

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO WHIG PATRONS

BRITISH ADVANCE IN OLD PALESTINE

Occupying More Towns North of Jaffa--Effective Aerial Work Has Been Carried Out on Enemy Forces.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London, Dec. 24.—General Allenby's troops in Palestine continue their advance on the plain of Sharon, north of Jaffa, and have occupied four more towns. The official statement on the operations issued last night reads: "On Saturday morning with naval co-operation our left continued to advance north of Nahrelauja, reaching Sheikh-el-ballutahel-Jeli about four miles north of the river. Pushing eastward and south of the river we occupied Fejja and Mul-ebbis. "This was followed by the capture of Rantieh, on the Turkish Railway to the north and Kelbeida-Kelbiros, four miles south-east of Rantieh. "Effective aerial work was carried out on the enemy transports and infantry."

"RESERVES OF VICTORY" ARE UNCLE SAM'S ARMIES

War Secretary Baker Says That Notwithstanding Germany's Newest Peace Propaganda, the United States Must Assume the Full Responsibility Resting Upon It.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Washington, Dec. 24.—Germany's newest peace propaganda, viewed as a forerunner to an offensive in the west, unless a German-made peace is accepted by the Allies and the United States, should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war, says Secretary of War Baker, in his weekly review of the military situation. The review points out that the fighting morals of Italy may be relied upon no matter how intensive the German peace campaign becomes. "Since the defeat of the German forces in front of Verdun," says Secretary Baker, "England and the British dominions have taken over an increasingly large share of the burden of the war. It is our duty, therefore, in looking to the future, to realize that if we, the United States, are to fulfill the pledge we made on entering the war, if we are to fight this war to a successful conclusion, we must assume the full responsibility which rests upon us. We are the freshest in the struggle; we have the reserve man power and the reserve mechanical power. Our armies constitute the reserves of victory."

ONTARIO AGAIN HAS A SURPLUS

According to a Statement Made by Provincial Treasurer McGarry.

NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE

MEET PATRIOTIC AND OTHER HEAVY EXPENDITURES.

The Ontario Government has Paid Over a Million Dollars to the Patriotic Fund and Given Largely to Military Hospital Work. Toronto, Dec. 24.—Again this coming session Hon. T. W. McGarry will be able to announce to the House a substantial surplus from the Provincial Treasury. This will be a fact despite the heavy demands made upon revenue by patriotic expenditures, the increased cost of maintaining public institutions and the extension of Government enterprises. During the past year the Government has extended the employment bureau throughout the province, and also purchased and operated 130 farm tractors for boosting the increased production campaign. The Provincial Treasurer faced a loss of \$400,000 at the beginning of the

financial year due to the loss of liquor licenses in the province, but the new sources of revenue provided last session will more than make up the loss. The increased mining revenue due to the new nickel industry tax and the boost given succession duties has helped the province considerably this year, while the provincial amusement tax has contributed to the extent of over \$800,000. This tax has operated so well that the United States Government secured from Hon. Mr. McGarry the full particulars as to the amusement tax, and a similar tax was started over there. Over a million dollars was paid by the Government to the Patriotic Fund, and for the Christmas presents to the boys at the front \$170,000 was expended. Besides this the Government is carrying heavy maintenance charges on the Orpington Military Hospital in England, and added a new wing. So that the province has contributed generously to patriotic work during the year.

Australia Calls For No Slackening

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London (via Reuters' Ottawa Agency), Dec. 24. Reuters is informed that all Australian anti-conscription leaders have expressed strong win-the-war views. Prominent labor leaders are fighting at the front and others have sons there, including Senator Tudor, anti-conscriptionist leader and former minister of defence. Australia is maintaining larger forces than all the other dominions together. All parties are unanimous for the retention of the German Pacific colonies and for no slackening of war efforts.

Official despatches from Rome say fresh attacks by the Austro-Germans are expected.

"REMEMBER THE KIDDIES!"

