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THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

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Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

Vol. I. 5 NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., FRIDAY, Dec. 29, 1916. Number 43

"TAKING SOUNDINGS."

As briefly noted in last week's issue, President Wilson, as supplementary to his first action, in merely acting as a medium for forwarding Germany's "peace proposals" to the nations of the Entente Alliance, decided, apparently he could not refrain from doing so, to take a direct hand in the peace game himself- taking considerable pains to explain that that decision had no connection with and was not suggested by the German overture, but had been in contemplation for some time.

Apart from this explanation, which was couched almost in apologetic terms, President Wilson must haxe been perfectly aware from what he knows of the war situation and from the distinctly adverse way in which the German Chancellor's peace essay was provisionally received in all the Allied countries, that he was doing a service to the Central Powers, in their evidently felt extremity, and a distinct disservice to the Entente Allies in timing his tentative "peace sounding" venture, as he somewhat timidly and almost shamefacedly termed it, so as to practically give countenance and support to the latest Teutonic politico-military manoeuvre; for that is undoubtedly all the German so-called peace proposal amounts to.

But, if the fact of President Wilson's inopportune and inept quasi-intervention was undesirable and objectionable from the Allied point of view, the manner and matter of the essay were a good deal more so. Passing over the apologetic preamble for taking the action he did, the President, in his own words, "takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states as secure against aggression and denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful states now are. Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future * * * against the recurrence of wars like this."

And so on all down the line, President Wilson coolly and bluntly, in face of what he and the whole world knows, assumes to place the Central Powers and the Entente Allies on exactly the same plane as regards their aims and aspirations and the means by which they have endeavored and are endeavoring to achieve them. To his evidently incorrigibly pedagogic and pedantic mind, that is apparently Professor Wilson's sole understanding and definition of "neutrality." To call white black and black white, and mix both together with his diplomatic stirabout into an indescribable mud color, so as to avoid telling the truth and preserve his absurd tight-rope balancing trick which he calls "Neutrality." No wonder that one of the more outspoken of the London papers characterizes the President's note as "insulting" and that another sarcastically asks: "What is the matter with him?"

Having thus echoed the impudent German assumptions in the preamble to their pretended peace overtures—that they have nothing to be ashamed of or to be punished for, President Wilson goes on to quite consistently complain that "the concrete objects for which the war is being waged have never been definitely stated. Never yet," he asserts, "have the authoritative statesmen on either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definitive results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what stage of military success even, would bring the war to an end." This in face of the emphatic and authoritative reiteration, only a few days before, from all the Allied capitals, of the clearly stated and oft repeated aims, purposes, and unalterable determination of the Allies in this war. Germany's aims were boastfully and arrogantly proclaimed and patent from the outset. They have shrunk up very perceptibly since with their diminishing prospects, but will finally have to adjust themselves to the Allies' just demands.

At the conclusion, President Wilson sounds the apologetic and explanatory key-note again: "The President is not proposing peace," he says, "he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

Taken by itself, this last clause of the President's note is unexceptionable as to its tone; but, if he would conduct his "sounding" operations from a platform founded on frank and disingenuous acknowledgment of facts which everyone knows, he would not have to "speak" so much or "seek" so far to obtain the information he professedly, and we may assume sincerely, desires.

GREAT BRITAIN'S ANSWER.

Though no formal answer had been given by the Entente Allies, at the time of writing, to Germany's peace proposals or to the tentative peace feeler by President Wilson, a few days later, which seconded the German Chancellor's manoeuvre, there have not been wanting ample authoritative utterances to indicate what the general tenor of those answers will be. As the Allies are remaining true, both in spirit and letter, to their solemn compact at the outset of the war to make no separate peace with the Central Powers, their answer, when it comes, to both ill-timed overtures, will, it is expected, be a joint or identical one, both in form and substance.

On the occasion of the prorogation of Parliament on the 22nd inst., until Feb. 7, the King's speech. which voiced the sentiments of the lately reconstructed British Government and of the whole British people behind it, in undoubted harmony with recent authoritative expressions of public opinion from all the Allied countries, significantly did not mention either the German proposal or the President's note, and no less significantly reaffirmed the inflexible determination of the Allies to prosecute the war "until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation."

The text of the speech, which was one of the briefest on record, and which was read on this occasion by the Lord High Chancellor in the House of Lords and by the Speaker in the House of Commons, was as follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen, — Throughout the months that have elapsed since I last addressed you, my navy and army, in conjunction with those of our gallant and faithful Allies, have, by their unceasing vigilance and indomitable valor, justified the high trust I placed in them. I am confident that, however long the struggle, their efforts, supported by the inflexible determination of all my subjects throughout the Empire, will finally achieve the victorious consummation of those aims for which I entered into the war.

"My Government has been reconstructed with the sole object of furthering those aims unaltered and unimpaired. I thank you for the unstinted liberality with which you continue to provide for the burdens of the war.

"The vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavor until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation. In this sacred cause, I am assured of the united support of all my peoples, and I pray that the Almighty God may give us His blessing."

