

FIVE HOT MEALS SERVED DAILY TO BRITISH IN FRONT LINES

Enemy Rations Almost Wholly of Tinned Goods—German Divisions Forty Days in Trenches Without Relief.

A despatch from the British Army front in France says: The problems of transport have been solved satisfactorily, and now attention is being largely devoted to ameliorating the iron hard condition of the British troops in the winter fields and trenches. Heavy sheepskin and leather coats and jackets have been issued to the men, and warm and dry rest billets provided for those in the support reserve positions. Best of all, however, Tommy in the front line gets five hot meals daily. There is breakfast at 7, dinner at 12, tea at 5, and soup or stew at 9 and again at 2 o'clock in the morning.

From reports received from German prisoners and observations made during raids the British have discovered that conditions on the German front are very different. Along most of the new lines formed by the Battle of the Somme the German front trenches are merely a broken stretch of linked-up shellholes, with no deep dugouts and only a few improvised hiding holes, where two or three men can take cover from the shrapnel.

British reports from the Somme section say the German communication trenches are impassable from

NEW FRENCH CHIEF IS HALF ENGLISH

Gen. Joffre's Successor Related Through Mother to British Military Family.

A despatch from Paris says: The new Cabinet arouses but moderate enthusiasm in the press. The papers point out that seven Ministers and two Under-Secretaries belong to the preceding administration so that the change is not so radical as might be expected. At the same time the appearance of M. Clavelle and Loucheur as technical experts is welcomed.

The most popular feature of the reorganization are the appointments of General Hubert Lytautey, as Minister of War, and General Nivelle as successor to Joffre as commander-in-chief of the western front. All the newspapers print photographs of General Nivelle under the title of "One of the War's Revelations." Long biographies are also published recalling the capture of Verdun and Vaux on the Verdun front. The papers also say that the fact that General Nivelle is half English—his mother having belonged to a well known Kentish military family—makes his appointment particularly acceptable across the Channel.

Julius Cambon continues in his post as General Secretary of the Foreign Office.

ILLUSTRATION STATIONS.

Work Being Done by Dominion Experimental Farms System.

The Department of Agriculture of the Dominion Government is carrying on illustration work in crop production and cultural methods with farmers in the provinces of Quebec, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Farmers owing or operating land favorably situated for the carrying on of such work co-operate with the department. The farmer puts under the direction of an officer of the Dominion Experimental Farms System, a part of his farm having a good wide frontage on a well travelled highway, each field having the same frontage along the same highway, so that the crops and cultivation are unavoidably in evidence to the casual traveller and easily inspected by the interested visitor.

The department, for the first year at least, furnishes the seed necessary to sow such of the fields as it is decided to put under crop that year. In subsequent years the farmer saves enough of the best of the crop grown on these fields to do the necessary seeding. This of course, provided the grain produced is satisfactory as to purity and germinative power.

All cultural and harvesting operations in connection with these fields, i.e., the ploughing, harrowing, etc., of the fields and the sowing, harvesting and threshing of the grain therefrom are done by the farmer. All work indicated above is done in exact accordance with the exact instructions as directed by the Illustration Station Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms System. The farmer keeps a record of the amount of time taken to perform the different operations on each field and threshes the grain harvested separately so that it will be known how much is harvested from each field.

The records just mentioned of the work and crops resulting, together with brief notes made each week, are duly entered on blank forms provided for that purpose. The work of making such notes and entering up the work done on each field does not entail more than one hour's work each month. Each week the farmer mails to the Central Experimental Farm Office a form filled out with full particulars as to the work done, general weather conditions and crop progress on the different fields. The farmer permits to be placed in front of each field a sign stating briefly the method of preparing the land for the crop growing thereon, or the treatment given to the plot that year.

On all these farms, whether located in the Province of Quebec, or in Saskatchewan or Alberta, systematic rotations of crops suitable to the district served as well as the best cultural methods and most suitable varieties of crops are being demonstrated.

Markets of the World

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.87; No. 2, do., \$1.84; No. 3, do., \$1.81; No. 4, do., \$1.78; track, Bay ports. Old crop trading 4c above new crop.

Manitoba oats—No. 1 C.W., \$2.02; No. 2, do., \$1.98; extra No. 1 feed, \$1.95; No. 1 feed, \$1.92; American corn, No. 3 yellow, new, \$1.94; December shipment subject to contract, \$1.92.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 60c to 65c; nominal, according to freight outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 Winter, per cwt., \$1.83; No. 2, do., \$1.81; No. 3, do., \$1.79; according to freight outside.

Barley—Malt, \$1.18 to \$1.20, according to freight outside.

Buckwheat—\$1.25, nominal, according to freight outside.