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

Table listing donors and amounts for the Whig's Fund for Christmas Presents to Soldiers' Children. Donors include Mrs. R. S. Waldron (\$150.00), W. F. Nickle (100.00), Senator Richardson (50.00), W. J. Fair (50.00), Steacy's Limited (50.00), H. C. Nickle (50.00), Mayor Hughes (25.00), Royal Military College Cadets (25.00), British Whig (25.00), Standard Publishing Co. (25.00), A. Davis & Son (25.00), R.C.H.A. Canteen (25.00), N. C. Polson & Co. (25.00), Macnee & Minnes (25.00), Dr. J. J. Hartly (25.00), Mr. and Mrs. R. N. F. McFarlane (25.00), Canadian Ordnance Corps (25.00), Parcel Post & Letter Carriers (11.50), Ald. H. W. Newman (10.00), Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Whiting (10.00), A. B. Cunningham (10.00), Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Connell (10.00), W. G. Craig & Co. (10.00), Robertson's Ltd. (10.00), Ancient St. John's Lodge, A.F. & A.M. (10.00), Anderson Bros. (10.00), Mrs. S. P. Kirkpatrick (10.00), Geo. Robertson & Son, Ltd. (10.00), Dr. & Mrs. Bogart (10.00), J. B. Carruthers (10.00), Cataract Lodge No. 29, A.F. & A.M. (10.00), Kingston Shipbuilding Co. (10.00), Custom House (7.00), Major G. I. Campbell (5.00), Col. and Mrs. Perreau (5.00), F. Atkinson Wray (5.00), Mr. and Mrs. H. Hitchen (5.00), Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. W. H. Macnee (5.00), Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. N. S. Leslie (5.00), Mrs. Margaret Dever (5.00), Mr. and Mrs. Sandford Calvin (5.00), MacDonald and Barbara Gibson (5.00), Great War Veterans' Ass'n. (5.00), J. M. Farrell (5.00), Alan G. Stevenson (5.00), Capt. John Donnelly (5.00), Col. and Mrs. G. Hunter Ogilvie (5.00), Rev. D. M. Gordon (5.00), J. H. Sutherland & Bro. (5.00), Capt. and Mrs. Peters (5.00), Sergeants Mess, Queen's Military Hospital (5.00), Mrs. H. Staley (5.00), A Friend (5.00), R. Meek (5.00), Mrs. E. J. B. Pense (5.00), John Hickey (5.00), Mrs. W. Kirkpatrick (5.00), Midland Shoe Co. (5.00), Mr. and Mrs. J. R. C. Dobbs (5.00), Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Stanley, Clinton, N. Y. (5.00), "Betty" (5.00), George Masoud (5.00), F. R. Anglin (5.00), Lend-a-Hand Circle, King's Daughters' Mile Box, Post Office (4.00), Major G. L. Starr (3.00), Mrs. Jeremy Taylor (2.50), Mrs. M. Eason (2.00), "Teddie" and "Jack" (2.00), Archdeacon Dobbs (2.00), Miss L. Mowat (2.00), Patricia (2.00), Mrs. T. H. Jamieson (2.00), Miss Emily Smythe (2.00), Mrs. W. D. Carmichael (2.00), A. E. Day (2.00), S. Cohan, Confectionery & Ice Cream Parlor, 168 Ontario St. (2.00), Mrs. John Carson (2.00), Bessie M. Sanderson (1.00), A Friend (1.75), Mrs. Dupuis (1.00), Mrs. A. Mackie (1.00), Mrs. John Hunter (1.00), A Friend (1.00), A Friend, Wolfe Island (1.00), Santa Claus, Jr. (1.00), A Friend (1.00), Miss Baxter (1.00), Harold Anglin (1.00), Murray Airth (1.00), A Lover of Kiddies (1.00), Miss Dupuy (1.00), Wm. Bushell (1.00), Mrs. T. W. Mills (1.00), Rodger and Molly (1.00), A Friend (.50), A Soldier's Wife (.25), Another Soldier's Wife (.25).

PLACED UNDER ARREST.

A Ship Was in Charge of Bolshevik Committee. New York, Dec. 24.—A big Russian ship, arriving at a Pacific port had deposited its captain and been run across the Pacific in charge of a Bolshevik committee of five. When they reached port the crew met industrial workers of the World committee, and had a long conference. They are all now under arrest by United States military and police.

THANKED THE TROOPS

For Their Efforts on the Verdun Front. (From Our Own Correspondent) Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—Emperor William visited the front north of Verdun on Friday, according to a Berlin despatch, and in an address to the troops thanked them warmly for their efforts.

Germans Driven Off.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, Dec. 24.—German troops yesterday afternoon attempted to raid British positions south-east of Epechy, on Cambrai front, but were driven off, the War Office announced to-day.

HIGH POSITIONS CUT OFF.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Petrograd, Dec. 24.—The Commissioner of Ways and Communications has sent telegraphic instructions to the Railwaymen's Committees to take control of the railroads in their own hands. The communication of the commission declares that all high posts, such as managers and heads of departments, have been abolished.

A DRY CANADA IS PROCLAIMED

Union Government Makes Important Announcement Regarding Liquor.

THE TOTAL MANUFACTURE

TO BE PROHIBITED AT DATE TO BE NAMED LATER.

Until One Year After Peace. Essential and Vital for the Conduct of the War. (Canadian Press Despatch.) Ottawa, Dec. 24.—After today the importation of liquor into Canada will be prohibited and after April 1st, shipments of liquor from wet provinces to dry provinces in Canada will also be forbidden. This is the official announcement made by Sir Robert Borden. It is also announced that the manufacture of liquor in Canada will be prohibited after a date to be named later. The order effects all beverages containing more than 2 1/2 per cent of alcohol.