Linking up the Mother Land with the Overseas Dominions in re-consecration to the great Allied purpose and duty in the war, Premier Lloyd-George, a few days after his accession, sent, through the Colonial Secretary and the Governor-General, the following stirring war message to Sir Robert Borden, for transmission to the people of Canada:

"On taking up the high office with which His Majesty has charged me, I send to you, on behalf of the people of the Old Country, a message to our brothers beyond the seas. There is no faltering in our determination that the sacrifices which we and you have made and have still to make shall not be in vain, and that the fight which we are waging together for humanity and civilization shall be fought to a triumphant issue.

"We realize that we shall still need every man that we can put in the field, every pound that rigid private and public economy can provide, and every effort that a united people can put forth, to help in the heavy task of our soldiers and sailors. The splendid contribution to the common cause already made by the Dominions gives me sure confidence that their determination is not less high than ours, and that, however long the path to final victory, we shall tread it side by side.

(Signed) "D. LLOYD-GEORGE."

In answer, Premier Borden cabled: "We can reply that, God willing, we shall do our duty in this struggle to the end. No sacrifice on our part shall be spared to make triumphant the great cause for which the Allied nations are contending."

HERE AND THERE

Premier Lloyd-George is quoted in one of his speeches after the recent reconstruction of the British Cabinet as declaring the old Ministry was too big, and adding: "The Allies have suffered two and a half years of disaster from tardiness and indecision." The utterance is significant of the new Premier's evident determination that the whole war machinery shall be speeded up with a vengeance.

It is rumored in Government circles in Ottawa, says a Provincial contemporary, that Ex-Premier W. J. Bowser may retire from the leadership of the Conservative party in British Columbia and accept a Senatorship. It would certainly be an easier and a pleasanter job than leading the new B. C. Opposition, and Mr. Bowser would be quite excusable in dropping into it, especially as his health is reported not to be of the best.

The British Government's recognition of the agents of the Venizelos Government in Greece raises the question, says a Washington dispatch, of what should be the attitude of the U. S. Government if Venizelos should become the de facto ruler of an appreciable part of Greece. A similar question, adds the dispatch, "has been faced since England took over from Turkey the sovereignty of Egypt, but no decision has been reached. The State Department has not been able to accredit a new Consul-General to Cairo because it did not know whether to accredit him to Great Britain or to Turkey. Generally, the Department has not recognized changes made during the war, preferring to wait for the peace settlement." Eminently cautious.

Urgent representations, say late Washington advices, are being made to Turkey by the American Government in an effort to secure the forwarding of relief supplies to British prisoners of war, who were described in a note received at the State Department from the British Embassy to be in a most serious condition. Ambassador Elkus at Constantinople already has sought vainly permission to send on to the men relief from a large fund which has been placed at his disposal by the British Government. Both British and State Department reports indicate that the situation of the men is very bad, but they give almost no details as to their number or location. Among them, however, are the 10,000 taken prisoners at the surrender at Kut-el-Amara, and others have been added from Gallipoli and minor actions.

The official returns of the Vancouver by-election, last week, gave all three candidates more votes than as was unofficially announced, Hon. Ralph Smith gaining 97 votes, Hon. M. A. Macdonald 50, and Mr. D. E. McTaggart 42. The final official figures stood: Smith, 7,406; Macdonald, 5,061; McTaggart, 3,908. While the total vote was very considerably less than that polled in the general election, Hon. Mr. Smith's vote was larger by nearly a thousand than his Vancouver home vote obtained in the general election—which was 6,537—a proof that many Conservatives voted for the Finance Minister in the by-election; while McTaggart evidently pulled about two thousand Liberal votes from Macdonald, whose home vote in the general election was 7,126. Well, it's over, and all right, and Vancouver ought to take a rest and give the country a rest, on elections at any rate, for awhile. Barring the municipal elections, of course, which will be right on.

As illustrating the tremendous preparations being made behind the Western front for the great Allied offensive of next year, Canada was recently asked by the Imperial Government, as announced in the daily press, to assist by furnishing from 1200 to 1500 miles of railway trackage, which is required to enable the Allies to increase the transportation facilities so as to be in a position to take full advantage of the material and supplies available. If sufficient additional railway facilities could be provided promptly, it was suggested, the war could be materially shortened and thousands of lives saved. The rails, etc., were wanted sooner than they could be manufactured under existing conditions. The Government, it was stated, was doing what it could to supply the deficiency and Canada was asked if it did not have existing trackage that could be taken up and sent forward. The Dominion Government promptly decided to take up three hundred miles of Government railway sidings and as promptly got twenty miles of trackage material complete—enough for a ship load—on the way to the seaboard. It is estimated that, with Government owned sidings, yardage, etc., and company owned parallel trackage in Canada that could be temporarily spared, this extraordinary war emergency contribution from Canada can be nearly if not fully made up, and the rails will be kept moving from their present resting place in Canada to France will all possible expedition.

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NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK.

