CROWN LIFE

The volume of applications for new insurance during 1916 was by far the Greatest in the History of the Company. That is the best evidence of public esteem.

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CROWN LIFE INSURANCE CO., TORONTO

Agents wanted in unrepresented districts

CUBAN BAY MAY BE THE REFUGE FROM WHICH U-BOATS OPERATE

News of the Revolutionary Outbreak in Cuba Greatly Interests British Officials.

A despatch from London says: British officials are greatly interested in the news of the revolutionary outbreak in Cuba, where, they assert, they have reason to suspect German agents have been at work for a long time. Only a few weeks ago Captain Hans Boehm, a German army officer, was taken from the Dutch steamer Zeelandia at Falmouth. He had in his possession a chart of Santa Lucia Bay, Cuba, where, according to other papers seized at the same time, German agents had secured an oil concession. It is the belief here that the Santa Lucia project was being developed by means of money sent from New York to Havana.

The British naval authorities, while they have failed to discover any German submarine base in the West Indies, declare that they have long had reason to suspect the intention of the Germans to establish one there, and as a consequence they look with suspicion upon the Cuban oil project, as possibly a blind to hide the establishment of a refuge from which submarines could operate.

MILITA TO DRILL 2 NIGHTS EACH WEEK

Active Campaign to be Instituted to Bring Units Up to Strength.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The calling out of the militia in large towns and cities for two nights of drill every week will, it is understood, be the entering wedge of the Government's new recruiting plans foreshadowed by the statement issued on Tuesday by Sir Edward Kemp. Together with the resumption of militia drill there will be an active campaign to bring the militia units up to strength. This, it is understood, will at first be conducted along the lines of voluntary enlistment, with the alternative of applying the Militia Act in some form if enough recruits are not secured in this way.

It is understood that the work of bringing existing incomplete overseas units up to strength and sending the remainder over as drafts is to be pushed with even greater vigor, and that there may be some radical amalgamating done if no other way is found of dealing with this matter. On account of the fact that many Canadian superior officers in England have dropped their rank and gone to the front as lieutenants, and that the breaking up of units into drafts has left a surplus, even of lieutenants, in the Mother Country, only two per cent. of officers will now, it is understood, be sent overseas with their men. No officers of higher rank will go unless they are prepared to revert to lieutenancies.

GERMANY'S WAR COSTS SIXTY BILLION MARKS.

A despatch from London says: Germany's war costs to date have reached the total of sixty billion marks, says a telegram from Berlin, forwarded by the correspondent at Amsterdam of Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited.

TRY TO RAISE INTEREST ON THE LAST WAR LOAN.

A despatch from London says: The German Government is now discussing with the Bundesrat new direct and indirect taxes to raise £50,000,000 interest on the last war loan, according to Berlin newspapers, quoted in a Hague despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. It is probable, add the papers, that the new taxes will apply to coal mine exploitation and railway traffic, with an increased tax on war profits.

CRUISER BEATS ENEMY RAIDERS

Hot Battle in South Atlantic Won by British Warship.

A despatch from Rio Janeiro says: An officer of the British cruiser Glasgow has confirmed the reports of a recent naval battle off Fernando de Noronha, 125 miles off the east extremity of Brazil, according to the newspaper Rua. The Glasgow, however, took no part in the engagement. Her commander received a report of the fighting only on the following day through a wireless message from the British cruiser Amethyst, which alone gave battle to the German raiders, numbering three.

The real fight occurred near Fernando de Noronha at night. One of the raiders, seriously hit, was observed to be sinking. The others succeeded in making their escape. Night prevented the Amethyst from ascertaining to what extent they had been damaged. That they had been damaged, however, is considered probable. One raider is believed to have been beached in a battered condition. The Amethyst suffered slight damage and had one man killed and one wounded.

GERMAN STOLE CHARTS OF ALASKAN HARBORS.

A despatch from New York says: Stolen Government charts of anchorages along the Alaskan coast were discovered by the police among the belongings of Herbert Sauer, a German deserter from the coast-guard service, who was sentenced here on Thursday to eight years in Sing-Sing Prison upon his plea of guilty to a charge of manslaughter for killing Mrs. Caroline Tiarka in her home in this city last August. When Sauer was asked what he intended to do with the maps, he replied, according to the police: "I wanted to make a name for myself when I returned to the Fatherland."

