

## THE DAILY MAIL.

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"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."—Abraham Lincoln.

## THE POSTAL DEFICIT.

The Government at Ottawa has no cause for pride in the showing made in the Post Office Department last year. Expenditure in the Department has increased enormously under Conservative rule, and although the revenue in 1915 was large, it failed to meet the expenditure by \$1,909,266. Considering the fact that the domestic postal rate was last year increased from two to three cents, the rate on post cards and drop letters doubled, this is a wretched showing.

When the Liberals came into power in 1896, and placed Sir William Mulock in charge of the postal department, they had to face a deficit of \$781,152 on the year's operations. In his budget speech of 1896, the last he ever delivered, Hon. George E. Foster—then Minister of Finance—said:

"There is now a deficit of \$80,000 between the total receipts and the total expenditure of our post office service, and this, I fear, makes the time somewhat distant when what otherwise might be fairly asked for can be granted, that is, a reduction upon the postage rates in this country."

In the first year of his administration Hon. William Mulock, the Liberal Postmaster General, by the application of honest business principles, and of a driving force, theretofore sadly lacking, reduced the deficit to \$586,000 and in the next year to \$47,000. Whereupon he promptly reduced the domestic letter postage from 3 to 2 cents per ounce and the letter rate from Canada to the Mother Country as well as to Britain's colonial possessions, from 5 cents to 2 cents per half ounce. Hon. Mr. Mulock had an abiding faith in Canada's future. He predicted that the effect of making postage cheaper would be to augment very largely the volume of the country's correspondence, and he was right.

Within a few years after the change the department began to show a surplus. It increased steadily year by year until 1911, when it had reached a total of \$1,192,730. Last year the Conservatives increased the postal rate to 3 cents and doubled the rate on postal cards and drop letters. As a result of this action, coupled with unbusinesslike management along other lines, the department shows a deficit for the first time since 1902. The line of demarcation between Conservative brag and bluster and Liberal performance is clearly defined in the operations of the Post Office Department.

There will be an eclipse of the sun on Thursday, February 3rd, visible in Canada, the United States and Central America. The path of the totality of the eclipse will begin in the Pacific Ocean and it will end at sunset on the Atlantic ocean south of Ireland. The eclipse should be visible in Fredericton between eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon. Astronomers advise against gazing at the eclipse with the naked eye, and suggest that smoked glass be used. There will be five eclipses during the year 1916, three of them being of the sun and two of the moon. The second partial eclipse of the moon will be visible in the United States on July 14 and 15. There will be an annular eclipse of the sun on July 29, invisible in America. There also will be a partial eclipse of the sun on December 24, invisible in America and visible only in the Antarctic Ocean.

Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the eminent American lawyer and diplomatist, at the annual dinner of the Pilgrim Society, of which he is President, at New York on Wednesday night, said that "the triumph of the great cause for which England is fighting is the thing we have at heart," and that he got letters from England every week "full of assurances of success." Mr. Choate spoke in the presence of a notable assemblage of men of prominence who showed their approval of his "neutrality" by cheering loudly.

Ottawa Journal: An enquiry is being held in Toronto into a charge that two officers of a Canadian battalion left a hotel giving as a reason that privates of their battalion were not barred out. The officers, if the story be true, had a right to leave, if they wanted to. Also, this country has a right to get along without the official assistance, military or otherwise, of snobs of that class, and, if the story be true, these two should be fired out of the army. Surely men who offer their lives for Canada and the Empire are entitled to brotherhood among us in everything we have in the public line, so far as necessities of discipline permit.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a letter from Mr. E. S. Carter dealing in an effective manner with some statements made by Col. Geo. W. Fowler, M. P., at a recent banquet in St. John. Mr. Carter, who has two sons at the front, does not propose to allow Col. Fowler to cast sneers at him in public and get by with it. As he points out in his letter, people who live in glass houses, should not throw stones.

## ZEPPELIN RAINS BOMBS ON THE CITY OF PARIS

(Continued from page two.) "It took us many years to save enough to build that home," said the grandmother of the boy, "but it is all gone in one night, together with my son and my daughter-in-law. But I have this lad left and he is plucky enough to begin it all over again, for although he was blocked up there on the edge of what is left of his little bedroom an hour before the firemen rescued him, he never flinched, never even whimpered."

The Zeppelin must have been going at top speed in the neighborhood, for the nearest trace of it beyond was a quarter of a mile away, where a bomb fell full in the centre of a thick stone wall and, cutting a big hole out of it as cleanly as if it had been done by a knife, dug through the pavement deeply into the earth, causing a bad cave-in.

## TEN BURIED IN ONE BUILDING.

In a more populous street a bomb struck a six-story apartment building occupied by the family of workingmen, cutting it in two on the line of the corner of the kitchen, from garret to cellar, burying ten victims under the debris of the central part of the structure. The street front was untouched and on the other side of the gap the six kitchens of the building, one atop the other, were left open to the weather, with ranges and utensils in plain view and apparently undisturbed. This quarter was besieged all the morning by dense crowds, which were held at the street corners by the police, none but the city authorities, representatives of the government and newspaper men, with identification press cards, being allowed to inspect the ruins.