The Dominion Government, as will have been observed by the public notices that have appeared in the press, has fixed upon the first week of the New Year —Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 inclusive—as "National Service week," during which time, under authority of the "War Measures Act, 1914," as the official notices state, an inventory will be made by the Post Office Authorities, of every male between the ages of sixteen and sixty-five, residing in Canada—British subjects by birth or naturalization, presumably, although the notices do not say so and among the prescribed questions to fill in are: 8. Were you born a British subject? 9. If not, are you naturalized? These questions might be said to imply that non-British subjects resident in the country were expected to fill in the answers also and thus define their status to the authorities.

For securing the information required to make up the so-called inventory of the man power of Canada, National Service cards, with addressed envelopes for their return to Ottawa, have been placed in the hands of all postmasters for distribution amongst the persons, as above, required to fill in such cards, which are to be filled in and enclosed in the envelopes provided within ten days of receipt. Any person who fails to receive a card and envelope is informed that he may obtain the same upon application to the nearest postmaster. The card, a facsimile of which appears in this issue, entitled "A National Call for Information," contains twenty-four questions, with corresponding blanks for answers, covering name, age, exact address, country of birth, also of parents' birth, whether naural born or naturalized citizen, trade or profession, state of health and physical efficiency, whether employed or not, where and by whom, and culminating in these questions: Would you be willing to change your present work for other necessary work at the same pay during the war? Are you willing, if your railway fare is paid, to leave where you now live and go to some other place in Canada to do such work.

While the filling in and prompt return of the cards is distinctly stated in the official notices to be "obligatory," which implies a legal penalty for non-fulfilment, the voluntary principle is fully recognized and respected in the only questions out of the twenty-four (Nos. 23 and 24) that go beyond eliciting information on matters of fact. "Would you be willing?" "Are you willing?" is the form of these two questions, which both relate to industrial, as distinguished from military, national service. The information sought to be obtained by means of this tentative national registration scheme, which depends for its success upon the loyal co-operation of the people, will, of course, be of considerable value for strictly military as well as auxiliary industrial purposes, as showing just what the potential man power of Canada is, for immediate and ultimate mobilization, as may be necessary, for all war requirements. Should co-operation not be voluntary, power is undoubtedly vested in the authority behind the effort to enforce it, or even to proceed to more drastic measures, if necessary.

There are those, including Sir Sam Hughes, since he was relieved from responsibility as Minister of Militia, who favor conscription or some form of compulsory military service in Canada. The late Minister of Militia, in a speech at Lindsay, Ont., on Christmas Day, went so far as to advocate the immediate calling out of all single men between the ages of 18 and 45 for active service training, under the Canadian Militia Act. Prompt action, he declared, was needed, which could not be obtained through National Service methods, which he denounced as more or less a failure, while under his plan he would undertake to have at least from 200,000 to 300,000 men ready for the front within four months. There is no denying Sir Sam's dictum that prompt action is needed—if only for its moral effect, and, with the supreme crisis on the European battle fronts, due some time next spring, there is a good deal more than that to it. There is also no denying that the Dominion authorities have taken the very mildest measures they could looking to the stimulation and augmentation of national service throughout Canada, in view of the last great call upon the manhood of the Empire which the war situation makes imperative. In the circumstances, every one should feel it a privilege as well as a duty to respond to that call at the present time, and the least any one in Canada can do is to accurately and promptly fill out and return the National Service cards next week.

In the cities the work of distribution and return of the cards will be done with the minimum of trouble to the public. The letter carriers will both distribute and collect the cards, leaving at least three, this week, at every residence, and more when required, and calling for the cards, which are not to be mailed, on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Subsequent calls will be made for cards, not filled out in readiness for the first collection, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, of next week, after which the returned cards will be forwarded by the postmaster to Ottawa, with his report, stating what cards he has been unable to collect. In places where there is no delivery, the distribution and collection of the cards will be done through the local postoffices. As a National Service circular aptly puts it, "To write in the answers and return the cards promptly is a good New Year's resolution for every man throughout the Dominion." It is a personal contribution, it might be added, to National Service, which ought to be given promptly and cheerfully, thus making the postoffice people's task easier and generally facilitating a patriotic project.

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HERE AND THERE

The British House of Commons, while the German "peace talk" was on, last week, passed a resolution presented by the Government, "That an additional number of land forces not exceeding 1,000,000 shall be maintained at home and abroad." It was explained that no question of policy was involved, but that the Colonial troops and forces of the Crown exceed the 4,000,000 already authorized, and a vote was necessary in order to regularize the position.

Germany, like a drowning man catching at a straw, as a London paper puts it, lost no time replying to President Wilson's peace note, and suggested that an immediate peace conference be convened in some neutral city, but coolly ignored the President's request for a statement of the concrete objects of the war from the German standpoint and gave further offense by intimating an objection to have neutrals participate in the conference. President Wilson almost wishes now he hadn't issued his peace note. In the meantime, Switzerland and Sweden have followed suit and issued peace notes themselves; while the Allies "are saying nothing, but sawing wood."