BIG REWARD FOR CREW THAT DESTROYS A SUB.

A despatch from Paris says: A prize of 500,000 francs for the crew of any French, allied or neutral vessel which succeeds in destroying an attacking submarine is provided for in a resolution introduced in the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday by Andre Lefevre.

A new baby carriage, which includes receptacles for clothing, can be folded to resemble a suitcase.

LEADING MARKETS

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Feb. 20—Manitoba wheat—New No. 1 Northern, $1.90½; No. 2, do., $1.87½; No. 3, do., $1.82½; No. 4 wheat, $1.73½, track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No 2 C.W., 71c; No. 3 C.W., 71c; extra No. 1 feed, 71c; No. 1 feed, 70c, all rail delivered en route.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.14, subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 63 to 65c, nominal; No. 3 white, 62 to 64c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.71 to $1.73; No. 3 do., $1.69 to $1.71, according to freight outside.

Peas—No. 2, $2.40, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.20 to $1.22, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.28, nominal, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.40 to $1.42, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $9.50; second patents, in jute bags, $9.00; strong bakers', in jute bags, $8.80, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, $7.10 to $7.20, in bags, track, Toronto, prompt shipment; $7.00, bulk seaboard, export grade.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $36; shorts, per ton, $41; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—Extra No. 2, per ton, $12 to $12.50; mixed, per ton, $9 to $11, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $9, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 36 to 38c; creamery prints, 43 to 45c; solids, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 47 to 48c; storage, selects, 50 to 51c; new-laid, in cartons, 55 to 56c; out of cartons, 52 to 54c.

Live poultry—Fowl, lb., 17 to 19c; chickens, lb., 18 to 20c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 22 to 25c; fowl, 20 to 22c; ducks, 22 to 25c; squabs, per doz., $4.00 to $4.50; turkeys, 28 to 32c; geese, 18 to 20c.

Cheese—New, large, 25½ to 26c; twins, 26 to 26½c; triplets, 26½ to 26¾c; old, large, 27c; twins, 27½ to 27¾c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb. tins, 14 to 14½c; 5-lb. tins, 13½ to 14c; 10-lb., 12 to 13½c 60-lb., 12½ to 13c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 9 to 9½c. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz., $2.75; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2 to $2.25.

Potatoes—Ontario, per bag, $2.90; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $3.25; Albertas, per bag, $2.95.

Beans—Imported, hand-picked, per bush., $6.25; Canadian, hand-picked, per bush., $7.00; Canadian primes, $6.00 to $6.50; Limas, per lb., 10 to 10½c.

Provisions—Wholesale.

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 26 to 27c; do., heavy, 23 to 24c; cooked, 37 to 38c; rolls, 21 to 22c; breakfast bacon, 27 to 29c; backs, plain, 28 to 30c; boneless, 31 to 33c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 21½ to 21¾c; tubs, 21¾ to 22c; pails, 22 to 22½c; compound, 16¾ to 17c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 18 to 18½c per lb; clear bellies, 18 to 18½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Feb. 20—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, $1.24 to $1.25. Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, 74 to 75c; do., No. 3, 72 to 73c; extra No. 1 feed, 72 to 73c. Barley—Manitoba feed, $1; malting, $1.35. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $9.60; do., seconds, $9.10; strong bakers', $8.90; Winter patents, choice, $9.25; straight rollers, $8.55 to $8.80; do., in bags, $4.10 to $4.25. Rolled oats—Barrels, $6.95 to $7.15; bag of 90 lbs., $3.35 to $3.45. Millfeed—Bran, $33 to $34; shorts, $36 to $38; middlings, $38 to $40; mouillie, $43 to $48. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $13. Cheese—Finest westerns, 26 to 26½c; do., easterns, 25½c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 42½ to 43c; seconds, 39 to 41c. Eggs—Fresh, 55 to 58c; selected, 48c; No. 1 stock, 45c. Potatoes—Per bag, car lots, $2.75 to $3.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, Feb. 20—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.67½; No. 2 Northern, $1.64½; No. 3 Northern, $1.59½; No. 4, $1.50½; No. 5, $1.30½; No. 6, $1.04½; feed, 98c. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 56c; No. 3 C.W., 53½c; extra No. 1 feed, 53½c; No. 1, 53½c; No. 2, 52½c. Barley—No. 3 C.W., 95c; No. 4 C.W., 90c; rejected, 78c; feed, 78c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $2.50; No. 2 C.W., $2.37.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, Feb. 20—Wheat—May, $1.74½; July, $1.70½; cash—No. 1 hard, $1.83½ to $1.85½; No. 1 Northern, $1.75 to $1.79½; No. 2, do., $1.72½ to $1.79½. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 98½ to 99½c. Oats—No. 3 white, 53½ to 54½c. Flour—Unchanged. Bran—$32 to $33.

