

YEAR 85, NO. 294

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915

SECOND SECTION

THE FINANCE MINISTER REVIEWS THE YEAR

Sir Thomas White Calls Attention to Work of Union Government—Cabinet Aware of Difficulties in Reconstruction.

(Continued from Page 1.) maintained at their highest capacity, furnishing employment for an army of workmen and sustaining many subsidiary enterprises of an important national character.

"Pensions for our soldiers and their dependents have been substantially increased and extended. Separation allowance to the wives and dependents of those serving overseas has been increased. A Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment has been created, and plans and policies have been elaborated for re-establishing the soldier in civil life. A soldiers' Land Settlement Board has been appointed, and great progress made in developing a policy under which suitable land will be acquired for settlement by soldiers and under which they will be aided in establishing themselves upon the land.

"In the early part of the present year, co-operative relations were established between labor and the Government in working out war problems.

"A special committee on which both employers and employees are represented has been appointed to consider and recommend measures to improve the relations of Labor and Capital, and Labor has been given representation on the Labor Sub-Committee of the Cabinet and on other boards and committees since appointed by the Government.

"Legislation has been passed providing for the development of a system of labor exchanges throughout the Provinces and of labor clearing-houses under Federal jurisdiction. A war labor policy has been formulated and a labor appeal board constituted, on which employers and employees are represented.

"In its war work and reconstruction activity the Government has sought the co-operation of the women of Canada, whose patriotic unselfish, and devoted services played

so notable a part in Canada's conduct of the war. On the various boards and committees to which they have been appointed, Canadian women have served with ability and distinction. The extension of the Federal franchise to women was one of the most noteworthy features of the last session of Parliament.

Land Settlement Policy.
"A comprehensive immigration and land settlement policy has been worked out by the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and the co-operation of the Governments of the Provinces has been secured. The necessary legislation will be introduced at the approaching session of Parliament to carry into effect this policy.

"The Government has completed the purchase of the Canadian Northern Railway and consolidated all the Government-owned railways, including the Intercolonial and Transcontinental Railway, under a board of directors of business men who will operate the roads in the national interest. For the better co-ordination and direction of the immense railway traffic arising out of the war, the Canadian Railway War Board, composed of the chief executives of the principal Canadian railways was formed and has rendered most excellent service, avoiding serious difficulties which would otherwise have arisen in the field of transportation.

"The Minister of Railways, during the year, contracted for 185 locomotives, 8,500 freight cars and one hundred thousand tons of rails. Orders are now being placed for two hundred thousand additional

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tons of rails, and one hundred locomotives. To provide employment during the period of demobilization the department is proceeding with the construction of the Welland Ship Canal, work on which has been shut down because of the war. In the same way work will be resumed on the final section of the Trent Canal.

Prohibition During War
"To promote national efficiency and economy, the Government has prohibited the importation or manufacture and inter-provincial sale of intoxicating liquors for the period of the war and for one year thereafter.

"The Government has passed legislation putting the whole civil service under the Civil Service Commission, and entirely eliminating profligate patronage in connection with appointments to the public service.

"The Government has placed the purchasing of all supplies for all the departments of the Government in the hands of the War Purchasing Commission, a body of business men, thus eliminating all political preference in the purchasing of goods for the Government.

Death at Cobourg.
Cobourg, Dec. 17.—Mrs. J. A. Warner, who for some years has successfully carried on the music store started by her late husband, a well-known musician and business man, died very suddenly of acute indigestion. A sister, Mrs. Adam Dawson, resides at Peterboro, and she leaves two step-daughters, Miss K. Warner, organist of St. Peter's Church, and Harriett, graduate nurse of Owen Sound Hospital, who was married recently, and one son, Robert Warner.

War Prices Regulated.
Brockville, Dec. 17.—The local Ministerial Association has addressed an open letter to the town council and the Board of Trade deploring the present high prices of the necessities of life and advising those in authority to take action under the Government Order-in-Council passed last summer giving them authority to regulate prices as far as possible.

Persons connected with the mission to the peace conference say that Sunday night's conference between President Wilson and Premier Clemenceau was even more satisfactory than the intimate friends of the two statesmen had believed possible.

THE RETURNING SOLDIERS

A FINE PARTY REACHED THE CITY ON TUESDAY.

The Mayor Welcomed Them and the Band and the Crowd Made Much ado—There Were Sixteen Former Kingstonsians in the Party.

About sixty men from the S. S. Olympic arrived at the Grand Trunk station on Wednesday afternoon, just after four o'clock. Their arrival had been made generally known, and as a result there was a tremendous crowd at the station to greet them. The Salvation Army band were on the scene half an hour before the train arrived, and filled in the interval of waiting by playing lively music. Mayor Hughes met the party at the outer station, and then drove in to the depot at the foot of Johnson street to meet them officially. W. F. Nickle, M.P.; H. C. Nickle and the reception committee of the Great War Veterans' Association were also at the station.

When the train arrived the band struck up "O, Canada," and the crowd cheered lustily. The Women's Auxiliary of the Army and Navy Veterans were at the depot with their refreshment wagon, and supplied hot coffee, cake and biscuits to the troops. They were much hindered by the inconsiderable behavior of the crowd, which pressed forward, and made it almost impossible for the ladies to get near the boys.

Sixteen Kingston boys, whose names appeared in the Whig on Monday afternoon, were in the party. They had already been given their thorough papers, and proceeded direct to their homes. The others were taken to the Barrfield barracks. A few transports were at the station to convey them, but these would only accommodate about half of the party, so the others had to march to the barracks over the bridge. Quite a number of them

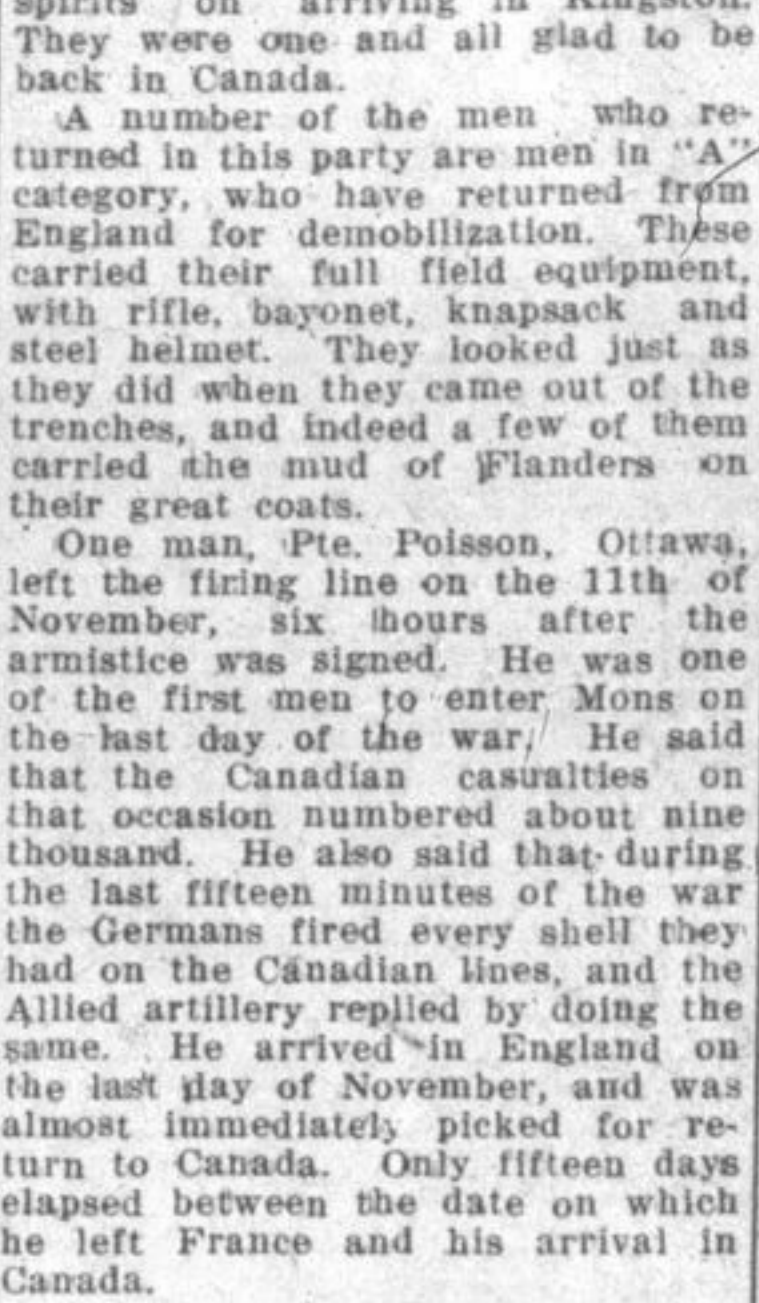
seemed to have spent a good time in Montreal, and were in good spirits on arriving in Kingston. They were one and all glad to be back in Canada.

A number of the men who returned in this party are men in "A" category, who have returned from England for demobilization. These carried their full field equipment, with rifle, bayonet, knapsack and steel helmet. They looked just as they did when they came out of the trenches, and indeed a few of them carried the mud of Flanders on their great coats.

One man, Pte. Poisson, Ottawa, left the firing line on the 11th of November, six hours after the armistice was signed. He was one of the first men to enter Mons on the last day of the war. He said that the Canadian casualties on that occasion numbered about nine thousand. He also said that during the last fifteen minutes of the war the Germans fired every shell they had on the Canadian lines, and the Allied artillery replied by doing the same. He arrived in England on the last day of November, and was almost immediately picked for return to Canada. Only fifteen days elapsed between the date on which he left France and his arrival in Canada.

PAPER ISSUED AT MONS.
It Has an Editorial Regarding Heroic Canadian Division.
"To those who have escaped from the peril, and whom we receive with open arms in the glee and the enthusiasm of the recovered liberty, we only may utter, of the best of ourselves, with a single hearty feeling, our deepest and heartiest thanks."
"Glory to this heroic Canadian division, whose name ever will remain engraved in the annals of our city and the history of the Belgian nation."
The Whig, on Tuesday, received from Capt. George Dickson, 9th Battalion, Canadian Engineers, a letter from Mons, and a copy of "La Liberté," the first newspaper to be published in Mons after its re-occupation by the Canadians, and the first issue of the paper for four years. This paper is of great interest. It is printed, of course, in French, but the two leading articles also appear in English. One of them, entitled "To Our Liberators," reads as follows:
"Our first article will be a testi-

WAR PUZZLES



TWO GERMAN GOTHAS

Were brought down during an air raid over London, one year ago today, December 18, 1914. Find an airman.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Upside down nose at left shoulder.

many of gratitude, of affection to our valiant liberators, to the British army, which had shed its blood for the liberation of Mons, and the country of Borinage, which for over four years suffered under the yoke of the invader.
"To the dead soldiers who now sleep in the reconquered Belgian land goes our undying gratitude. Our unknown friends have fallen for strangers as we are to them. They have sacrificed themselves in order to rescue from slow agony our bodies and souls. Their graves are for us a sacred trust that we shall flower, and that the future generation shall pliously keep."
It is stated as extremely likely that an attempt will be made to vote liquor into the city of Hull again in

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