As illustrating Great Britain's deliberate determination, in evident harmony with all the Allies, not to be railroaded into any premature, catch-as-catch-can peace conference, to suit Germany's military necessities, the Imperial Government, early this week, issued an invitation to the Premiers of all the overseas Dominions "to attend a series of special meetings of the war Cabinet, in order to consider urgent questions affecting the prosecution of the war, possible conditions on which, in agreement with our allies, we would assent to its termination, and problems which would then immediately arise." As the date mentioned for the sessions of this Imperial war Cabinet to begin is "not later than the end of February," two months hence, the Kaiser is going to be kept cooling his heels a long time waiting for the Allies to dance to his piping, and, when they get ready, they'll set the tune themselves and make him pick up his heels and step lively.

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Tuesday Matinee 15c; Children 5c.

Evenings: Amdission 25c; Children 10c

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

School attendance for the present month totalled 2,207, an increase over that of December, 1915, when the total was 2,121.

Davis' drug store, on Sixth street, has been sold to Mr. H. W. Caldwell, of Barrie, Ont., who has lately been a resident of Vancouver.

Place your insurance in Companies of the highesi standing. Alfred W. McLeod, the Insurance Man, represents companies of this class only.

The city treasury was enriched by $150, this week, in forfeited bail money and fines imposed on Chinese caught in a Sunday raid on a Chinese gambling joint.

Through the energetic efforts of Councillor Brown, of Surrey municipality, the sum of $2,500 has been raised in his ward for the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

Work on the installation of the new waterworks scheme for Maillardville in Coquitlam municipality is now proceeding. Mr. George Prouix has the contract.

Mrs. Fraak Smith, of Cloverdale, slipped on the ice at her home, on Tuesday, and fractured her left leg. She was taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital, this city, for treatment.

It is understood that the 225th Battalion have received orders to be in readiness to leave for overseas about the middle of next month, in two detachments of 350 each.

A bountiful dinner was given on Christmas Day at the Y.W.C.A. to about twenty-five young ladies who are away from home. Following the dinner there was a Christmas tree and other old-fashioned Yuletide festivities.

Plans are being made by the Board of School Trustees for an honor roll of ex-students. Secretary Gray has the job of securing the names, and he is asking the relatives of all ex-students to send the names to the office on Sixth street.

There will be no opposition, it is stated, to Reeve R. J. Wark, of Langley, being returned to office by acclamation. There may be contests for seats on the Council. All of the present Councillors have announced their intention of seeking re-election.

Cliff Spring, one of the best lacrosse players that ever handled a stick in this city, was reported this week to be lying dangerously ill in St. Luke's Hospital, Ottawa, suffering from an abcess in the head. Cliff went east last spring and played lacrosse with the Ottawa team.

On Christmas Day, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Owens, 1314 Eighth avenue, the marriage ceremony of Mr. George Millaon and Miss Annie Doe, both of Chilliwack, was performed by Rev. C. E. Wincott. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a large number of friends. After a brief honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. Millson will make their home in Chilliwack.

District orders issued at Work Point, Victoria, at the week-end, announce two of the lieutenants who have been appointed to the overseas company now being raised by the 104th Regiment. They are Lieut. F. A. Hewer and Lieut. C. F. Duncan, both of the 104th. These officers have been on active service with the regiment in this city for some time, waiting for a chance to go overseas.

The children of the True Blue and Providence Orphanage were the guests at the Edison Theatre, Monday (Christmas) afternoon. In addition to the programme of pictures, the "kiddies" were treated with the usual candies and nuts. About four hundred children took advantage of Mr. Kerr's generosity in thus helping to provide entertainment for these little homeless ones.

Mr. E. H. Savage, manager of the Portland hockey team, a well known New Westminster man, who was seriously injured in a jitney accident in Portland, last Friday, when several other occupants were killed, as a result of the motor being caught between two tram cars, has a chance for recovery. It was at first thought his skull was fractured, but this is not certain. His brother, who lives on Westham Island, is down with him.

In the Police Court, Monday, Magistrate Edmonds fined an ancient Chinese, 75 years of age, $10 and costs for frequenting a Chinese gambling house. It developed that the wily Orientals who run these places have adopted the practice of keeping a few very old and decrepit men around so that when the police raid these places the old fellows get in their way and obstruct them as possible by passive resistance.

Aceording to the record taken by Mr. H. A. Wilson, Dominion meteorologist, there was 16 1-2 degrees of frost on Monday night and Tuesday morning. This is a record for this winter. In seven hours the thermometer fell ten degrees and it was feared that there would be a real cold snap, but late in the evening the temperature began to rise. The highest temperature registered on Monday was 26 degrees Fahrenheit, or six degrees of frost.

The city police served summonses on 28 retail merchants who ignored the weekly half-holiday and kept their places of business open on Saturday afternoon and evening before Christmas, for the convenience of the public. They came up on Thursday morning in the Police Court, when nominal fines were imposed, which were cheerfully paid. The principal dry goods stores, grocers and butchers kept open, while the hardware and most of the clothing stores complied with the act.