Rye—No. 2, \$1.36 to \$1.38, according to freight outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in late bags, \$8.90; 2nd do., \$8.40; strong bakers, \$8.20; 3rd do., \$7.80.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, \$7 to \$7.10, in bags; track Toronto, prompt shipment.

Milled—Car lots—Delivered, Montreal, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

THE GERMAN POTATO FAILURE

Berlin Paper Says Crop is 30,000,000 Tons Short of Last Year.

A despatch from Berlin says—The food plans for the current food year have been badly wrecked by the almost complete failure of the potato crop, of which the figures are now available. According to the Tagblatt, only 21,000,000 tons were harvested this year, against 51,000,000 last year. This might have proved almost disastrous, particularly as the potato crop was not only quantitatively but also qualitatively a failure, and as a result only one-third as many potatoes are available for the current food year as during the one ended last June. New plans have been made by Count Batecki for pulling through until next summer. The potato ration after January 1 will be three-quarters of a pound per capita per diem, and potato flour will no longer be an ingredient of the legal war bread, rye being used in place of the missing potatoes.

INSURING THE SOLDIERS.

Canadian Patriotic Fund Helps to Keep Many Policies Alive.

The vast amount of work undertaken by the Canadian Patriotic Fund for the relief and assistance of soldiers' dependents will probably never be fully appreciated. In most cases this work is carried on by voluntary effort, and as the organization extends into almost every town and hamlet in the Dominion but few deserving cases can be overlooked. In the Department of Insurance, for instance, the Montreal branch last month saved for twenty-two families policies which would otherwise have lapsed and been lost to the beneficiaries. These policies represented insurance to the value of about \$30,000. In the annual premiums being over \$800. On all this branch is looking after insurance representing not less than \$60,000. In other words, the work of the organization is being carried on by voluntary effort, and as the organization extends into almost every town and hamlet in the Dominion but few deserving cases can be overlooked. In the Department of Insurance, for instance, the Montreal branch last month saved for twenty-two families policies which would otherwise have lapsed and been lost to the beneficiaries. These policies represented insurance to the value of about \$30,000. In the annual premiums being over \$800. On all this branch is looking after insurance representing not less than \$60,000. In other words, the work of the organization is being carried on by voluntary effort, and as the organization extends into almost every town and hamlet in the Dominion but few deserving cases can be overlooked.

CANADA'S STANDS PREPARED TO CONTINUE FULL ASSISTANCE

Bank of Montreal Annual Meeting Marked by Striking References to Part Played by Dominion and Lays Down Policy for Country's Guidance. Campaign of Thrift Strongly Urged. Bank's Record at Front.

Canada's position in the great European war—the policy the Dominion should follow in order to be all the better prepared for post war conditions—the resolve of the country to continue to give in youth and manhood full assistance to the great cause—are among some of the outstanding features of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal, held at the head office.

The importance of the announcements made and their bearing on conditions that the Dominion would most likely have to meet seemed to impart a special significance to the meeting, and the shareholders were quick to give their hearty support to the suggestions, strongly offered by Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., President, and Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, the General Manager.

There was no misunderstanding of the firmness of the suggestions, as it was clearly shown by the majority of the conditions that prevailed in the country were purely of a temporary character, and that the most important was to get ready for the time when normal conditions only might exist.

In this connection it was pointed out that all efforts should be concentrated on the attainment of three objects:—to keep our industrial and immigration, but at the same time a note of confidence was struck as to the ability of the country to weather the storm.

The Canadian Patriotic Fund helps to keep many policies alive. The vast amount of work undertaken by the Canadian Patriotic Fund for the relief and assistance of soldiers' dependents will probably never be fully appreciated. In most cases this work is carried on by voluntary effort, and as the organization extends into almost every town and hamlet in the Dominion but few deserving cases can be overlooked. In the Department of Insurance, for instance, the Montreal branch last month saved for twenty-two families policies which would otherwise have lapsed and been lost to the beneficiaries. These policies represented insurance to the value of about \$30,000. In the annual premiums being over \$800. On all this branch is looking after insurance representing not less than \$60,000. In other words, the work of the organization is being carried on by voluntary effort, and as the organization extends into almost every town and hamlet in the Dominion but few deserving cases can be overlooked.

WAR COST \$28,000,000 A DAY MUNITIONS AND LOANS INCREASE

Actual Expenditure Has Exceeded Estimate, Bonar Law States—Mentions Allied Peace Terms.

A despatch from London says:—Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon that the daily average expenditure of Great Britain in the war had risen to \$27,100,000. He said the actual expenditure had exceeded the estimate owing to the increase in munitions and additional loans to Great Britain's allies and to her Dominions.

