

300 IN HALIFAX, N.S., KILLED BY EXPLOSION

When American Ammunition Ship Collided With Another Boat--Many Places Caught Fire--Freight Cars Blown Off Railway Tracks.

Montreal, Dec. 6.—Scores of people have been killed, hundreds of buildings destroyed and a portion of Halifax set on fire by an explosion which occurred following a collision of an American ammunition ship and another vessel at Rockingham, according to telephone messages reaching here this morning.

The explosion was so terrific that it destroyed the installations in telegraph and telephone offices for thirty miles around Halifax, while it was heard at Truro, sixty-one miles distant.

It is reported that an American munition steamer was moving out from a pier and was rammed broadside by another vessel. Instantly there was a tremendous explosion which practically destroyed the two ships and killed all their crews.

The concussion resulting caused the roof of the railway depot at North street to collapse, while all the warehouses on the water front for a mile and a half were damaged. The premises affected in many places caught fire. The force of the concussion was so great that freight cars were blown off railway tracks.

Help Being Rushed to Halifax.

Messages asking for fire engines and fire fighting apparatus, doctors and nurses, hospital supplies, etc., were received by a number of localities in Nova Scotia from Halifax. Special trains were made up with everything required that could be secured. At Truro, Windsor and here, City Councils met this morning, and decided to take immediate steps to render aid to the afflicted people of Halifax. It is understood that large quantities of food were destroyed and that the citizens of Halifax may soon be in danger of starving. It was decided that carloads of food must be despatched at once. All the wires are down and cables to Halifax are interrupted. The censor has taken charge of all sources of news and nothing official is so far given out. One report said the explosion of a bomb did the damage.

Loss of Life Estimates.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Truro, N.S., Dec. 6.—It is reported here that the first estimate of the loss of life in the explosion in Halifax harbor this morning places it at fifty, while the number injured is correspondingly great.

Cases from Halifax via Havana say that hundreds were killed and thousands burnt in this morning's catastrophe. The north end of the city is in flames. One report says an area of nearly a mile square is a mass of wreckage, while several square miles were more or less affected. The Canadian Government Depot, also used by the C.P.R., is utterly crushed, while the repairing plant at Willow Park is wrecked.

Halifax Reports 300 Dead.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Truro, N.S., Dec. 6.—Reports reached here this afternoon that it was feared that many people lost their lives when the railway station at Halifax collapsed. Twenty-five railway workers were killed on the track near Richmond. This afternoon word from Halifax gave the number of dead from the munition ship explosion at 300.

Think Reports Exaggerated.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Ottawa, Dec. 6.—Authentic official advice as to the loss of life and the extent of the damage done at Halifax were still lacking at the capital up to 12:30 o'clock today. One despatch says the munition boat was backing out of the dock when rammed.

Officials of the Naval Department were trying to get into touch with Halifax by wireless at the time news of the disaster was received, but no further details had been obtained up to noon. It was said at