Official Announcement.

The announcement reads: "On December 17th, the people gave to the Government an unmistakable mandate for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and for the employment of all the country's energies and resources necessary to achieve victory. It is essential and indeed vital for the efficient conduct of the war that wasteful or unnecessary expenditure should be prohibited, and that all articles capable of being utilized as food should be conserved. It is beyond question that the use of liquor affects adversely the realization of this purpose."

"The subject has been under consideration by the war committee of the Cabinet and the following conclusions have been reached: (1) Any liquor or beverage containing more than 2 1/2 per cent. alcohol shall be regarded as intoxicating liquor. (2) The importation of intoxicating liquor into Canada is prohibited on and after December 24th, 1917, unless it shall have been actually purchased on or before that date for importation into Canada and unless, having been so purchased, it is imported into Canada, not later than the 31st day of January, 1918. The final decision upon any question respecting such purchase shall rest with the Minister of Customs. This regulation shall not apply to importation for medicinal, sacramental, manufacturing or chemical purposes."

"(3) The transportation of liquor into any part of Canada wherein the sale of intoxicating liquor is illegal will be prohibited on and after April 1st, 1918. (4) The manufacture of intoxicating liquor within Canada will be prohibited on and after a date to be determined upon further investigation and consideration of the actual conditions of the industry. "As above mentioned the prohibition of importation becomes effective on Monday next, December 24th. "The regulations to carry into effect the other provisions above mentioned are being prepared and as soon as approved they will be enacted under the provisions of the War Measures Act. "The foregoing provisions will remain in force during the war and for twelve months after the conclusion of peace."

RELIGIONISTS NOT EXEMPT

Many Conscientious Objectors Will Have to Don Khaki.

Winnipeg, Dec. 24.—Judge Dawson has decided that Plymouth Brethren Bible Students and Seventh Day Adventists do not come under that section of the Military Service Act which would exempt them from military service, also that they do not prove that they are forbidden by rule to kill. He has decided to have a test case sent to Ottawa for ruling. Judge Haggart yesterday refused exemption to H. P. Barrett, an American citizen, resident 15 years here, but not registered in either Canada or the United States. "Still Finding Spies." Washington, Dec. 24.—An extensive traffic in written communications to Germany, Austria and the northern European neutrals, involving the use of invisible ink and code systems, has been discovered and stopped by customs officials within the last few weeks, treasury officials disclosed to-day.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

From Ontario's Premier.

My heartiest wish is that the people, not only of Ontario, but of the entire Dominion, may enjoy Christmas to the very fullest extent, that prosperity may attend their every effort during the coming year, and that happiness and contentment may reign over all. The chairs that are empty this Christmas belong to the noblest and best Canadian sons, and hearts will be lonely, but we have the great satisfaction of knowing that the absent ones have done or are doing their duty well in France and Flanders. It is our privilege to make the most of the season for those who are left at home in the hope that victorious peace may be with us ere the New Year closes. —W. H. HEARST.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER EXPECTED TO RESIGN

As Soon As Vote Against Conscription is Officially Known He Will Step Out.

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 24.—A special cable from Sydney, Australia, to the Vancouver World states that the conscription vote thus far counted shows 749,576 in favor of conscription and 922,448 opposed to it. The soldier vote, it is said, may possibly overcome the adverse majority, but supporters of the plan. The despatch says Premier Hughes has, so far, refused to comment on the result but the general impression is that as soon as the result is officially announced, he will tender his resignation. There has been much criticism concerning the method on which the campaign has been handled and insistent demands are made for a new leader of the Nationalists, Irvine or Watt being the men most prominently mentioned as the possibilities. Western Australia, so far, is the only state which returned a majority for conscription. In New South Wales the "no" vote led by more than 135,000.

DEVONSHIRES VISIT STRICKEN HALIFAX

Went Through Devastated District and Met Patients in Hospitals.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 24.—The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, accompanied by Lieut. Col. Henderson, secretary to the governor-general; Capt. Kenyon Slaney, aide, and Miss Saunders, secretary to the duchess, arrived in Halifax on Friday. They were met at the depot by Gen. Benson, Lieut.-Col. F. McK. Bell, and R. T. McIlreith, chairman of the executive of the relief committee. The duke and duchess visited the devastated district and the various hospitals and shelters. The party brought with them from Ottawa great boxes of chrysanthemums, carnations, hyacinths, lilies of the valley, and other flowers, which the duchess presented to the patients in the various hospitals. She was particularly solicitous regarding the children. Out in the vicinity of Richmond the party came upon a ruined home. In the centre of the ruins was a child's cot, and near it a baby carriage. Beside the wrecked house some one had stood up several dolls. It was a pathetic sight which moved the duchess to tears. At Camp Hill her excellency gave a five-year-old toy who was amusing himself with a toy frog a big chrysanthemum. The little fellow was much pleased, and looking at the big bunch of flowers in the duchess' hand he asked: "Can I have one for Froggie too?" Froggie got the chrysanthemum. The governor-general and his wife tried to have a word and a handshake with all of the patients in the various hospitals. The governor-general addressed the medical relief committee and the district nursing staff. Lunch was taken at Government House. Later he addressed the executive of the relief committee of the board of trade. The vice-regal party left for Ottawa in the evening.

HERRING CATCH IS SUCCESS

Outlook for Winter Promising in Newfoundland.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 24.—A catch fully up to the average, with prices doubled because of war conditions, is the outlook for the winter herring fishery on the west coast of Newfoundland, in which about forty Canadian and forty American fishing craft are engaged. In many previous seasons the vessels have been forced to leave the fishing grounds early for fear of being frozen in for the winter. This year, although storms have interfered to some extent with the work, there has been no intense cold thus far and ice has not troubled the fleet.

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QUEBEC PROPOSAL IMPRACTICABLE

J. S. Ewart, K.C., Says Separation Would Mean Setback For Canada.

OTTAWA IS INTERESTED

MUCH CONCERNED IN ACTION OF QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

What Various Persons Have to Say Over the Matter—The Move Will Not be Seriously Considered—Senator Cloran's Views. Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Ottawa, with its forty per cent. French-Canadian population, is deeply interested in the resolution introduced into the Quebec Legislature by J. N. Frenoulet, to the effect that "this house is of the opinion that the Province of Quebec would be disposed to accept the rupture of the Federation Pact of 1867, if, in the opinion of the other provinces, it is believed that the said province is an obstacle to the Union and to the progress and development of Canada." The general opinion seems to be an Auguste Lemieux, K.C., describes it: "The debate on that resolution would be more academic than practical." Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., the distinguished Canadian publicist, made the following comment: "The move is altogether impracticable. I do not think we should expect anything to come of it. The civil war in the United States was waged on a similar question, but in that case there was this important difference: The claim of the south was that it had voluntarily entered the union, and that it was therefore entitled to voluntarily withdraw. Quebec is not in the same position as the south in that regard. Our constitution was obtained by means of an act of the British Parliament."

A Setback for Canada

Mr. Ewart went on to point out that the adoption and putting into effect of any such proposal—were it possible—would put Canada further back than the position it occupied in 1841, when Upper and Lower Canada were united. This could logically be expected to bring about more serious difficulties and embarrassments than those which existed at that time. All imports and exports through the Atlantic seaboard would have to pass through a section of the country geographically speaking through a separate state and then again through Canada. Mr. Ewart did not think the move should be considered seriously. Senator Cloran on the other hand said that when the campaign opened in Ontario he came with a "friendly message to the people of Ontario, at least to certain elements—newspapers, platform and pulpit orators, and lodges directing and managing the Unionist campaign. The message was: 'Hands off Quebec.' I said that vitification of and attacks on the manhood, the loyalty, the traditions, the blood or of the French race throughout Canada, would be resented. I added that if my warning was not heeded by Ontario I would not undertake to guarantee the future of Canada as a whole, but I would affirm and guarantee the future of Quebec as against all detractors and vilifiers of Ontario. "Quebec can stand alone, without and outside the confederation pact which, after all, is but a mutual agreement, while Canada cannot remain a strong confederation without or outside of the province of Quebec. These words of warning were not heeded by the Unionists of Ontario, and now the people of Quebec are giving voice to their views and sentiments in the form of a motion introduced in the provincial legislature, the highest and most authoritative channel of public opinion in the province." Senator Belcourt and S. M. Genest declined to express an opinion.

Soldier Farmers To Help.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of War Baker has a plan to permit farmer boys at periodic intervals to assist in crop production. He outlined today to a delegation of New York farmers who protested against conditions created by scarcity of labor.

WAR BULLETINS.

- Ukrainian troops are strong and are winning many battles from the Bolsheviks.
The Kaiser will make an effort to assemble all warring nations at the Russian-German Peace conference.
Christmas finds Britain much more cheerful than for months.
The British have made a new advance on the Palestine front.

WEIG CONTENTS. 1-British in Palestine; Ontario Has Sydney; Quebec Proposals No Use; Dry Canada Proclaimed. 2-Incidents of the Day; Late City News. 3-The Christmas Services; Telegraphic News. 4-Editorial. 5-Late E. T. Steacy; Local Matters. 6-Local News Briefly Told. 7-Amusements; Announcements. 8-Military Matters; Theatrical. 9-Adv. of the College Book Store. 10-Illustrating Late Fashions. 11-Christmas Readings. 12-In World of Sport; Bringing Up Father.