Duluth, Feb. 20—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.77½; No. 1 Northern, $1.76½; No. 2, do., $1.71½ to $1.74½. Linseed—On track, $2.78 to $2.81; May, $2.81 asked; July, $2.81½ asked; to arrive, $2.78.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Feb. 20—Choice heavy steers, $10.50 to $10.90; do., good, $10.10 to $10.25; butchers' cattle, choice, $10.10 to $10.35; do. good, $9.50 to $9.75; do., medium, $8.60 to $8.80; do., common, $7.50 to $7.75; butchers' bulls, choice, $9 to $9.50; do., good bulls, $8.25 to $8.50; do., medium bulls, $7.15 to $7.60; do., rough bulls, $5 to $5.25; butchers' cows, choice, $8.75 to $9; do., good, $8.25 to $8.40; do., medium, $7 to $7.25; stockers, $6.25 to $8; choice feeders, $8 to $8.50; canners and cutters, $5 to $5.40; milkers, good to choice, $85 to $120; do., com. and med., each, $40 to $60; springers, $50 to $110; light ewes, $10 to $10.50; sheep, heavy, $8.50 to $9; calves, good to choice, $13.50 to $15; lambs, choice, $14 to $15; do., medium, $9.75 to $10.25; hogs, fed and watered, $14.40 to $14.50; do., weighed off cars, $14.65 to $14.75; do., f.o.b., $13.65.

Montreal, Feb. 20—Choice steers, $10 to $10.40; good, $8 to $9.75; butchers' cows, $6 to $8; butchers' bulls, $6 to $8.75; canners bulls, $5.50 to $6; canners cows, $5 to $5.50; calves, milk fed, $12 to $14; lambs, $13 to $14; sheep, $8 to $9; hogs, choice, $14.50 to $14.75.

AGAINST PROHIBITION.

Over 1,400 Soldiers Voted Against It and 221 For It.

A despatch from Vancouver says:—A cable gives the result of the prohibition vote overseas up to Wednesday evening as 1,406 against, 221 for and 41 spoiled ballots.

FRENCH CROPS 10 PER CENT. LOWER

Excessive Autumn Rains Responsible for the Decrease.

A despatch from Paris says: The report of the Agricultural Information Bureau, published in the official journal on Thursday, gives the average condition for the 1917 Winter crops as ten per cent. below those of 1916. With 100 signifying very good; 80 good and 60 rather good, the averages for 1917, as compared with those of 1916, are:

Winter wheat, 62, as against 70; rye, 67, against 72; Winter barley 65, against 73; Winter oats 66, against 72.

The Temps explains the official figures by the bad state of the soil at the time of seeding, insufficient supplies of fertilizers and the excessive Autumn rains. Some of the late seedings must be replaced by Spring seedings on account of the frost, though most of the wheat crop was well protected by the snow when the heavy freeze came and was not injured. The cold weather is considered to have produced very favorable conditions for Spring seeding.

EMPIRE'S WOOL CLIP NEEDED FOR ARMIES.

Shrinkage of World's Supply Compels Britain to Safeguard Output.

A despatch from London says: Replying in the House of Commons to criticism of the Government's method of requisitioning the wool clip of the Empire, H. W. Forster, financial secretary to the War Office, explained that the shrinkage of the world's supply of wool had compelled the Government to safeguard the enormous supplies needed for the Entente armies. He declared with emphasis that this action was solely a war measure, and without ulterior motives. Recognizing the importance of exporting wool in order to maintain the rates of exchange, Mr. Forster said that if it proved practicable the Government would do its utmost to stimulate exports even at the sacrifice of some part of the wool required for home consumption.

MAXIMUM DAIRY PRICES ARE FIXED IN FRANCE

All Must Be Conspicuously Displayed In The Shop Windows.