HUNDREDS OF APPEALS

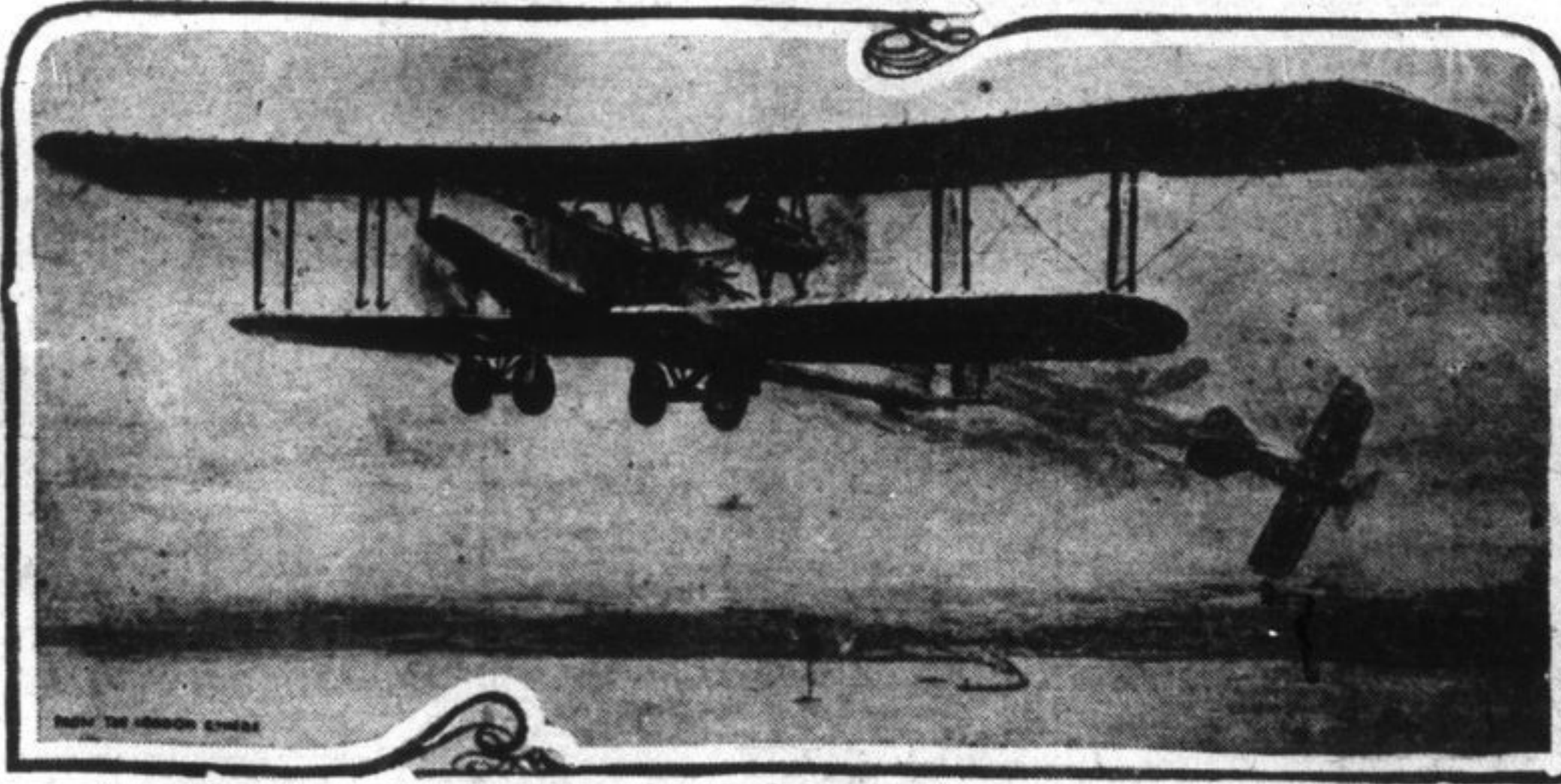
ELECTORAL BOARD OF APPEAL WILL HAVE MUCH WORK.

The Enumerators' Lists Are Very Incomplete—Over 300 Applications Are Already Filed.

T. M. Aeseltine, clerk of the Election Board of Appeal, is sending the following letter to each of the candidates in the coming election: "To remove any misconception, the chairman of the Board of Appeal, after consultation with his colleagues, desires me to say that the board can hear only such cases of appeal against omission from the lists of which no of the board and to the enumerators of the polling subdivision as provided by the act. It will be necessary therefore, to establish in each case that such notice has been given. Practice has been given both to the clerk and to the enumerators of the no-

- WHIG CONTENTS. 1-Killed in Halifax Explosion; Heavy Fighting in Italy; Blind Murderer Sentenced; Discard Kaiser and Peace Comes. 2-Late Postal Regulations; Incidents of the Day. 3-Called a New Pastor. 4-Editorials; Ripping Rhymes; Press Opinions; Things That Never Happen. 5-Soldiers with Nickle; Committee Selected. 6-District News. 7-Amusements; Announcements; The Forum. 8-About Two Battalions; Military Matters; Theatrical News. 9-Sunday School Lesson. 10-Gravestones; Publicity; Telegraphic News. 11-Sunday School Lesson, Continued. 12-In the World of Sport.

GERMAN AEROPLANE KNOCKED OVER IN AIR RUSH



The incident illustrated happened during a raid on the Belgian coast. The big British bomber was attacked from above by a German scout, who, finding the upper air too hot, dived behind, hoping to rake her antagonist by firing at her from dead astern. She then met the terrific rush of air from the two huge four bladed propellers of her foe and was literally blown over and fell at once, going down wing over wing, and had made four of these aerial somersaults before her pilot could get her once more under control.

HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND ASIAGO

Is Still Going on, Leaving the Final Outcome Yet Uncertain.

ASSAULTS BY THE ENEMY

MADE WITH LIQUID GAS AND INFANTRY WAVES.

