

YEAR 82, NO. 297

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1915

SECOND SECTION

NEW PRISONERS OF LOW TYPE

Sixteen Out of Seventeen Product of Slums

OF THE RHENISH CITIES

TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIANS FOR THEIR BRAVERY.

Antipodean Correspondent was Honored by French Generals.—The Town of Bethany in France is in Ruins.

Paris, Dec. 21.—As I returned yesterday from a three-days' visit to the French front between Rheims and Soissons, I regretted sincerely that it is impossible to send all of France to the front for a similar trip, as well as numerous representatives of all neutral countries directly affected by the war through their territorial proximity to the belligerents as I feel sure all would return as I did, deeply impressed by the confidence felt at the front.

This confidence is not merely one to withstand any effect of the Germans to break through, but it is a confidence that it is the French armies that are now permanently on the offensive. Further progress is steadily bringing to perfection means of attack suitable to trench warfare and which the Germans are failing to meet by parallel defensive improvements.

On just such a visit as I made, a party of Swedish representatives, most of them distinguished individuals, recently went to the French front. Although such a party was sure to contain sympathizers with Germany, and might very well have contained German agents, the members were allowed to see everything, and it was no secret that they returned home with a greatly changed impression of the French strength and one not at all similar to that created in Sweden by the German propaganda.

Our party of six included a representative of the Australian Government to supply articles to the Australian press. It was pleasant to note how the general commanding the army to whom we were presented spoke first to the Australian bravery on the Gallipoli Peninsula. And this, even before welcoming the distinguished

historian Guglielmo Ferrero, who was with us. We stayed for some hours at Rheims and saw what remains of the recently-discussed Rheims "smile." Although the eyes and nose are obliterated, the dimpling mouth still exists to prove the correct identity. The caretaker of the cathedral, who daily studies the conditions of the ruins, is convinced that the Wines, if severe, will so delapidate the remaining walls and unroofed interior that restoration will be impossible. The arch about at Soissons was more hopeful about his beloved building, as experts have told him that restoration is still possible. "It," added the arch-priest, in doubtful tones, "enough money is forthcoming after the war."

Those who remember the world's first great aviation meeting at Bethany, outside Rheims, where Farman won the distance championship by flying to his credit, and Latham the altitude championship at 594 feet, miracles six years ago, will be interested to know that Bethany is now in ruins. Seventeen inhabitants still cling to their homes, which are liable to be shelled by any moment. They have several cows whose milk is much enjoyed in the neighborhood.

The whole district about Rheims is honey-combed with trenches. On a 10-mile front here there are 250 miles of trenches and "boyau" communicating trenches.

The Soissons sector has about 25 miles of excavated trenches, the minimum depth being six feet. They are of the most modern type, turning at right angles every few yards, being lined with wood to prevent the sandy soil from caving in, and floored with wood.

One of the most interesting incidents of our visit was the capture of seventeen prisoners the day before our arrival by French soldiers. They were found lined up awaiting examination as they were being sent to the Swiss Red Cross hospital.

They were, with one exception, degenerate and stunted youths, between 18 and 20 years of age, but apparently to be between 15 and 17. They were the product of representatives of Rheims' manufacturing town, and belonged to the class of 1915, and had been trained for six months before being transported to the front. When nobody was apparently watching them furtive and vigorous scratching betrayed a verminous condition. Letters from home

found on them described a scarcity of food. One letter said: "There is no oil and no butter even if you have the price to pay for it." Another of the letters seized was written by the bearer, but had been stopped by the regimental censor, and was still in the writer's possession. The words: "We had terrible losses," doubtless caused the letter to be stopped. Their regiment had participated during September in the German defence of the French offensive in Champagne.

Another party of prisoners captured earlier than these was busy raking the headquarters garden. They were decidedly superior in physique to the first 17 we saw, fellows who were the undersized dregs of a manufacturing city. It is, of course, impossible to say to what extent they represent Germany's latest recruits. They were the only Germans we saw, but the fact that 16 of the 17 were exceptionally good specimens of manhood would indicate that the particular draft in which they were taken was not made of exceptional stock.



GEORGE O'HARA, An old Kingston boy, a celebrated soprano, pianist and singer, who will appear at the Grand Opera House every afternoon and evening for the balance of the week.

LADY'S BAGGAGE WAS CRUDE RUBBER.

Plot Uncovered to Smuggle Huge Quantities to Germany Discovered.

New York, Dec. 22.—A plot to smuggle crude rubber from this country to Germany in the trunks of women who were engaged by Germans to travel to and from Rotterdam with a ton or so of the contraband packed in trunks classed as "personal baggage" has been discovered by agents of the Department of Justice and the neutrality squad of the Customs service.

One of the women and two men, including the alleged principal, have made a complete statement to Federal officials, and the case will be laid before United States Attorney Marshall to-day.

