

HISTORY OF THE YEAR

UNEXPECTED EVENTS HAVE FURNISHED SURPRISES.

It was Hoped That War Would End in 1917, but the Russian Revolution Upset the Calculations of the Allies—Important Changes Have Taken Place in Canada.

It must be admitted that the past year was in many ways disappointing to the Allies. Last January it was confidently stated that the war would be over by Christmas, and now there are men who believe that it may last two years longer. This change was mainly due to the revolution in Russia, which added one more democracy to the brotherhood of nations. Unfortunately for the Allies, however, the revolution and the reaction from autocracy to democracy have combined to cause a radical wave to sweep over the Slavs. Revolution has followed revolution, and the end of the year finds the extreme radicals in control. It will be some years before Russia becomes normal, with a moderate and progressive government. In the meantime the Germans have profited by the collapse of Russia. They have been enabled to secure fresh troops for the French and Italian fronts. Military experts believe that the Allies must now face the most important crisis of the war. They will have to hold back the overwhelming forces of the Teutons until the American army is ready to take the field. Then the deferred victory will come.

When the Germans decided to resume their ruthless submarine campaign, they took a step that brought the United States into the war. The war lords believed that the U-boats would bring the Allies to their knees before Uncle Sam could give them any aid, so the Kaiser risked this powerful addition to his enemies. The submarines did not accomplish what the Germans expected, and the British now have the U-boat menace well in hand. One of the great triumphs of the year. The United States entered the war, and will shortly be ready to give valuable assistance. The coming together of the three great democracies, Great Britain, France, and the United States, will probably be one of the most important events in the history of the world. The friendship cemented in war should alter the entire future of our civilization. The great branches of the Anglo-Saxon family are completely reconciled. That is the most significant happening of 1917, and it offsets the many disappointments of the year.

Even without the assistance of Russia, the Allies made steady advances all summer. Their outstanding setback was the Italian disaster. The Germans, having used pacifist propaganda to weaken the morale of the Italian troops, launched a great offensive, and in November invaded Italy. In other fields the Allies have made important gains. The British now occupy Bagdad and Jerusalem, thus dominating Mesopotamia and Palestine, and late in the year they cleared the final handful of defenders out of German East Africa, the last of the Hun colonies. On the Western front, with the exception of the defeat at Cambrai, the Allies have been invariably successful.

Canada has voiced its determination to have conscription and to stay in the war to the finish. The adoption of the Union Government idea may alter the whole of our politics, and by process of evolution that system of governing the country will possibly lead to important changes in our national life. The chief danger to the final evolution of the country is the bitter race hatred that has been fomented this year. At the present moment Quebec is lined up solidly against the English portion of the Dominion. The situation may yet lead to an acute crisis, and Canada, as a nation, must face and solve this difficulty in the future.

JANUARY.

- 1. The Russians announced the evacuation of the Roumanian Province of Dobruja.
2. The Germans occupied Braila.
3. The French forces left Pirana in Greece on account of the demonstration of the royalists against the democratic allies.
4. Sir Frederick Borden, former Minister of Militia in the Laurier Cabinet, died at Canning, N.S.
5. Capt. Fred Selous, the famous big game hunter, was killed in action.
6. The Allied Governments sent an ultimatum to Greece regarding the pro-German attitude of King Constantine and his advisers.
7. The Germans occupied Fokshani. Speaker Severyn joined the Borden Cabinet.
8. Portuguese soldiers arrived on the French front and began to take an active part in the war against Germany.
9. Premier Trepoff of Russia resigned.
10. Greece accepted the Allied ultimatum, though it later turned out that the acceptance was insincere.
11. The Allied Governments answered the peace note issued by President Wilson shortly before the end of the year. They declared that the war would have to continue until the Central Powers relinquished their purpose to dominate the world by brute force.
12. Anzac troops destroyed the Turkish position at Rafa in Palestine.
13. The Allies issued their final warning to Greece.
14. All neutral diplomats were ordered to leave Bucharest.
15. Admiral Dewey, the United States seaman, the hero of Manila Bay, died in his 80th year.

MARCH.