It is Officially Announced That the British Have Slightly Advanced Their Lines Southwest of Lavacquerie on Cambrai Front.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Italian headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 6.—Heavy fighting around Asiago has developed rapidly. The enemy assaults began by liquid gas and waves of infantry. Fighting continued throughout yesterday and last night along the heights back of Asiago, marked by the zone between the

heights of Monte Sizemol and Monte Isotta. This line extends nearly ten miles. Attacks and counter-attacks are going on, leaving the final outcome still open.

British Advance Lines. (Canadian Press Despatch.) London, Dec. 6.—The British have advanced slightly their line southwest of Lavacquerie on the Cambrai front, it is announced officially.

Berlin Claims Captures. Berlin, Dec. 6.—The capture by the Germans of Graincourt, Anneux, Cantaigne, Noyelles and the wood and heights north of Marcoing, is announced by the War Office. The Germans are said to have advanced their line to a depth of four kilometres over a section of ten kilometres in length.

Brothers Meet in France. Cobourg, Dec. 6.—Sapper J. S. Abernethy and Gunner Herb. Abernethy, Campbellford, met in France a short time ago after a long separation. The former had been in the West for eleven years before enlisting there, the latter being only eight years of age when he left home. Another brother, Carl, is in England.

Fred. Mohs, Pembroke, charged with sedition, was acquitted by a jury at Pembroke on Wednesday.

BLIND MURDERER IS SENTENCED

William Bennett, of Montreal, Sentenced to Be Hanged on April 17th.

JURY DECIDES HIM SANE

BENNETT TOLD JUDGE HE WOULD DIE LIKE MAN.

Owing to Loss of His Eyesight He Will Likely Be Sent to Prison For Life—His Aged Parents in Court.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Pembroke, Dec. 6.—Satisfied that he was quite sane, the jury last night returned a verdict of guilty in the case of William Bennett, aged twenty of Montreal, who shot and killed Bruce Leitch who had just married the girl Bennett loved, at Sand Point, in July last. Bennett also seriously wounded the girl and destroyed his own eyesight in attempting suicide.

When Justice Latchford asked the prisoner if he had anything to say, he replied: "No sir, I will die like a man." He was then sentenced to be hanged on April 17th. Bennett's aged father and mother were in court. It is understood that Bennett's sentence will eventually be commuted to life imprisonment owing to the fact that the unfortunate man is blind.

Plea of Insanity. That the accused young man was temporarily insane when he murdered Bruce Leitch and attempted to murder his victim's bride was the defence offered for William Bennett, who was before Justice Latchford for trial. The Grand Jury brought in a true bill against Bennett after a deliberation of a few minutes.

The prisoner endeavored to prove that a few years ago he was in a motor accident and injured his head. The blow was so severe that he was subjected to temporary fits of a mild form of insanity. It was contended that while in one of these moods he found that the woman, who had rejected him, was at Arraprior, and crazed with the disappointment he had suffered, sought the bride and groom and endeavored to murder both of them. He succeeded in killing Leitch.

The prosecution had a strong chain of evidence which went to establish that Bennett not only killed Leitch, but according to medical evidence was perfectly rational immediately after having committed the awful deed.

The prisoner had made several statements in which he did not deny that he had murdered Leitch.

Mrs. Leitch Testifies. Mrs. Leitch in the witness box told how Bennett, after killing her husband and wounding her twice, crawled to her side and stated that he had not intended killing her but was not sorry that he had put Leitch out of the way.

Realizing that he is in the shadow of the gallows the youthful murderer, he attained his 20th year in jail a few days ago, has been showing signs of great worry.

Mrs. Leitch retains a bullet in her jaw, where it has been imbedded. Although fully recovered from the shock of the experience she underwent on July 16th, her hearing is seriously impaired owing to the presence of the bullet in the side of her face. It is doubtful if her hearing will ever be normal.

The Murder Committed. On July 14th, Renfrew and the neighborhood was electrified, when word was received that a cold blooded murder had been committed on Sand Point road, some little distance from Renfrew. Lying on the road were found their bodies, the lifeless one of Bruce Leitch, his bride who was severely wounded and the murderer, William Bennett.

Leitch and his bride were in Renfrew County on their honeymoon trip. On the day of the crime Bennett, a rejected suitor, made his appearance and revealed to Mrs. Leitch by his actions and words that he was going to "get even" for the rejection of his suit. Unperturbed by the fears of his bride Leitch took her for a drive in the country. In the meantime Bennett made a detour and when the young couple reached his place of hiding he revealed himself, and at the point of a revolver ordered the bride and groom from the conveyance. With menacing aim he fired at Leitch, killing him. Turning the weapon on Mrs. Leitch he wounded her. He then shot himself in the temple and for weeks afterwards was near death.

The bullet severed the optic nerve and robbed him of his sight.

SEA FIGHT LIKELY TO BE END OF WAR

Arthur Pollen, Eminent Naval Expert, Says Submarine Menace is Ended.

Toronto, Dec. 6.—This greatest of wars will be ended by the greatest of naval battles, and that battle will be won by the Allies if the allied offensive on the western front is made so strong that Germany cannot withstand it.

That is the view of Arthur H. Pollen, the eminent British expert on naval warfare, who arrived in Toronto yesterday. The points by Mr. Pollen are:

Greatest naval victory in history will end the war if Huns fall on land.

Submarine menace is averted; undersea war is on wane.

Allies will soon be producing ships twice as fast as Huns can sink them.

Submarine has failed as weapon to prevent military movements.

Allies have carried 13,000,000 men in ships with loss of only 3,500.

German navy, if it does not come out, may be crushed by combined land and sea operation.

Canada's naval programme may be left until after the war.

EXCHANGE OF PASTORS.

St. James' Methodist Church Invite Rev. Dr. Henderson.

Montreal, Dec. 6.—The quarterly board of St. James' Methodist church has decided to extend a call to Rev. Dr. James Henderson, pastor of the Timothy Eaton Memorial church, Toronto, to succeed Rev. Major G. A. Williams, who has accepted a call to the Toronto church. Dr. Henderson is a former pastor of St. James'.

ENGLAND IS RAIDED BY 25 AIRPLANES.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London, Dec. 6.—About twenty-five airplanes raided England to-day, it is announced officially. Of these six reached London. Two of the raiders were brought down, the crew of three men on each machine being captured.

It is believed the casualties in the raid are few. The first group of enemy machines appeared shortly after 1 a. m. over the Kentish coast, and other groups reached London at 3 a. m.

Seven persons were killed and twenty-one injured in the London air raid. Charles Bonar Law announced in the British House of Commons.

EDITOR TO BE TRIED.

Pleas Not Guilty of Charge of Sedition.

Brockville, Dec. 6.—George William Mason, editor and proprietor of the Prescott Journal, was committed for trial on a charge of sedition arising out of an item appearing in his paper two weeks ago. Mason claims the matter was published without his knowledge during his absence hunting. Later he appeared before Judge Reynolds, and, selecting trial by judge, pleaded not guilty, and the trial was fixed for Dec. 28th. He was liberated on \$2,000 bail. The item complained of referred to conscription.

NEW AVIATION CAMPS.

Imperial Munitions Board Instructed to Equip Five. Ottawa, Dec. 6.—The Imperial Munitions Board has received instructions to equip a camp for five more aerial squadrons and for a school of aerial gunnery. The location of the camp has not yet been settled.

Foreigner Beat His Wife.

Bellefleur, Dec. 6.—Damilo Tomico, a foreigner, was placed under arrest on a charge of beating his wife. Owing to the condition of the woman the accused was remanded to jail for a week.

U. S. Troops for Italy.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Washington, Dec. 6.—The House Foreign Affairs committee's report on the war resolution declares that the United States probably soon will send troops to Italy.

The Pope is not assisting and does not intend to assist in the negotiations for peace or an armistice between Russia and Germany. The tribunal of the City Council chamber will be in session on Friday. There are eleven cases for consideration.

DISCARD KAISER AND PEACE COMES

Let Germans Establish Democratic Government if They Wish Hostilities to Cease.

THAT'S THE INTERPRETATION

OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

German People Can Calculate What They Will Gain by Refusing to be Led Further Astray by Their Militarists.

New York, Dec. 6.—The German people may shortly know the terms on which they can have peace if they overthrow Kaiserism and establish a democratic form of Government.

This will be the result of President Wilson's message to Congress if the allies accept the obvious invitation the President has extended to them to declare their war aims.

Bargaining is the trade of diplomats, but American diplomacy wants nothing out of the war to be bargained for. Other belligerents, however, are not in this position. They desire other things besides the establishment of a Parliamentary Government in Germany.

France, for instance, wants Adolphe-Lorrain. The justice of these ambitions and their relationship to a democratic peace would have to be determined before any public announcement of peace terms were made. If the allies should state the irreducible minimum of their terms they would have to take into consideration the practical possibility of securing what they want.

Nations Must Face Facts.

To arrive at a basis in determining peace conditions is difficult because national prejudices are frequently hard to overcome. Nevertheless, before the war can end, each nation must face the inexorable facts confronting it. President Wilson's message to Congress is the most important move yet made by a belligerent Government toward looking facts in the face. The final test of war aims must now centre about the extent of sacrifices a nation is willing to make to run the risk of getting what it wants.

Once let it be made clear to the Germans what these aims are, and the war will have entered a new phase. The people of Germany can then calculate exactly what they will gain by refusing to be led further astray by their militarists and what they must pay for having started the war.

ITALIAN CRISIS OVER.

No Immediate Indication of a Big Enemy Attack.

London, Dec. 6.—Gen. F. B. Maurice, Director of Operations, says of the Italian situation: "I see nothing to modify my opinion that the Italian crisis is over. I see no immediate indication of a big enemy attack and the advance is definitely checked."

Foreign Minister Trotsky, of the Bolshevik Government, threatens "grave complications" to-day, if the Allied powers interfere in Russia's internal affairs.

British guns Wednesday smashed great groups of Germans massed for attack in the direction of Villers Plouich before the German attacking machine could get under way.

French batteries shelled the enemy lines, causing great damage at all points.

TARRIED AND FEATHERED.

Colorado Pro-German is Disciplined and Put on a Train.

Hugo, Colo., Dec. 6.—Henry W. Dutsch was seized by a mob last night because of alleged pro-German utterances by him, stripped of the waist and a coat of tar and feathers applied. His clothing was put on over the tar and he was placed on a Denver-bound train in charge of an armed guard named Kaiser, with instructions that he be turned over to the federal authorities at Denver.

British Aviators Did Damage.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London, Dec. 6.—The British Admiralty report say that British machines raided various German military posts in Belgium yesterday, doing immense damage. All machines returned safely.

ARMISTICE TO LAST TWENTY-FIVE DAYS.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Petrograd, Dec. 6.—The armistice is to last twenty-five days. The Teutons would not agree not to transfer troops to other fronts.

Rumanians Not For Peace.

Washington, Dec. 6.—King Ferdinand of Rumania assures President Wilson that his country does not seek a separate peace.

KINGSTON AND FRONTENAC GIVE \$2,575,150 TO VICTORY LOAN

The total subscriptions to the Victory Loan in Kingston and Frontenac amounted to \$2,575,150 as follows:

Table with columns for Team No., Special, Banks, and Total. Includes amounts for Team No. 1 (\$194,100), Team No. 2 (\$342,100), Team No. 3 (\$387,100), Team No. 4 (\$350,950), Special (\$15,700), and Banks (\$1,290,950).

County of Frontenac.

Table with columns for Canvasser, Bank, and Total. Lists amounts for Bedford (\$11,550), Clarendon (\$1,950), Howe Island (\$21,000), Hinchinbrooke (\$11,800), Kingston (\$65,550), Kennebec (\$2,800), Loughboro (\$16,950), Olden (\$7,350), Pittsburg (\$7,950), Portland (\$28,050), Portsmouth (\$10,400), Palmerston (\$2,600), Stronington (\$39,500), Wolfe Island (\$3,250).

Less Conversions \$310,850 92,400 403,250 700 402,550

City of Kingston \$2,172,600 Townships 402,550 Total \$2,575,150

"REMEMBER THE KIDDIES!"

The Whig's Fund For Christmas Presents to Soldiers' Children.

Table listing donors and amounts for the Whig's Fund. Includes W. F. Nickle (\$100.00), Senator Richardson (\$50.00), W. J. Fair (\$50.00), Stacey's Limited (\$50.00), Mayor Hughes (\$25.00), Royal Military College Cadets (\$25.00), British Whig (\$25.00), Ald. H. W. Newman (\$10.00), Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Whiting (\$10.00), A. B. Cunningham (\$10.00), Major G. I. Campbell (\$5.00), Col. and Mrs. Perrean (\$5.00), F. Atkinson Wray (\$5.00), Mr. and Mrs. L. Hitchen (\$5.00), Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. W. H. Macnee (\$5.00), Lend-a-Hand Circle, King's Daughters' Mite Box, Post Office (\$4.00).