In connection with the Dominion wide day of prayer, next Sunday, special services will be held in all of the churches, when prayer will be given for the welfare of the whole Dominion and for the boys who are on service for the country. At Queen's Avenue Methodist Church, the pastor, Rev. R. J. McIntyre, will take for his subject in the morning "The Religion of the Church To-morrow." In the evening Mrs. Frederick J. Elkins, of Vancouver, will sing, while a fourteen-piece orchestra of the 225th Battalion will render several instrumental selections.

Boy Crushed by Piano.

Thomas McIntosh, of Haney, was crushed by a piano and instantly killed, Saturday last, when, with Sam Close and Tom Patterson, he was endeavoring to move the instrument from the Municipal Hall to the Agricultural Hall, where it was to be used at the Presbyterian entertainment that evening. After placing the piano on a small spring wagon the three boys were on their way to the Agricultural Hall, when a sudden jolt caused it to slip over toward Tom McIntosh, and, forcing him to the ground, fell on top of him. Death was instantaneous. The body was immediately taken to the nearby home of Mrs. Kidd, from which it was taken to the home of the parents by Mr. Lougheed.

Another Pioneer Gone.

The funeral took place on Friday afternoon last, of the late Robert Alexander Hume, aged 58, a pioneer resident of New Westminster, who died in the Vancouver General Hospital, the previous Wednesday, following an attack of pneumonia. He was born in England, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hume, and came to New Westminster over half a century ago, when only two years of age. His father was a member of the Royal Engineers, who were sent out from England on the founding of New Westminster and were stationed at Sapperton. "Bob" Hume, as he was familiary known, learned the printing business on the old Mainland Guardian, of this city, of which the late J. K. Suter was editor and proprietor. The late Mr. Hume spent some time in Arizona, some twenty years ago, and was afterwards editor of the Lillooet Prospector and more recently was fire ranger in the Kootenay district. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. John A. Ward, 230 Columbia street east, from whose house the funeral was held, two brothers, James and George Hume, and a number of other relatives. The remains were interred in the Anglican Cemetery. Rev. Frank Plaskett and Rev. Mr. Stoodley officiated.

The Half Holiday Question.

Five canvassers have been engaged by local merchants desirous of changing the weekly half-holiday from Saturday to Wednesday, and they are securing signatur-s to a petition asking the City Council to submit a plebiscite on this question at the civic election. They report that no difficulty is being met with, practically everyone being willing to get an expression of opinion. It is intended to get 500 signatures, and this will probably be done in time to present the petition to the City Council next Tuesday evening.

The Retail Employees' Association of the city met in the Labor Temple, last evening, to make plans for a campaign in opposition to the movement to have the Saturday weekly half-holiday for retail stores abolished.

A suggestion of a compromise between the two opposing views on the half-holiday question—Wednesday or Saturday—has been mooted, which seems a reasonable one, namely: The adoption of Saturday afternoon for the summer and early fall, what might be called the open-air, natural holiday months, and Wednesday afternoon for the remainder of the year. If an arrangement of this sort, with some provision perhaps for an evening opening when a full holiday chanced to follow immediately a half-holiday, could find general acceptance, it would seem better than a perennial tug-of-war on the subject.

City Market.

Jack Frost was responsible for a considerable falling off to-day in the usual full lines of produce at the public market. The B. C. E. R. market train arrived all right, and a fair number of vehicles with produce by road, but the drift ice in the Fraser made navigation temporarlly too dangerous for the river steamers and smaller craft, thus cutting off that source of supply, whieh made a noticeable difference in all lines, but especially in meats and poultry. Nevertheless, prices stood about the same, beef selling at 7c to 10c per lb; pork, prime, 11c to 13c; veal, No. 1, 15c to 17c. Poultry prices, with turkeys eliminated and very few geese, ranged as follows: Hens, live, 18c to 23c per lb; springs, 22c to 25c; ducks, 25c to 30c; geese, 20c; chickens, dressed, 30c; geese, dressed, 30c. Eggs retailed at 50c per doz, wholesale 40c to 45c; butter, prime ranch, 50c per lb. Potatoes held at $20 to $25 per ton and $1.25 per sack, with very little demand. Apples advanced slightly, bringing from 75c to $1.25 per box.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bunyan, of Wenatchee, Wash., are spending the Christmas holidays with their daughter, Mrs. Josepn Downs of this city.

Mr. E. T. Rossiter, of the staff of the Imperial Oil Co. at Ioco, has been appointed private secretary to Hon. John Oliver, Minister of Agriculture and Railways. He was secretary of the Liberal Association at Ioco.

The annual meeting of the New Westminster Liberal Association will be held on Saturday evening, Jan. 6. Election of officers and election of delegates to the Federal district meeting on Jan. 19th will take place. A large turnout is requested.