There have been no arrests. It is hinted that the three persons in question may supply information that will help the Government to even more important disclosures. The woman is Miss Anna Dekkers. She was about to sail for Rotterdam on the Holland-American liner Rynland on November 27th, when "from four to eight packing cases containing about 340 pounds of crude rubber," which she was about to ship as baggage without a manifest, were seized on the steamship pier in Hoboken. It was part of 10,000 pounds of rubber that had been bought from a dealer in this city. The man who is said to have arranged Miss Dekker's trips and the purchase of the rubber is Max Jaeger, who came to this country from Germany in 1902 and is a naturalized American. The second man, who did the actual purchasing, is Richard Wohlberg, a manufacturer of rubber cement.

Los Smith, Winnipeg, positively identified the remains of one of the three handkerchiefs shot at St. Paul on Friday night as Charles Carson, Winnipeg.

STRIP VENICE LIKE WARSHIP

To Protect It Against the Air Raiders.

MONUMENTS REMOVED

OR GUARDED BY SANDBAGS AND BRICK.

Famous Campanile Armored For Bombs — Statues Bricked In — Some Places Stripped Like a Battleship.

Venice, Dec. 4.—(Mail correspondence of the Associated Press.)—War has brought some strange changes and vicissitudes to this wonderful old storehouse of art, the greatest probably in all Europe, now in the heart of the war zone and in a state of siege, with bomb attacks frequent and the enemy frontier only thirty miles away. The grand canal looks to-day like a vast navy yard, and the whole city has taken on a warlike aspect of preparation and defence.

Three huge warships, one a dreadnought, swung in the grand canal just off the arsenal on the left. They were puffing black smoke and their gray hulls were crowded with sailors on the deck. A destroyer was near by ready to dart out for Austrian submarines. Rising from the arsenal was a huge dirigible balloon on the watch for enemy aeroplanes. It was not a long, sleek dirigible like a Zeppelin but a dirigible-like craft hanging at an angle, with a lobe as rudder, and the military observer in a hanging basket twenty feet below. At the same time two Italian monoplanes took flight from St. George's island, circling over the canals and quays. There was no siren alarm from the arsenal, so that people were free to go about their business on the watch for the enemy.

Armored for Bombs.

Turning to the famous campanile and the choir of San Marco, everything has taken on the grim visage of war. The campanile, one of the architectural wonders of the world, was piled with sandbags and a great wooden rack against it—a protective armour against bombs. A great wooden rack had been built to hold the sandbags, and they made a solid wall twenty feet thick around this precious monument.

All of the famous bronzes and marble reliefs were shut off from view of the armour of sandbags, but the great bell tower rose above the mark, 125 feet, still an open mark for bombs. The campanile, usually open to visitors, is now rigidly closed and the only ones going to the top are the military observers, watching day and night.

It is well this defence armour has been thrown around the campanile, for one of the Austrian bombs has already struck only 200 feet and another 300 feet away. The first bomb struck on the stone quay, squarely between the granite columns topped by the singular lion of San Marco, the emblem of Venice, and the other column with the statue of Theodore, patron of the Venetian republic. This bomb did not explode. If it had, it probably would have shattered these columns and might have reached the campanile. The other bomb fell in the grand canal and exploded under the water.

Statues Bricked In.

These two bombs were within fifty feet of the Palace of the Doges. And so the palace also was armoured even more solidly than the campanile. The beautiful building, ranking with the Alhambra, would not be recognized in its war dress. A solid brick wall ten feet thick has been built around each corner, this defending the sculptures of Adam and Eve, which Ruskin in his

stories of Venice, says are the finest in Europe.

All the other famous sculptures are similarly sheathed with the front of brick. The remarkable arcade has been solidly built in with brick, so that even if a bomb demolishes the top of this famous monument the foundations are sure to stand for two stories up. Above, huge timbers are laced across the side sheathing and support. Even the quatre-fol, or four, long windows, have become solid centres of 12-inch timbers.

All the movable contents of the Doges' Palace—the great collections of paintings—have been taken to Florence and other points far enough away from the frontier to be out of reach of aeroplanes. But some of the best of these paintings by Titian, Tintoretto and Paul Veronese are on the ceilings and side walls and cannot be removed. The splendid cathedral windows around the grand council chamber of the doges are boarded up with an outside sheathing of canvas. As a whole the structure looks more like a fortress than one of the art monuments of the world.

Stripped Like Battleships.

The Church of San Marco, next to the campanile and the Doges' Palace in importance and beauty, is similarly stripped like a battleship ready for action. The four bronze horses of heroic size, standing above the main entrance, have been taken down and are removed far from the frontier.

The Byzantine front of San Marco's Church has been given a defensive armour of heavy timbers, protecting the corners and pinnacles and domes. The movable pictures and mosaics of the interior have been removed, but here as in the Doges' Palace many of the finest art works are on ceilings and side walls, and must stay to take the chances of bomb raids.

The plaza of San Marco, which is the centre of life and gaiety in Venice, is now almost deserted. At night it is shrouded in darkness. The movable pictures and store front is heavily curtained, while people stand in awe and darkness—a warning to keep everything shrouded and that the city light plant may be extinguished at any moment. Out in the middle of the square are two little "war" fountains. One runs down 104 meters in the ground; the other 280 meters. Fine fresh water gushes from them. They are another war emergency, so that if the regular water supply of Venice is cut off these emergency fountains will keep people in water from the deep wells below. This water supply of Venice is a serious war question, as the water is brought from Castelfranco, 24 miles to the north and within a few miles of the Austrian borders. That is why these emergency war fountains, from local wells, are dotted all over Venice.

The Bridge of Sighs, which crosses one of the canals flanking the Doges' Palace, also gives evidence of the war, as Red Cross flags are hanging from its windows and one of the principal Red Cross hospitals is in the old prison to which the Bridge of Sighs leads.

THE SPORT REVIEW

Sport Border Head.

Jess Willard, heavyweight champion of the world, will box in aid of the Sportsmen's Patriotic Association fund in Toronto.

James E. Gaffney, owner of the Boston Nationals, states that the peace conference disclosed that the Federal League lost more than \$3,000,000 since its entry in the baseball world.

Pete Scott, the Hamilton Indian lightweight, has been matched to box ten rounds with Matt Wells at Buffalo next Monday night.

George H. Goulding has accepted the invitation of the Millrose Athletic Association to compete in its all-star programme of events in Madison Square Garden January 24th.

Ad Wolgast, former light-weight boxing champion, has been suspended for six months by the New York

State Athletic Commission. Wolgast had agreed not to appear in any ring before meeting Leach Cross at the Harlem Sporting Club last Friday. In violation of this he met Frank Whitney of Atlanta on Dec. 14th.

Lawrence Hegray, the well-known Cornwall lacrosse and hockey player has just enlisted for overseas service, having signed with the 154th, the new battalion to be formed as representative of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glenagarry.

Toronto Star: Jack Gooch, who captained the senior O.H.A. champions last season, is expected to join the 40th Battery this week, he having completed his course at Kingston. With Pethick and Gooch for a defence, no O. H. A. club will have anything on the battery.

Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, has given a flat denial to the Montreal fake factory's story that his government contemplated a racecourse tax of 20 per cent. of the gross receipts. Sir Lomer now knows what Dicky Boon of the Wanderers' hockey team meant when he suggested that a more stringent enforcement of the anti-drug laws would reduce the output of "news" in certain quarters.

Toronto Globe:—Dr. Robert Hanley of Kingston, who has been appointed attending surgeon at the Kingston Penitentiary, has a liking for the turf, as have so many of his profession. His tartan jacket is carried on the racecourse by Ajax, Lamb's Tail, Otero, Euterpe and other well-known performers.

John McGraw, like George Stallings, is out to beat the rule that keeps him from having a free hand in signing players for the Giants. McGraw figures the twenty-one man limit last summer beat him out of the pennant, for he could not go out in midseason and buy any player.

Premier Asquith declined to be drawn into any discussion of the subject of peace when Sir William Pollard Ryan, in a question, suggested that recent debates in the Reichstag indicated a disposition to transfer the issues of the war from the battlefield to the Council Chamber.

At the inquest into the death of Sergt. Osborne of the 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles, held at Grayshott, England, Monday, the jury, after three minutes' retirement, returned a verdict of wilful murder against Lieut. George Coderre of the 41st Canadian Montreal Infantry.

The British Admiralty has no confirmation of reports that the German submarine, which sank the Lusitania has herself been sunk.

Transcona advertisement featuring a hat and the slogan 'Worn from ocean to ocean by discriminating men'.

Jooke Bros. Limited advertisement, 'made in Canada'.

Farm for Sale advertisement, 100 acres, 12 miles from city.

Wood's Peppermint Cure advertisement, 'The Great English Remedy'.

FURNITURE HEADS THE LIST OF PRACTICAL XMAS GIFTS advertisement.

R. J. REID, Leading Undertaker. Phone 577 advertisement.

WE HAVE NOW COMMENCED Store Cars for the Winter advertisement.

Porritt Garage Co., - Limited advertisement, Wellington Street.

By Bud Fisher advertisement.

Christmas is Coming Only 2 Days Left! Shop Early! THE advertisements of leading merchants appearing daily in the columns of THE BRITISH WHIG present unlimited offerings of an attractive and reasonable character suitable for Christmas, a careful perusal of which will facilitate and make Christmas shopping profitable and pleasant.

A Strategic Retreat Beats a Game Defeat

Comic strip panel 1: WELL! AT LAST GENIUS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED! I'VE BEEN APPOINTED DRILL SERGEANT TO DRILL RECRUITS, AND BELIEVE ME, THE FIRST GUY I DRILL IS MUTT. I'LL MAKE A BOOB OUT OF HIM. SOME CLASS TO ME NOW!

Comic strip panel 2: GEE, I'M TIRED, YOU'VE BEEN DRILLING ME FOR TWO HOURS. STAND ERECT, YOU BOOB, THROW OUT YOUR CHEST, WITH EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD. THAT'S THE POSITION OF A SOLDIER, YOU BIG-STIFF!

Comic strip panel 3: MUST I ALWAYS STAND LIKE THIS WITH EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD? YES, YOU BIG BUM!

Comic strip panel 4: WELL! SERGEANT, GOOD BYE, I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

Comic strip panel 5: ?

Comic strip panel 6: ?