He said that no proposals for peace had yet been received by the British Government from the Central Powers. He added that the Entente allies required adequate preparation for the next, and adequate security for the future.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said: "Financially we cannot hope to go on indefinitely on the present scale, but we can go on long enough to make sure that we will not be from financial causes if we fail to secure victory."

The Chancellor said the total amount of votes of credit since the outbreak of

WAR COST \$28,000,000 A DAY MUNITIONS AND LOANS INCREASE

Actual Expenditure Has Exceeded Estimate, Bonar Law States—Mentions Allied Peace Terms.

The war was \$3,852,000,000, including \$32,000,000 for extra administration expenses.

Referring to the peace proposals of the Central Powers, Mr. Bonar Law said: "I am moving the last vote of credit Mr. Asquith used the words: 'They (the allies) require that there shall be adequate security for the future.' That is still the policy and still the determination of His Majesty's Government."

Mr. Law said that, assuming the rate of expenditure was the same as at present, the vote would carry them until Feb. 22. The total for the financial year would be \$1,950,000,000. The budget estimate of the financial year was exceeded by \$350,000,000. Loans to allied governments amounted to \$400,000,000 daily.

Mr. Law said the Government had taken "such actions as it considered necessary" regarding Capt. Blaikie, who was taken prisoner by the crew of a German submarine.

FEW ESCAPED FRENCH FIRE FRANCE TO DISCARD ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Government in Favor of Total Suppression of Its Consumption.

A despatch from Paris says: A German attack on Lassigny, that part of the front nearest to Paris, was made Monday in great force, says La Liberté's correspondent with the French armies. It appears to have been concerted to coincide with von Bethmann-Hollweg's note, probably with a view to impressing the French by a local success.

"The Germans brought together about 40,000 men from the best divisions," adds the correspondent, "and concentrated corresponding quantities of artillery. The attack was preceded by an intense bombardment lasting for hours.

"The French were not taken by surprise, and received the assaulting waves with a fire from their 3-inch guns and machine guns, tearing the ranks terribly. A barrier fire thrown to the rear of the Germans caught the supporting reserves."

"The Germans reached the French trenches over a frontage of 300 yards, but an immediate counter-attack enabled the French to regain the trenches. Only a few survivors of the attacking columns escaped. Most of them were killed after stubborn resistance.

"The Germans renewed the assault an hour later without success. The French heavy artillery dispersed the reserves as they came up."

FRANCE TO DISCARD ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Government in Favor of Total Suppression of Its Consumption.

A despatch from Paris says: Total prohibition throughout France of the consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskies, brandies and liqueurs has been decided on by the Government. This is shown by the text in the Journal Officiel on Thursday of Premier Briand's declaration on Wednesday before the Chamber of Deputies on the subject. The Premier said: "The Government will ask you to give it the faculty of solving by decrees all questions of interest in regard to the national defenses which the laws are too slow to regulate. A particularly grave question which can be regulated only in war time, on the solution of which involves the life of the country and its salvation, is the total suppression of the consumption of alcohol."

The Premier's remarks were greeted with loud applause from many of the benches. Deputy Mayeras interjected: "In the army, also?"

"Yes, in the entire country," said the Premier.

The use of the term alcohol in this connection is understood in France not to include wines or beer.

Her Affliction.

Niece—Katherine writes me that Mrs. Dasher has got the alimony. Aunt Selma—Dear! Dear! I'm afraid it will go hard with her. She is such a frail, nervous creature.

BRITAIN'S FOOD CONTROLLER LAYS DOWN HIS PROGRAMME

Will Adjust Supplies so That Everybody Will Have an Equal Chance of Getting a Fair Share.

A despatch from London says:—Baron Devonport, speaking for the first time as Food Controller in the House of Lords on Thursday, said the solution of the food question resolved itself into one of a system of rationing. It was not enough to maintain the food supplies, but it was overwhelmingly essential that they be distributed fairly.

The Food Controller said his first duty would be to ascertain the quantity of food stocks available and the stocks visible. There were many patriotic people, he said, trying to get hold of supplies in excess of their wants.

"My remedy," said Baron Devonport, "will be to adjust the supplies coming into the country so that everybody will have an equal chance of getting a fair share—no more and no less. On account of many people buying up supplies sugar cannot be got at all. A remedy must be found for that. Possibly the only way will be by a system of rationing."

It was obvious, Baron Devonport added, that a general diminution in the consumption of staple food was necessary. At present this diminution could only be brought about by voluntary abstinence, but if voluntary abstinence was not successful it would be necessary to make abstinence compulsory.

SOMME FORCED KAISER TO MAKE PEACE MOVE.

Germany Fears Result of Next Offensive on All Fronts.