The greatest throng was in the street, where men from the municipal chemical laboratory were carefully examining a bomb weighing nearly six hundred pounds that had fallen in the courtyard of a factory and failed to explode. The crowd at one time broke through the police line and elbowed up to the footboard of the official motor car to get a near view of the monster.

Altogether a dozen bombs, weighing about six hundred pounds each, were dropped. None of the fatalities occurred in the open streets, the majority of the victims being killed in their beds.

A fog of considerable density hung over Paris at the time of the raid.

## DAMAGE DONE.

The raid lasted about one minute and a half, while in the first visit of Zeppelins to Paris, on March 21, 1915, four of these aircraft were over or in the neighborhood of the capital for nearly two hours. They came at that time under entirely different atmospheric conditions, being plainly visible in a clear sky. Last night the fog seriously interfered with the work of the Paris aerial guard.

The fact that only one German machine appeared leads to the belief that the Zeppelin was making a reconnaissance trip and the supposition is that the Germans have in view a similar operation on a large scale.

Warnings of the presence of a Zeppelin were hastily given and the lights of Paris were dimmed. At the hour of the raid the theatres had hardly yet retired. Almost immediately all the aeroplanes guarding Paris were made ready and about thirty of them took the air. One of the machines fired twenty-five shots from a quick-firer at the invading raft which, pursued by several of the little machines, sped at top speed westward. Apparently the bombs carried by the Zeppelin were let loose indiscriminately and without thought of where they would strike.

One of the pursuing aviators said that the searchlights were useless in the fog, he himself being hardly able to see more than twenty-four feet above with the aid of his light. The Paris newspapers demand that measures of retaliation be taken immediately.

At midnight President Poincaré, accompanied by the military governor of Paris and the prefect of police, visited the locality where several of the bombs fell. Investigation revealed additional casualties. Inspection of one ruined house disclosed that two persons had been killed in their

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FRANK LEALAND.

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## INTERESTING LETTER FROM GUNNER HAWKES

Plaster Rock Boy With 28th Battery Writes From West-hanger Camp

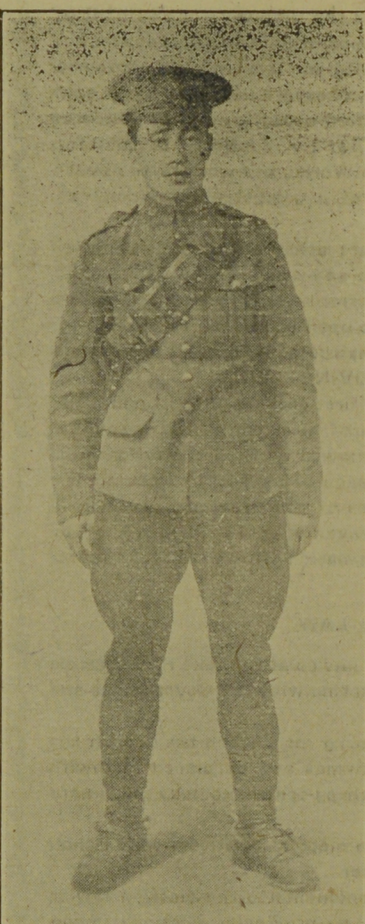
Writing to his parents at Plaster Rock from West-hanger, Kent, Eng., Gunner J. L. Hawkes of the 28th Field Battery, says:

I was very much pleased with your letter, which I received yesterday. I just got back from Salisbury Plain Friday.

We are all through shooting, have had our last practice now and are ready for the front. I don't know just when we will go but it won't be long. The Canadians are counted the best shots in the Field Artillery.

Well, I suppose its cold over there now. The weather is just lovely here today, grass is green and horses and cattle are in pasture yet. There are trains running every eight minutes here today. I have not got any parcels yet but I hope I will get them before I go away.

Well, I have had two Christmases this year. Yesterday was Christmas but we never got through dinner until today.



GUNNER J. L. HAWKES.

We had a lovely Christmas dinner last night at Ashford.

I received a dandy pair of dress kid gloves, a nice present, something I always intended to get. They look fine with my uniform.

I will try and tell you what we had for dinner today. First of all, we had all the Battery in one hut and had eighteen tables, seating eight men each, making one hundred and forty-four men in all. We had twelve turkeys cooked nicely, with turnips and dressing, carrots and celery; then we each had one pound of plum pudding, dates, grapes, figs and nuts. Each one had one dozen oranges, box of cigars and package of cigarettes and I tell you, it was fine. I would not ask for better.

Well, I would like to have another trip to London as we expect to go to the front in a short time. How are all the people in Plaster Rock? Tell them I send them my best regards. I haven't seen any of the Plaster Rock boys here yet.

Write soon. Love to all.

Your loving son,

JACK.

beds. In a drug store, which had been reduced to a pile of ruins, the bodies of a woman and a child were found.

At another point the force of the explosion was so great that trees were uprooted and flung on the roofs of distant houses.

The prescribed trumpet signal announcing that danger from Zeppelins is past, was given and in a few hours the city again was quiet and lighted, as usual.

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