- 1. President Wilson was empowered by Congress to arm American ships to fight the submarines.
2. The Germans settled down in new positions after their great retreat, and the Hindenburg line was first heard about.
3. The British announced that 185,000 slaves in German East Africa had been given their freedom.
4. The United States Congress explored without making any decisive action against Germany. This was the result of a handful of traitors, described by President Wilson as a "little group of wiffling men."
5. British took over the entire Somme front to defend.
6. Count Zeppelin died suddenly.
7. The failure of his great plan to use the zeppelins to destroy England broke his heart.
8. The British under General Maude captured Bagdad from the Turks. This success was particularly interesting to Canadians because General Maude was a side-camp to Lord Minto and became widely known in the Dominion.

- 9. Carranza took oath of office as the first constitutional president of Mexico.
10. The Canadians captured Fresnoy.
11. Village of Craonne was taken by the French, who dislodged the enemy from their last position on Ladies Walk.
12. Bishop Mills of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario died at Kingston.
13. Generalial Greeks clashed with the Bulgarians.
14. The National Coalition Ministry was returned to power in Australia with majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
15. General Brusky was removed from the command of the Russian troops.
16. General Viviani was received at Ottawa by a joint session of the House of Commons and the Senate.
17. Premier Borden reached Quebec on his way back from the Imperial Conference.
18. German Chancellor refused to discuss the peace terms of the Teutonic powers.
19. General Petain was appointed commander-in-chief of the French armies in place of General Nivelle.
20. United States Ambassador to Great Britain, died in New York.
21. British Prime Minister made a suggestion regarding Irish Home Rule to the leaders of the Irish parties. This was the first

- 18. Earl of Elgin died in Scotland. Canadians were interested in this Scotch nobleman because he was born in the Dominion during the days of political storm and stress when responsible government was being established here.
19. A small naval engagement took place in the North Sea. Several German war vessels were destroyed while attempting to leave Zeebrugge on account of the ice.
20. Earl of Cromer, one of the greatest of British statesmen, who made his fame by his handling of the Egyptian situation, died suddenly.
21. The Kaiser hoisted the black flag as officially announced by the German Government campaign would be resumed at once.
22. The most important incident in the month of January was the announcement of Germany's return to the campaign of piracy. For many months the brutal element of the Hun Government had been advocating the adoption of this form of warfare. They promised that it would starve England and end the war before the end of June. At last the more humane and progressive German statesmen were defeated and the war lords got control. It was generally recognized even in Germany that the ruthless warfare might cause a rupture with the United States, but the war lords believed that they could bring the war to an end before the Americans could be ready to give the Allies any effective assistance. Their diplomats did everything possible to delay the action of the United States during February and March, and were ably assisted by the pro-German politicians of the United States. Their policy was to keep the submarine warfare in check until the war could be resumed on a more successful basis.
23. The United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany on account of the ruthless U-boat campaign.
24. Seven survivors of Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expedition reached Wellington, N.Z.
25. The Turks evacuated the south bank of the Tigris following a successful British offensive.
26. Germans evacuated Grandcourt, which was occupied by the British troops.
27. General Haig's troops captured Sully-Saillies Hill on the Somme front.
28. The British army in Mesopotamia reached the outskirts of Kut-el-Amara.
29. The Duke of Norfolk, the ranking member of the British nobility and the foremost member of the Roman Church in England, died in London.
30. The United States Government urged all Americans to leave Germany as soon as possible. China made the official threat to break diplomatic relations with Germany.
31. A revolution that Germany had fomented in Cuba burst into flame, but it was suppressed in less than a month.
32. British troops advanced on the Aeneas.
33. The Turks were defeated by the British near Kut-el-Amara.
34. Major-General Frederick Funtston, who commanded the American standing army, died suddenly.
35. Sir Robert Borden reached England to take part in the Imperial Conference.
36. The Germans retired three miles from the Aeneas, making their greatest retreat in two years, under cover of a fog. This retreat was the result of the battle of the Somme, and definitely stamped that great offensive as a failure on the part of the British during the summer of 1916 as a victory for General Haig's troops.
37. The New Brunswick Government met defeat at the polls.
38. The United States Government voted \$100,000,000 for war purposes.
39. The British occupied Kut-el-Amara after a sweeping victory over the Turks. Thus did General Maude advance the great disaster that the British suffered at this spot during the first year of the war.
40. The Provincial Legislature of Ontario gave votes to the women of the province.
41. It was discovered that Germany had proposed to Mexico and Japan that these two countries should attack the United States before that nation could be ready for war.
42. The Gommeourt, on the western front in France, was captured by the British.

of a series of moves in connection with this troubled question that finally led to the meeting of the Irish Convention, which will be remembered as one of the most important events of the year if it finds a peaceful solution for the old problem. The British announced that all German colonies are to be retained after the war.
17. The Italians captured Duino from the Austrians.
18. Sir Robert Borden announced in the House of Commons that he intended to conscript the manpower of Canada.
19. President Wilson announced that an expeditionary force of 28,000 men would go to France at once under the command of General Pershing. The President also decided to authorize Colonel Roosevelt's volunteer army.
20. Herbert C. Hoover was appointed food administrator of the United States.
21. Brazil decided to enter the war against Germany.
22. The Italians smashed the Austrian lines in the Carso.
23. Hon. A. J. Balfour said farewell to the United States.
24. Hon. A. J. Balfour arrived in Canada.
25. Premier Borden conferred with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and made an effort to organize a national government in Canada.
(Continued next week.)

APRIL.
1. The United States declared war against Germany at a special meeting of Congress.
2. A Brazilian ship was sunk by a U-boat.
3. The United States seized 91 German ships in the various harbors of the country.
4. The Canadians captured Vimy Ridge, with 11,000 prisoners and 100 guns. This was one of the most glorious pages in the history of the Canadian army.
5. Labor troops captured Amiens and tempt to upset the Hun Government and establish a separate peace with Germany.
6. Brazil severed diplomatic relations with the Central Powers.
7. British troops captured Montchy.
8. It was decided that an Allied council would meet at Washington, with Mr. Balfour representing England, and Viviani and General Joffre representing France.
9. The Dominion Government placed wheat on the list of free importations.
10. French captured Auberne.
11. German bombed a number of Roumanian towns.
12. French won a battle in the Champagne.
13. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour arrived at Halifax on his way to Washington.
14. A fight occurred in the English channel. The sailors on the British warship boarded the German vessel and fought its defenders hand to hand. It was one of the most picturesque incidents of the war.
15. The Canadians captured Arleux from the Germans.
16. The Germans were pushed back in the Champagne by General Nivelle's troops.

MAPLE ROAD
Mr and Mrs V. Allen are spending New Year holiday with their sister in Chatham.
Miss Beulah Bilton is home over the holiday time from Kuchener, where she is employed in a rubber factory.
Miss Georgina and Bessie Altes were home from Toronto over Christmas returning on Wednesday afternoon.
Mr J. Pollock, wife and daughter from Pittsburgh, are visiting Mr and Mrs Ab-rdein.
Mrs Wm. Merchant of Michigan, accompanied by her daughter, visited A. Merchant over Sunday.
Misses Flossie and Agnes Mark of Forest spent Christmas at C. Sehen's.
Miss Hazel Eccles has a girl friend visiting her over the new year from Vinto.
Mr. Rob Sim and family, who have lately returned from the West to make their home in Egremont, visited Geo. Altes for a few days last week.
Sincerest sympathy is extended by the people of Maple Road to Mr. and Mrs M. Eccles and family in their hour of sorrow by the death of their son, Pte. Roy Eccles, who has given his life in defence of his country.
A happy New Year to all and hope it may also prove to be a prosperous and peaceful one ere it closes.

Appreciates Home Mail

766054. Canadian Army Medical Corps - Resbora Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent, England.
To the people in and around Holstein:
It is always a pleasure for me to write to my friends in Canada, having received such kind treatment from you. Just received the Xmas box from the Patriotic Society. Many thanks. I tell you those socks are fine.

I have met several of the 147th boys among them Bert Dyer, who is improving rapidly. I hear from Percy Ross occasionally and several more of my old pals. I think of them continually in Flanders. Having had the experience I know what they are up against; specially this time of the year, standing to from 4 p. m. until 7 a. m. 15 hours in mud and water. Then go down into a dirty dugout for a little rest but not out of the sound of bursting shells. The company we keep in the trenches is not of the best sometimes. About 9 a. m. the Tom-Toms are to be seen mulling (bugs) fair size and at every apparition reinforcements are to be seen coming up. I think they are the only friend you could realize how eagerly the soldiers at the front look for mail from home. Home is never out of their minds. A soldier will do anything if he has a letter from home in his pocket. It seems to me some one there if it is only a card please write and it will be more appreciated than you think. A letter which you paid the supreme price at Vimy had in his pocket a letter from his mother received the day before. We buried soldier and letter together. If I could only picture to you the scenes in Flanders after one of those oppressive air raids when those who are left, with their chums, who have fallen bleeding, battered and dying it would not be necessary to urge you to write a note occasionally. We had several air raids in England lately. It is funny to be on the streets at night. No light to be seen in windows - all darkened. We have had several air raids.
Thanking you again for your many kindnesses, and wishing you all a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year as conditions will permit. I am
Yours truly,
Pte. C. S. Legge

HOLSTEIN LEADER

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Mr John Dixon is much improved in health at present.
Miss Adeline Haas of Toronto is a guest at Mr Ed. Haas'.

Miss Elizabeth Brown is home from Toronto for New Years.
Miss Minnie Rocks of Toronto is visiting at Wm Nelson's.
Miss Mona Rice is home from Tonawanda for the holidays.
Mr. Walter Smith of Sask. is visiting his sister, Mrs T. J. Reid.
Miss Mae Gregor of Mt. Forest is visiting at Mr J A Ferguson's.
Mrs James Waring of Toronto is visiting at Mrs. And. Coburn's.
Mr Earl Dingwall is visiting for the New Year with friends in Proton.
Messrs Melville and Merton Reid are home from the West to spend the winter.
Mr. and Mrs. Keith and children from the West, are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. J. Philp.
Mr and Mrs. Stephen Seaman visited their daughter, Mrs Fiddler in Neustad during the holidays.
Mr Harold Morrison of Shelburne, is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Walter Morrison.
Miss Rita Roberts spent a few days last week in Da-ham, the guest of her uncle Principal Allan.
Mr Will Orchard took a load of Holstein's to Orchard Christmas entertainment Thursday evening. Everybody had a good time.
Mr Geo Manary from the West is visiting with Mr John Manary and other relatives here.
Miss L. Morrison and Mr Harold Morrison visited the former's sister, in Mt Forest last week.
Mr and Mrs Wm Brown returned Wednesday from Toronto after visiting their daughter, Mrs Jno Manary.
Mr. Sam Smith, accompanied by John Orch road, and Mr and Mrs Hershey motored to Mt Forest on New Years.
A sleighload of the young people went to Hopeville Monday evening to attend a party.
Mr and Mrs Geo. Hart entertained a number of their relatives on Friday evening.
Mr J. H. Coleridge of Toronto visited his brother, D. P. Coleridge last week end.
Died - In Egremont, Friday, Dec 28, 1917, Janet Elliot, relict of the late Donald McMillan, aged 71 yrs, 9 mos. 14 days. Funeral to take place Wednesday at Mt Forest cemetery.
Mr Jim McMillan is home from the West and visiting his brother and sister here.
A sleighload of young people went to Durham New Years evening to enjoy a night skating.
The nomination on Monday for village trustees was held in R-bur's Hall. The former trustees, Messrs Nicholson, Roberts and Irwin, were elected by acclamation.
Rev Mr Scott conducted a Union watch night service in the Presbyterian church on New Years' Eve. The service was greatly enjoyed by those present.
The B. ok committee of the Public Library have an unusually fine selection of the latest books purchased, part of which are already on the shelves for circulation.
Rev. and Mrs. Winfield Hunt and children went to Toronto Saturday to spend New Year with her parents. Mr and Mrs Pettigrew before returning to their home at Lion's Head.

BOOTHVILLE

Christmas passed very quietly around this burg.
Miss Christina Cameron of Toronto spent New Year's at her home here.
Mr Geo. Wilson of Wiseton, Sask. is home for a few months.
Mr and Mrs John Pollock and daughter Laurena of Wellsburg, W. Virginia are spending a couple of weeks visiting their many friends.
A sleighload from this part attended the party at Mr Jack Lanes and all report a good time.
The many friends of Mr John Galbraith will be pleased to learn of his marriage to Miss Lillian Ulridge of New York State and after a sumptuous dinner they left on their honeymoon for New York and other points. After their return they will take up home-keeping in W-lisburg, W. Va. The hearty congratulations them.

ORCHARD

Miss Emily Edding on returned to Toronto Tuesday, after spending the holidays at home.
Our Xmas Tree entertainment was quite a success but owing to bad weather and roads, there was not a very large crowd.
We extend sympathy to the family of the late Mrs McMillan who passed away at her home on Friday morning. She was a kind friend and neighbor to all that knew her.
Mr and Mrs Falkingham and son Lo visited friends in the burg Thursday and Friday.
Mr and Mrs Adam Douglas visited Sunday at P. Cornish's.
Mrs Mighton and daughter Hester is visiting at Mr Wm Deakson's, for a few days.

YEovil

Happy New Year to all.
Despite the icy condition of our roads some of our young people ventured out to enjoy Christmas with their friends. A. Drimmie and family and P. Match and family at W. Orchard, Mt Forest; W. Crispin wife and baby at his mother's in Normanby; W. Sim and wife at her mother's at South Bend.

Mr and Mrs Hiccock of Holstein spent the day, which was also their golden wedding day, with her brother R. A. Nicholson.
W. J. Philp's entertained Mr and Mrs McDonald and daughter of Hopeville vicinity.
E. McRobb and wife went to Me-z to spend New Year's with her parents.
Miss Agnes Thompson of Harrison is the guest of her cousin Mrs R. A. Nicholson.
Mrs John Thompson and daughter of Harrison are visiting their cousin, Hugh Lamont and Mrs S. Eccles.
Russell Eccles recently made a business trip to Stratford.
Mrs Will Borrowes of Lumber, S. sk., was a recent guest at G. Swanston's.
John McInnes has returned to Hamilton after spending a few days at his parental home.
Miss Mary Long is home from Midland for a few weeks visiting her mother and brothers.
Geo Manary of Goldstone is enjoying a few days at T. Banston's in Egremont.

WEST LEBAN

Mr Geo. Wilson arrived from the West last week.
Mr Chas. Dixon, Sask., is also home on a visit after a ten years absence.
Mrs Alfred Tucker, who are pleased to say, is recovering from her recent illness caused by pneumonia.
The Red Cross sewing circle met at the home of Mrs J. H. Rusby on Thursday last.
At the school meeting on Wednesday last, Mr David Hooper was elected as trustee for No. 13. Miss Moe Eathern, the teacher, owing to her brother donning the khaki will not resume her teaching duties until Monday the 7th inst. wishing to meet him on the latter end of the week.
Mrs Walker of Owen Sound, nee May Lister, accompanied by her daughter, and nephew Master James Maszurov were visiting last week at her relatives the Lothian family and return to day, Monday.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

Do colds go down to your throat? Are your bronchial tubes easily affected? Above all, do colds settle on your chest? Then your lungs may not be as strong as you expected—consumption often follows.
Good Physicians Everywhere Prescribe
SCOTT'S EMULSION
Because its Pure Cod Liver Oil is Famous
for strengthening delicate throats and weak lungs while its glycerine soothes the tender linings and alleviates the cough.
Start on Scott's Emulsion today—It is Nature's building-food free from harmful drugs.
Scott & Bowne Toronto, Ont.

New Year Greetings

That we enjoy the full confidence of our trade is unquestionably evidenced by the large number of our permanent customers who have been dealing with us for years. To these and the many new customers we extend the season's greetings and may 1918 bring you all peace and prosperity.
Yours Truly

JOHN M. FINDLAY Dromore

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(Continued next week.)