

12 PAGES

PAGES 1-8

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LAST EDITION

CANADA COULD CAPTURE U.S.

Weakness of the Republic is Pointed Out.

WAR CORRESPONDENT

RETURNS FROM EUROPE TO SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Condemns Ford Party—Declares Best Way To Prevent War Is To Be Prepared—Says U.S. Is Lightly Thought Of In Europe.

Syracuse, N.Y., Dec. 29.—E. Alexander Powell, war correspondent, has returned from the greatest battlefield in the world's history, Champagne.

The war correspondent came back to this country preaching the gospel of national preparedness, decrying the efforts of Henry Ford, and the others who are attempting to end the European conflict, and calling attention to the peril of the United States because of its lack of adequate national defense.

"Americans do not seem to understand the attitude in Europe toward Americans which has arisen since the war began," he said.

"The United States is of no more importance in the eyes of the European than the South American nations. I have seen the sentiment in favor of this country drop like the mercury in a thermometer on a cold day. Before returning to America I talked to a premier of the English cabinet and to a French cabinet member. I asked them what they thought would happen if the United States entered the war. Both men smiled good-naturedly. They weren't innocent about it, but it was apparent they didn't count very strongly upon the strength of the United States.

"What could you do?" The English cabinet member asked. "You have no trained army in the Continental sense and your navy is sixth, or possibly seventh, among the navies of the world. What could you do?"

"In Europe they know we are powerless, that our hands are tied and it is terribly galling to see us smitten at abroad overseas."

"At Champagne the battle front was about 15 miles long and in that space the French used 3,000 field guns of the latest type. That is only a tenth part of the field guns in the French service, but one can realize our own utter unpreparedness when it is known that we could not muster 300 field guns in the United States, including those in the regular army, in the militia and those under construction.

"Behind each of these field guns the French piled 2,000 or a total of 6,000,000 shells. In the whole United States, including the colonies, we have less than 600,000 shells, less than a tenth of those used by the French in one battle."

CANNOT SEE THE PERIL.

"Our people are wallowing in prosperity, but they don't see the peril. After this war the European nations will laugh at the Monroe doctrine, and they will go into Mexico and settle these difficulties there with or without our consent. We will be unprepared and will be helpless."

"If some of these peace-at-any-price people could have been with me on the battlefield at Champagne, the world would sleep again until they had established proper protection for this country. If we are forced into this war with a poorly trained army, almost no equipment and a very small navy, our young men will be sacrificed by the thousands. I have seen so much of war that I want peace and I know that the only way to get it is to be prepared for war."

Henry Ford and the others are mistaken. They are doing a great harm to the peace propaganda."

Mr. Powell said that Germany is a beaten nation, although she has been successful on every front.

"No matter what Germany may do, she is beaten," he said, "as long as England holds control of the seas. No nation can be dominant without sea power, and Germany cannot gain that. She may send her soldiers to Paris and Petrograd, but she cannot win. At present she has everything to gain by peace, but peace now would not mean the end of all wars."

COULD CAPTURE COUNTRY.

Mr. Powell has been in Europe three times since the outbreak of the war. He has been a close student of military tactics, and believes an enemy country could land troops in New Jersey and blow New York

city to "smotherous" with long range siege guns, and then take possession of the entire country.

"And this is liable to happen," he said. "Even Canada, with her meagre population, has an army sufficient to wipe us from the map. Still, the American sits back complacently, totally unprepared, and imagines that there is no nation rough enough to snap it on the wrist."

FLIGHT OF KING PETER OF SERBIA.

Tragic Story of the Aged Monarch's Journey Through Albania.

Berlin, via London, Dec. 27.—The Tageblatt's Sofia correspondent dramatically describes the flight of King Peter of Serbia through Albania, as told by an Albanian physician in a letter to a friend at Uskup.

The physician reached a miserable little Albanian village during a furious snowstorm, and could find no sleeping quarters nothing better than a stall in a peasant's barn. At the very height of the storm four cavalrymen appeared and demanded admission to the cottage.

Two of the riders tenderly lifted a third man from his horse and bore him into the house, while the fourth brought up the rearguard with boxes of provisions. The third man, seemingly a wounded Serbian officer, was laid on a couch. He weakly closed his eyes and turned his head as lights were brought. Then for the first time the physician, who had come to the house from the stable to watch the operations of the strangers, recognized in the apparently sick man King Peter of Serbia.

As his companions prepared the semblance of a bed for him, the King, between groans, thanked them but declined food. One of his companions, probably a physician, forced the King to take a little liquid nourishment after which the whole party sat for a time in gloomy silence; then made a pretence at sleeping. They resumed the journey before daylight.

ODGENSBURG WILL HAVE NEW THEATRE.

Structure May Cost \$30,000—Knights of Columbus Seek Quarters For Club House.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Dec. 29.—A new theatre is to be erected in this city by John Landry and C. E. Castle, who have just completed the purchase of a portion of the Avellini property on Ford street diagonally opposite the City Opera House. The plot stands at the intersection of Ford and Caroline streets and has a frontage of sixty feet on the former and about 125 feet on the latter. The purchase price was not made public, but it is understood to have been in the neighborhood of \$9,000. It is reported that the theatre will cost about \$30,000.

It will be managed by Robert Landry, son of John Landry.

8 SOLDIERS DIE FROM MEASLES.

Belonged To the 64th—Warning to Soldiers To Be Careful.

(Special to the Whig)

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Eight deaths are reported in the 64th Overseas Battalion, from measles. Instruction has been issued to various battalions in training everywhere in Canada to be very careful about colds or wet feet. La grippe and colds are very prevalent.

Twenty thousand pairs of larrigans for use by Canadian soldiers in the trenches in France have now been shipped from Canada. The new larrigans are strong and thoroughly waterproof.

The 64th Battalion is training at Halifax.

L.T.-COL. R. M. SIMPSON ARRESTED IN LONDON.

On Theft Charge Made By Government of Manitoba Toba.

(Special to the Whig)

London, Dec. 29.—Lieut.-Col. R. M. Simpson, of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, on leave here from the front, has been placed under arrest at the instance of the Government of Manitoba, charged with "stealing \$100,000." This is the Dr. Simpson case prominently in connection with the Manitoba Government scandals in Winnipeg in the erection of the new Parliament buildings. He secured an appointment and departed when the enquiry was commenced.

THE RUSSIANS CAPTURE

The Persian Trading City of Kassan.

(Special to the Whig)

London, Dec. 29.—Russian troops have occupied the Persian trading city of Kassan, ninety-two miles north of Ispahan, and are now marching on Ispahan, according to despatches received here to-day.

This despatch indicates that the Russians are progressing in their march to join the British in Mesopotamia.

A Black Hand letter was followed by a bomb explosion in a Montreal grocer's premises, twenty other houses being damaged.

Judge MacWatt refused to again revise the voters' list for Petrolia at the instance of the anti-local option interests.

A. C. Kingstone has been appointed City Solicitor of St. Catharines.

THE WHIG'S CONTENTS

Page 1—Canada Could Capture United States; Big Battle in Britain; New Chinese Dynasty.

2—Achaciamus; Man Abused Wife on Street.

3—Told in Twilight; Tommy Atkins as Petrolia.

4—Randall Random Reels; Walt Mason's Rhymes.

5—Military News; Local Events.

6—Announcements; Timely Announcements; The Forum.

7—Military News; Theatricals.

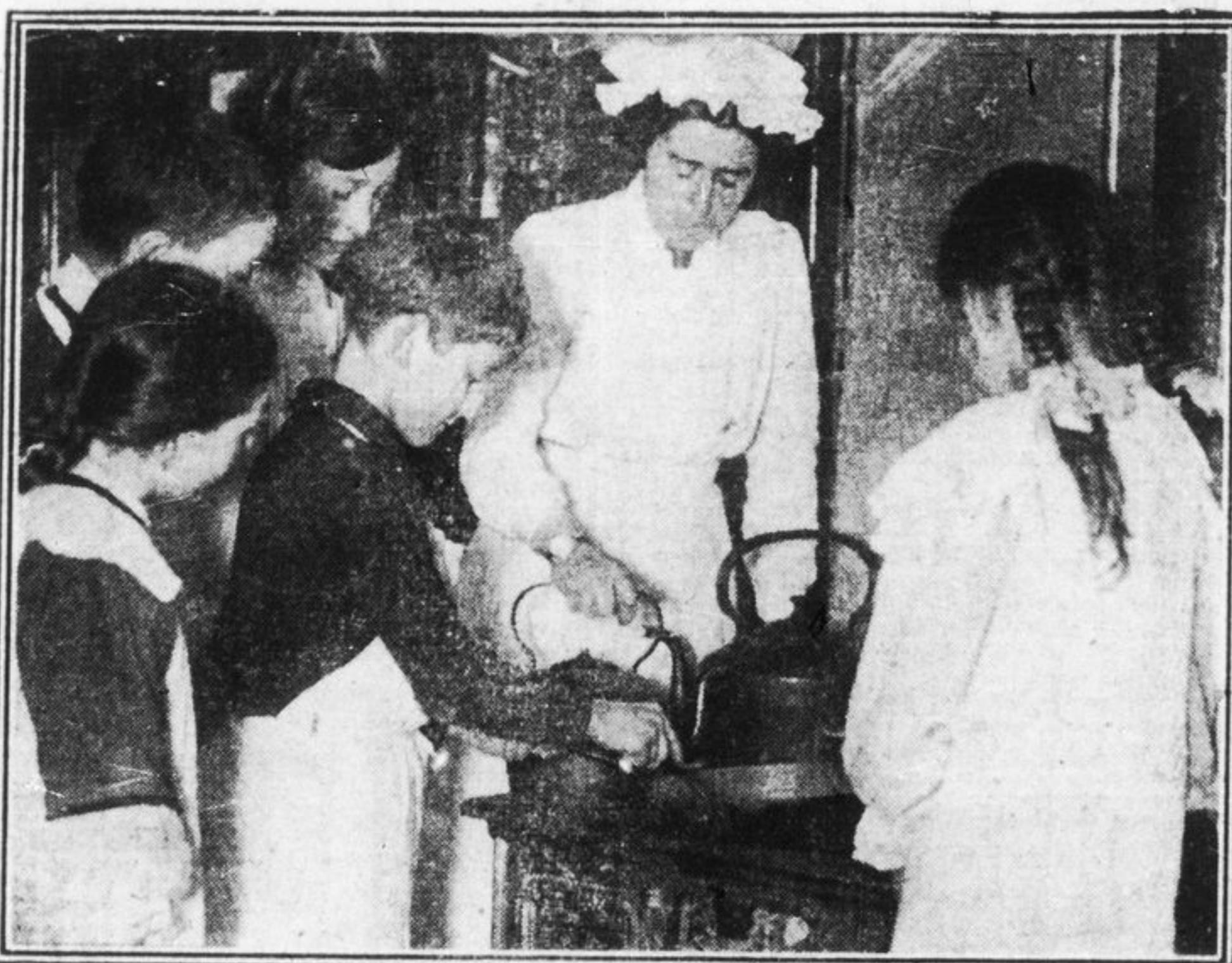
8—Rushmore; Shad Amherst; To Oppose Aggression.

9—Told in Twilight; Woman's Journal.

10—Overseas Happenings.

11—Local News.

12—Lester Market Reports.



WAR TIME COOKERY SCHOOL ON WHEELS.

One of the features of the "wave of economy" now spreading over England is the system of domestic science travelling schools sent out all over the country by the Government to teach more economical cooking and feeding. The photograph shows the interior of one of these schools, with the boys as well as the girls being taught to fry sausages and bacon.

OPENING GUN IN STRUGGLE

To Defeat Britain's Proposed Conscription Bill.

FIRIED BY THE STAR

WHICH SAYS CONSCRIPT ARMY DEVOURS EVERY MAN

Less Than 300,000 Unmarried Men Eligible For Service Now—Little Hope That They Will Come Forward Voluntarily.

(Special to the Whig)

London, Dec. 29.—The opening gun in the struggle to defeat the Government's proposed conscription bill was fired by the Evening Star today.

Comment of the afternoon press generally followed political lines. The Star, however, presented a length editorial summing up the arguments of the anti-conscriptionists are expected to make in Parliament.

"Conscription," said the Star, "is a slippery slope. Once the nation steps thereon there is no repantance. It is impossible to place a limit upon the appetite for a conscript army. It devours every man. There is such a thing as economy of man power as well as economy of money power. We are not extravagantly thrifty in either."

The Westminster Gazette (Liberal) acquiesces in the decision of the Government, but it declares it has some misgivings about odds and wet feet. La grippe and colds are very prevalent.

The best estimate to-day were that less than 300,000 unmarried men were eligible for service, and without dependents, would be added to the service, the great majority having volunteered under the Derby plan.

Recruiting officials expressed little hope that these men will come forward voluntarily before the Government acts.

NOT SEIZED BY GERMANS.

Civil Population of Belgium Retain All Relief Supplies.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Marie Goor, Belgian consul-general at Ottawa, has received a caled denial from Paul Hyman, Belgian minister to the Court of St. James, of the story sent out from Rotterdam a few weeks ago to the effect that 150,000 pounds of cheese from Bruges had been seized by the Germans, and that the International Relief Committee supplied the Belgians, who in turn are expected to make known its decision on compulsory service.

Some hope was expressed by the conscription leaders that the Laborites will not fully oppose the modified form of conscription understood to be planned by the Government.

Their opposition of the Irish party if Ireland is included in the conscription, is expected. In many countries it is believed to-day that the Government will conclude Ireland to escape the antagonism of the Government railways. The Labor party may know its decision on compulsory service.

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The exact working out of the new low wheat will be done at once. C. A. Hays, general traffic manager of the Government railways, is to be from Armstrong to Quebec, which will be for wheat carried all the way by the Transcontinental, will be six cents, as announced.

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With the traffic already offering the engines on the Government railway, it will be in use, everyone, that is to say, which is capable of hauling freight.

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