A despatch from Springfield, Mass., says: Frederick Palmer, the war correspondent, in an interview on Wednesday, declared that events on the Somme front were responsible for the German peace move, and said that the British and French soldiers in the trenches would dictate terms. Mr. Palmer says the Kaiser has reason to dread the next allied offensive on all fronts.

SPAIN PROHIBITS SUBJECTS FROM FEEDING FOE SUBS.

A despatch from Madrid says: All ranks are notified that owing to the necessity of reducing railway traffic in England leave will not be granted, except in very special circumstances. Week-end leave is for home service men or those in munition works, and Christmas leave will be confined to five per cent. of any unit, and one week between December 22-25. This will not interfere with the four days' leave invariably granted men proceeding to the front, nor with leave granted troops already in the field.

HORSE MEAT AND LIVER 39 CENTS A POUND.

A despatch from Berlin says: Owing to the steady advance in the price of horse meat a maximum price of 39 cents a pound for the best cuts, liver and sausage, has been fixed by the authorities.

India's Rice Crop.

India's rice crop of this year is estimated at 76,792,000 acres, slightly in excess of the acreage of the year before. The total yield is expected to be 21 per cent. greater than last year.

READY TO MAKE DASH FROM ROTTERDAM.

A despatch to the Amsterdam Telegram from Rotterdam says the German steamer Pylas, which has been in Rotterdam Harbor, is ready to break of the war, was getting ready to leave for Germany, when a search by the river police revealed the fact that she was stocked with great quantities of foodstuffs and other goods, the export of which is forbidden. The correspondent adds that the vessel will not leave Rotterdam for the present.

LEAVE BEING CUT DOWN FOR TROOPS IN FRANCE.

A despatch from London says: All ranks are notified that owing to the necessity of reducing railway traffic in England leave will not be granted, except in very special circumstances. Week-end leave is for home service men or those in munition works, and Christmas leave will be confined to five per cent. of any unit, and one week between December 22-25. This will not interfere with the four days' leave invariably granted men proceeding to the front, nor with leave granted troops already in the field.

GERMAN PRINCE DIES ON RUSSIAN FRONT.

A despatch from Berlin says: Prince Henry of Reuss, was killed in battle on November 29th, on the Russian front, according to the Overseas News Agency. Prince Henry was 24 years old and a Lieutenant in a Prussian cavalry regiment.

SIX-HUNDRED-FOOT FREIGHTERS TO BE BUILT AT PORT ARTHUR.

A despatch from Fort William says: Announcement is made by officials of the Western Drydock and Shipbuilding Company that the concern has closed contracts for the construction of eight new steamers. Six of these will be ocean-going and the other two will be 600-foot freighters for the Great Lakes. The capacity of the plant will be doubled. About six hundred tons of steel has arrived, and work on two steamers will commence at once. The plant will employ between 1,000 and 1,500 men for the next three years.

MANY NOTABLES KILLED.

War Makes Heavy Inroads on the Peasantry of Europe.

A special cable to The New York World from London, says: The issue of Debrecht's Peasantry for 1917 states that the roll of home from families usually notified in that volume now numbers 1,450 persons who have been killed in action or have died of wounds. The list includes one member of the Royal family, fourteen Peers, twenty-one Barons, nine Knights, nine members of Parliament, 290 Knights Bachelor, 114 sons of Peers, 110 sons of Barons, and 160 sons of Knights.

GERMAN CASUALTIES ALMOST 4,000,000.

A despatch from London says: The total German casualties, excluding those in the naval and colonial services, reported in the German official lists for November, says a British official statement issued on Wednesday, was 1,661,776 officers and men, making the total German losses in killed, wounded and missing since the war broke out of 3,921,960.

CIVIL WAR NEAR FOE DESPERATE

Socialist Party Now in Open Hostility to the Hohenzollern War Party.

A despatch from London says:—That Germany is threatened with civil war and that the great Socialist party is no longer concealing its dissension to the Prussian war leaders, is the real explanation for the peace proposals, is the statement that is going the rounds of the press of London on Thursday.

The Times says that particularly during the past month conditions in Berlin have assumed a dangerous aspect. The people, weary of the shortage of food at home and the distress of the men in the field, with the material costs of war piling mountain

IF YOU WANT A SAFE INVESTMENT

Let us send you particulars of an investment that never depreciates and never defaults in dividends, the new Compound Investment Policy in the Crown Life.

With a Crown Life "Limited Payment Life Policy" you do not have to die to win. Your insurance is fully paid for during the years of your best earning power.

Let us send you some new insurance facts.

Crown Life Assurance Co.

TORONTO.

Agents Wanted in Unrepresented Districts.