhar killed in action while leading Princess Pats at St. Eloi.

April.
 7. F. Hopkinson Smith, author and artist, in New York city; aged 76.

24. Lieut.-Col. Hart McHaig killed in action at St. Julien, aged 46.

May.
 2. James Stewart Tupper, eldest son of Sir Charles Tupper, at Oxford, Eng., aged 63.

17. Miss Alice Fitzgibbon, Canadian literary and social worker in Toronto.

31. John W. Alexander, portrait artist, former president of the National Academy of Design, in New York city; aged 59.

June.
 17. Lieut. R. A. Warnford, killed at Buc, France, by fall in aeroplane.

Lieut.-Col. Campbell Becher, of London, Ont., killed in action, aged 42.

20. A. R. Clarke, Toronto manufacturer, died in London as a result of injuries in the Lusitania disaster, aged 56.

25. Rafael Joseffy, celebrated pianist, in New York city; aged 62.

29. O'Donovan Rossa (Jeremiah O'Donovan), Irish patriot leader, in New York city; aged 84.

July.
 2. General Porfirio Diaz, former President of Mexico, after several terms and deposed by Madero, in Paris; aged 85.

22. Sir Sandford Fleming, railway pioneer engineer, scientist, died at Halifax, aged 88.

August.
 5. Maarten Maartens, Dutch novelist, in Zeist, Holland; aged 57.

13. Monsignor Joseph J. McCann, Vicar-General of Toronto Roman Catholic archdiocese, died in Toronto, aged 71.

14. John W. Harper, noted publisher, in New York; aged 84.

Paul Armstrong, playwright, in New York; aged 46.

September.
 9. Albert G. Spalding, baseball veteran and sporting goods manufacturer, at Point Loma, Cal.; aged 65.

10. Sir Charles Boucher de Boucherville, ex-Premier of Quebec, died at Montreal, aged 93.

11. Sir William Van Horne, former President of the C. P. R., died in Montreal, aged 72.

21. Anthony Comstock, New York's moral censor, at Summit, N. J.; aged 71.

26. James Keir Hardie, British socialist leader, died in Glasgow.

October.
 29. Sir Charles Tupper, former Prime Minister of Canada, died in his home at Bexley Heath, Eng., aged 94. He was the last of the Fathers of Confederation.

Donald Guthrie, ex-M.P., died in Guelph, aged 74 years.

31. Blanche Walsh, actress, in Cleveland, O.; aged 42.

November.
 1. Herman Ridder, German-American editor, in New York; aged 64.

Lewis Waller, noted English actor, aged 55.

Sir A. W. Rucker, British scientist in London, aged 67.

4. Mrs. Lillian Massey Treble, Toronto, philanthropist, died in California.

14. Booker T. Washington, negro leader and educator, at Tuskegee, Ala.; aged 57.

19. S. R. Hesson, pioneer and former Mayor of Stratford, aged 86.

Alexander Laird, former General Manager of the Bank of Commerce, died in Toronto, aged 62.

December.
 9. Stephen Phillips, noted English poet and dramatist, in London, aged 48.

Rats in French Trenches.
 There is a plague of rats along the British and French lines in Flanders and