A despatch from Paris says:—The Food Ministry has decided that from Feb. 19 maximum prices are to be fixed throughout France for milk, butter and cheese. In the Department of the Seine, including Paris, the price of milk must not exceed ten cents for a litre (about a pint and three-quarters) if bought in a shop, or eleven cents is delivered. The maximum prices for butter vary from $1.12 to $1.34 per kilo—roughly two pounds—according to the quality and source.

The only cheese prices fixed so far are canemberl, from thirteen cents to twenty-six cents the small box, according to quality, and pont l'Eveous at slightly higher prices. All prices must be conspicuously displayed in the shops concerned.

There will be no celebration of Mardi Gras next Tuesday, but all theatres will be permitted to give both morning and evening performances. The two-course meal regulation, which applies to all hotels and restaurants, goes into effect to-day.

ALL COAL MINES IN BRITAIN TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

A New Officer Known As "Controller of Coal Mines" Will be in Charge of Department.

A despatch from London says: It has been decided by the Board of Trade to take possession of all coal mines in the United Kingdom for the period of the war in addition to those in South Wales already taken over. The President of the Board of Trade has decided to set up a new department to control the coal mines. The directors of the London and North-Western Railway have placed the services of their general manager, Guy Calthrop, at the disposal of the Board. Mr. Calthrop's official designation will be "Controller of Coal Mines."

DOMINION TO ISSUE ANOTHER WAR LOAN

Flotation Early in March to be Payable in Canada and New York.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Another Canadian war loan, the third to be issued in the Dominion, will be floated probably early in March. In view of the exchange situation between Canada and the United States, which is at present adverse to this country, it is regarded as likely that the securities of the new loan will be made payable both in Canada and New York.

No information as to the amount, terms or price of the new issue can, however, be given at present, as these details will not be settled until immediately before the loan is floated and will be determined largely by the conditions which then prevail.

The Finance Minister, it is understood, has been assured that he will have the co-operation, in the flotation of the new securities, of the bond-dealers and brokers, whose activity contributed materially to the success of the last domestic loan of $100,000,000.

GERMANS ARE BLUFFING ABOUT SUB NUMBERS

But American Says There is Surprising Lot of New Troops.

A despatch from London says:—An Amsterdam despatch to The Times quotes an American who has just arrived there from Frankfort, where he had resided for eighteen months, as saying that the Germans have a great and surprising number of new troops. The despatch says that every German man of military age who is not engaged in the munition industry has been ordered into the army, with the result that the German troops are now more numerous than at the beginning of the war.

In reference to the submarine campaign the American said that the stories current in Holland about the immense number of German sunbmarines was a German bluff, as he claimed to have information that there were not two hundred of the undersea craft available. Referring to the food situation he said:

"The allies have them down pretty well, but they are prepared for more hardships. The Germans can stand anything. I left Germany because the situation was growing too bad to be pleasant. Life in Frankfurt was very hard for the people. Any other population would rebel. There was a very bitter feeling there against the higher authorities and the people who were responsible for the war."

HALIFAX IS PORT OF EXAMINATION

Neutral Vessels Leaving the U.S. to Call There Instead of at Falmouth.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Confirmation of the report that the British Admiralty had designated Halifax as the port of examination for neutral ships leaving American ports, instead of Falmouth, was obtained from the Government on Thursday. It was stated by Sir George Foster, Acting-Minister of Marine, that negotiations in progress had reached a head and that it was definitely decided Halifax would be an examination port.

Whether it will be for all sailings in both directions, however, has not yet been decided. The latter arrangement might tax accommodation at the Winter port somewhat severely.

Officials of the Naval Service, Customs, Justice and Post-Office Departments will go down to Halifax to form an examination staff, which will be augmented by experts from Great Britain. Arrangements will be made to avoid all possible delay to the vessels examined. The new plan has been adopted at the request of neutral ship interests, who are anxious to avoid the dangers incident to examination at English ports in the blockaded area.

RUSSIANS AND GERMANS JOIN IN A WOLF HUNT

Pack of Wolves Forces a Suspension of Human Hostilities.