Hon. John Oliver, Minister of Agriculture, wrote the Coquitlam Council, this week, explaining that his duties would prevent him from attending a meeting of the Coquitlam Council, but that he would be pleased to receive deputations and communications at any time.

Suit has been entered in the Supreme Court in Vancouver, by Mr. Joseph Parent, of Maillardville, against the Canadian Western Lumber Co., on behalf of himself and family, for damages for the death of Joseph Parent, who was killed by a fall recently while working at Fraser Mills.

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A New Year's dance will be held next Monday evening, New Year's night, in the K. ot P. Hall, Arcade block, under the auspices of the Forrestry Battalion. The proceeds will be donated to the Returned Soldiers' Fund.

The City Waterworks Department has issued a warning to householders not to leave their taps running at nights to prevent the pipes from freezing up, as this practice depletes the water storage in the reservoirs, and may have serious results should a big fire break out.

In recognition of the work of the Daughters of the Empire of this city, in aid of the 225th Battalion recruiting fund, Madame Gauvreau, regent of the Municipal Chapter, was, on Christmas Day, presented with a handsome brooch by Lieut..Col. Mackay and officers of the 225th Battalion.

Mr. F. L. Kerr, proprietor of the Edison Theatre, who has taken over the Opera House, says he will open there early next month, running special film features and some of the best road shows, while continuing the Edison as usual. When not in use, the Opera House will be for rent for public or patriotic meetings, etc.

The Westminster Conservative Association will hold a meeting in the Columbian building, Thursday, Jan. 4, at which the speakers will include Mr. H. S. Clements, M. P. for Comox-Atlin, who is looking after the interests of this constituency in the absence of Col. J. D. Taylor, and Mrs. Patterson, vice-president of the Vancouver Conservative Association.

The City Fire Department has completed distribution of fire prevention warnings, and will follow up this preventive measure by a rigid inspection of premises. In particular, care will be exercised in the case of installation of additional stoves during the cold weather. All must be installed in accordance with the Chief's regulations. Fire Chief Watson plans to devote more attention in future to the prevention of fires.

An ugly chimney fire, which for a time threatened to be dangerous, was extinguished by the Fire Department in the four storey Dominion Trust buildng, Columbia and Sixth sts., Wednesday forenoon. The cause was an overheated furnace. The firemen found the furnace red hot and the pipes red hot to the chimney and great masses of red hot coals pouring out of the chimney and down the light well of the building. Only prompt measures averted grave danger.

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Go together—both are brought on by attempting to read or work WITHOUT Glasses when Glasses are NECESSARY!
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Russian in 225th Attempts Suicide.

Toni Hainsko, a Russian, private in the 225th Battalion, attempted to commit suicide at Queen's Park, Wednesday morning, by shooting himself with a rifle. He put the butt of the rifle on the floor and pressed the trigger with a swagger stick. The bullet went right through him and through the ceiling narrowly missing the quartermaster-ser, geant in a room above. It was a cartridge of the regular service kind. He had four more in his pocket, and it is not known how he got them, as there has been no issue. The would-be suicide was taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital, where he may recover. He is believed to be mentally unbalanced.

The Civic Election.

The first active step in the campaign for the Mayoralty for 1917 has been taken by Ald. H. A. Eastman, who has sent out a circular leter to the ratepayers of the city setting forth the grounds on which he is seeking election. He refers to his work as a member of the City Council in the past and asks for support for the Mayoralty. Ald. Bryson and Mayor Gray are also candidates for Mayor.

It is reported that both Ald. Goulet and Ald. Dodd, who had announced that they would not seek re-election to the City Council for 1917, are being urged by friends to stand again. Their decision is expected shortly.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

King and Queen Send Greetings to Soldiers, Sailors, and Sick and Wounded —Premier Borden Wires Message.

The King sent to the British land and sea forces the following Christmas greeting: "I send you, my sailors and soldiers, hearty good wishes for Christmas and the new year. My grateful thoughts are ever with you for victories gained, for hardships endured and for your unfailing cheeriness. Another Christmas has come round and we are still at war. But this Empire, confident in you, remains determined to win. May God bless and protect you."

The King has sent the following to the sick and wounded: "At this Christmastide the Queen and I are thinking more than ever of the sick and wounded among my sailors and soldiers. From our hearts we wish them strength to bear their suffering, speedy restoration to health, a peaceful Christmas and many happier years to come."

Borden's Messages.

The following Christmas messages have passed between Sir Robert Borden and those in authority with Canadian troops overseas:

"General Turner, commanding Canadian Expeditionary Forces in Great Britain, London:

"On behalf of the Canadian people I send Christmas greetings to the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in England, and earnestly wish that their efforts during the coming year may be crowned with the highest success. Those who are now completing their training in England may soon be called to the front, where their record will be as splendid and inspiring as that of the Canadians now in the battle line. The Canadian people are resolved to spare no effort and shrink from no sacrifice to support the cause for which you have taken up arms in behalf of your country.

(Signed) "BORDEN."

"General Byng, commanding Canadian Expeditionary Forces, France:

"On behalf of the Canadian people I send to you and all the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in France, Christmas greetings and earnest wishes that in the coming year the highest success may crown their efforts. The notable achievements of the force under your command, and the splendid valor which made them possible, have thrilled Canada with just pride in her sons. I returned to-day from a tour through six provinces in support of national service, and everywhere I received a most inspiring response. The Canadian people are animated by a firm resolve to spare no effort and shrink from no sacrifice until victory crowns the Allies' arms.

(Signed) "BORDEN."

General Byng's Reply.

"To the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, Ottawa:

"All Canadians under my command in France will read with deep gratitude the inspiring message which you have sent to them from their fellow citizens in Canada. Nothing can be more encouraging or more calculated to assist them to perform with cheerfulness and fortitude their duties here than the consciousness that they have the entire sympathy and support of those at home. Will you, in reply, assure the people of Canada that the Canadian army in the field is full of hope and confidence and determined to the extent of their power to assist in the complete achievement of those high purposes for which they left their homes? We feel assured that the new year will bring us fresh strength and new victories.

(Signed) "GENERAL BYNG."

Christmas in the Trenches.

A despatch dated Christmas Day, with the armies in France, said:

Christmas has sent a throb of good cheer to all the British armies in the battle lines of France, and wherever a British soldier ate his Christmas dinner, whether in the front line trenches or in the secluded security of the reserve camps, enthusiastic toasts were offered to King and Empire and to the coming new year, which Britons confidently believe will bring victory to the Entente Allies' cause.

The soldiers from overseas, the Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans, drank somewhat wistfully to the folks at home, but soon shook away any tendency to homesickness in the sturdy work of war, for war, grim and determined, went forward today as relentlessly as yesterday, and as it will to-morrow.

Mess halls were splendly decorated, in many instances with holly and mistletoe, and paper flowers made by the soldiers themselves, many of the flowers being worked into Christmas mottoes.

At various places along the lines bands visited the mess halls, giving concerts for the soldiers. The Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations arranged entertainments, and special programmes prevailed in the movie halls and soldiers' theatres, most of the latter being battered French barns, with the shell holes barricaded against the wintry blasts and the noises of battle waging not far away.

Every British soldier had his individual plum pudding, this particularly indispensable item of the Christmas bill of fare having been looked after by the London newspapers, which raised in the neighborhood of £100,000 for their purchase.

Where conditions permitted, as many of the men as possible were relieved from front line duty for dinner, but in the mid-ditches of the Somme and in other sectors Christmas dinner, steaming hot, was carried up through the communicating trenches, sometimes under the pelting shots, up to the men held by duty at the outposts of the war.

The third Christmas of the British armies in France was vastly different from its two predecessors, especially the first, when only a pitiful handful of the original expeditionary force was left to form a thin khaki line against the gray clad enemy. The field army was then so small that King George personally sent a Christmas package to every one. The multiplication of that army of tens of thousands into the present force of so many millions has somewhat altered the situation.

BLAMES CENSORSHIP.

Ralph Connor, Back from the Front, Says it Deprived World of Greatest Epics of History, Marne and Ypres.

"When you meet the men who are fighting on the west front now, you meet pure gold," said Major the Rev. Mr. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor), who arrived on the liner Metagama, at St. John, N. B., this week, fresh from the firing line.

"The spirit of the men is wonderful. Always cheerful, they go into battle with a song on their lips. You can't get them to sing patriotic songs—they sing 'I Love a Lassie,' and howl at the top of their voices, but patriotic songs do not seem to please them. Sometimes you hear them sing 'O, Canada,' but it is very seldom they go even that far. They are changed men when they get to the western front—changed physically, mentally and spiritually. Then there is that great love of country which seems to burst forth from them on every occasion. You wonder why they never sing patriotic songs, but they are carrying out deeds each day, each hour of their lives, that are far above the sentiment expressed in patriotic songs. The whole thing is stupendous, and the English or any other language cannot begin to describe conditions over there.

Been Through Hell.

"These men whom you see coming back to you, broken and maimed, have been through hell and back. These are the men who go out into a bombardment. They come back to billets broken physically, mentally and spiritally. After three days' rest they are ready to go back again and repeat the performance. I used the word 'bombardment,' didn't I? Well, I hate to use that term. It is not what I mean, a new word should be coined. You cannot realize what the word 'bombardment' means to the soldier on the western front.

"Sometimes I feel disgruntled when I read the Canadian papers—I suppose I should not feel so, but I cannot help it. I read about engagements at the front and they are described in the manner of triumphal processions. Do not get that idea into your head. Every foot of the ground traversed is won only after a hard struggle. One thing the British nation lost, and by a foolish censorship, was the true story of the battle of the Marne, the greatest battle in the history of the world by long odds. Not twenty people in Canada know the true story of the Battle of the Marne. No more know the true story of the first battle of Ypres.

First Grip Lost.

"By the censorship the fresh grip, the impact of first telling, has passed forever; it can never be recovered by any writer. When you realize the wonderful epics that have been written about comparatively small incidents, when you speak of them in the same breath with the Marne and Ypres, and when you remember that they have lived for thousands of years, all down through the corridors of time they have come, and yet the fresh and virgin touch of wonder, of gallantry, of heroism lies covered with dust because of a foolish censorship, and can never be recorded by the nation in the fullest sense, for the force of first telling has gone forever. A force of first telling which would have stirred the nation to the heart, which would have caused the blood and brawn of Britain to rise as one man and say 'Thousands may fall, but yet we carry on.'"

Brief Council Meeting.

The meeting of the City Council held Thursday afternoon of last week, in lieu of the regular Monday meeting which fell on Christmas Day, transacted only necessary routine business.

The usual formal resolution was passed providing for the annual civic election, nomination day on this occasion falling on Monday, Jan. 8, and polling on Thursday, Jan. 11. Mr. J. Stilwell Clute is appointed returning officer, and his deputies are: A. B. Wintemute, Wm. Pope, F. P. Maxwell, John Forrester, Angus J. Martin, E. J. Cave-Browne-Cave, Cecil Minthorne, D. Lightbody, Robt. Wintemute, and D. W. Douglas. The polling places will be. Council chamber, City Hall; No. 4 Firehall, Sapperton; No. 5 Firehall, Thirteenth street; No. 6 Firehall, Queensborough.

A letter was read from Burnaby municipal clerk that the municipality will bear one-fourth of the cost of retaining Mr. Joseph Martin. K. C., in the C. N. R. tax case appeal.

An offer of $30 a ton for steel rails and angle bars lying on the wharf was referred to the Harbor Committee to ascertain whether this is a fair price and act.

The B. C. Telephone Company's application for a three-inch main to its building on Clarkson street was filed. Ald. Dodd pointed out that the present pipe is sufficient for domestic uses and if a fire service is desired, the company will have to pay for its installation, as customary.

Mr. C. P. Moss sent in plans for the installation of "yielding barriers," electrically operated, for the Lulu Island bridge, the price of which would be $6,500 installed, or probably less if the work were done by local firms. It was referred to the Bridge Committee to report.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the City Solicitors were instructed to register charges against property sold at the recent tax sale.

Usual Christmas services were held in the Holy Trinity Cathedral, St. Mary's, and St. Barnabas Churches on Christmas, with a large number in attendance. Holy communion was held at 8 o'clock and matins at eleven At 11 o'clock a special serbice was held at St. Paul's Reformed Church, when an excellent musical programme was rendered and the pastor, Rev. Mr. Wincott, delivered a fitting Christmas sermon. Miss Eileen Gilley was one of the soloists. The church was tastily decorated by the St. Paul's Ladies' Aid.

The annual meeting of the stock holders of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, in the Columbian block. A new board of directors will be elected.

Groceries

Cooking Eggs, good quality, per doz 40c
Pure Fruit Jams, 4-lb. tins..75
Canadian Cheese, No. 1, per lb. for 30c
Ceylon Tea, 3 lbs.....$1.00
DeJong's Cocoa, lb..... 60c
Jap Oranges, box 55c
Table Figs, lb.....20c
Robin Hood Oats, large pkg. for.....25c
Dill Pickles, doz.....15c
Heinz Sweet Pickles, pint..20c
Dr. Price's Baking Powder, 12-oz. tin.....40c
Roman Meal Health Food, per pkg.....30c
Peanut Butter, lb.....20c
Khiva Marmalade, lb. jar 25c
4-lb. tin.....65c
Monarch Bread Flour, 49-lb. bag..... ..... $2.50

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Hundreds of ends of Draperies, Linens, Sheetings, Flannelettes, Cottons, Wash Goods, Dress Goods, Velvets, Silks, Ribbons, Laces, Embroideries, Etc. A clean up of the ends left after the past few weeks' selling. On sale this week end.

We extend to the citizens of New Westminster our hearty thanks for their patronage during the past year.

We take this opportunity of wishing one and all a brighter and happier NEW YEAR

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6. In what country was your father born? .....
7. In what country was your mother born? .....
8. Were you born a British subject? .....
9. If not, are you naturalized? .....
10. How much time have you lost in last 12 months from sickness? .....
11. Have you full use of your arms? .....
12. Of your legs? ..... 13. Of your sight? .....
14. Of your hearing? .....
15. Which are you—married, single or a widower? .....
16. How many persons besides yourself do you support? .....
17. What are you working at for a living? .....
18. Whom do you work for? .....
19. Have you a trade or profession? ..... 20. If so, what? .....
21. Are you working now? ..... 22. If not, why? .....
23. Would you be willing to change your present work for other necessary work at the same pay during the war? .....
24. Are you willing, if your railway fare is paid, to leave where you now live, and go to some other place in Canada to do such work? .....

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THIS CARD ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE. IT ASKS 24 QUESTIONS. COUNT YOUR ANSWERS

Write your Answers on the Card which you will shortly receive and Return Promptly. *It is Obligatory!*

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