A despatch from Petrograd says:—A wolf hunt in which both Russian and German soldiers joined is described in correspondence from the Polish front. Parties of Russian and German scouts met recently and were hotly engaged in a skirmish when a large pack of wolves dashed on the scene and attacked them. Hostilities were at once suspended and Germans and Russians instinctively attacked the pack, killing about fifty of the wolves. After the hunt the soldiers separated, each party returning unmolested to its own trenches.

Along some sections of this front hungry wolves have been particularly bold this winter, constituting a real danger to outposts of both armies, and repeatedly the combatants have had to send out hunting parties against the common enemy. While at this sort of work sniping is suspended by a sort of tacit agreement among opposing forces.

One English invention for convalescents is a stout cane, from one end of which can be unfolded a projection to rest a user's foot.

From The Middle West

BETWEEN ONTARIO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Items From Provinces Where Many Ontario Boys and Girls Are Living.

The Drumheller coal fields were obliged to shut down for lack of cars recently.

Edmonton School Board have raised the salaries of the teachers of the Technical School.

The P. Burns packing plant at North Edmonton will enlarge their plant considerably this year.

Among the parties to outfit in Edmonton for the north next spring will possibly be a fire ranging patrol for the Mackenzie River.

Actual suffering has already been reported as a result of the coal famine at Lethbridge, Alta., resulting from the coal strike.

Two lumber mills are being operated west of Millet this winter by the Rowley Bennet and the Pigeon Lake Lumber Companies.

Two of the large flour mills of Winnipeg have announced a drop of 40 cents per barrel in flour. This makes the top grades $4.30 per sack.

The Geographical Board of Canada has given the name of Carthew to a mountain in Alberta, after Lieut. William M. Carthew, an Edmonton surveyor, who fell at Ypres.

W. M. Connacher, manager of the Calgary branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has resigned from the bank to accept the position of president and managing director of the Security Trust Company.

A. H. Buller, professor of botany at the Manitoba University, stated that it was probable that the rust which worked injury to the crop last summer was propagated on the leaves of the barberry bush, which grows on the plains of North Dakota.

The C.N.R. have carried coal from the mines of Alberta during the months of October, November and December, 1916, compared with the corresponding months of the previous year: 1916, 287,558 tons; 1915, 189,690 tons; net increase, 97,868 tons, or 51.6 per cent.

TORPEDO HAS A BRAIN.

Ears to Hear and Discretion to Deviate Course.

A torpedo with ears and a brain, capable of travelling forty knots and adjusting itself to meet all changes of course of an enemy vessel, was demonstrated before the Academy of Science at Pittsburg, Pa., by Montraville M. Wood, of Chicago. This torpedo, he declared, is now in the possession of the United States Government. He claimed the torpedo could "hear" a vessel approaching a mile and a half away and would then shed its anchor and attack.

"The 'ears' work on the same principle as human ears," said Dr. Wood. "The 'brain,' that's my secret.

"No vessel can get within ten miles of our coast without being detected. The instrument is a development of the dectaphone. The same principle is used in the 'ears' of the torpedo."

Wireless controlled and passengerless aeroplanes are a possibility, and a wireless controlled torpedo, together with a means to combat it, were to have been given a public trial by the United States Government this week, he said. Owing to recent developments, if the tests are made at all, they will be made secretly.

GERMAN NAVY IS WARNED DECISIVE BATTLE IMPENDS

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The following Imperial order, signed by the German Emperor, and addressed "to my navy," is published in the Marine Verordnungsblatt, according to a Berlin despatch: "In the impending decisive battle the task falls to my navy of turning the English war method of starvation, by means of which our most hated and most obstinate enemy intends to overthrow the German people, against him and his allies by combatting their sea traffic with all means in our power. In this work the submarines will stand in the first rank. I expect this weapon to be developed with wise foresight at our admirable yards, in co-operation with all our other naval fighting weapons, and, supported by the spirit which during the whole course of the war has enabled us to perform brilliant deeds, it will break our enemies' war designs."

GERMAN TROOPS MOVED FROM FRONTIER TOWNS

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The majority of the German troops recently concentrated on the eastern border of Holland now have disappeared from the towns along the frontier, according to reports received by The Handelsbladt.

MONTREAL ORDERS COAL FROM THE WEST.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Provided that shipment can be made immediately the City of Montreal has ordered seven hundred and fifty tons of coal from the Red Deer Valley Coal Company in order to check the coal shortage here.

The Doings of the Duffs.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO