

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements copy must reach office not later than nine a. m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Moderate to fresh southwesterly to northwesterly winds, for the most part fair, a few local falls of snow or sleet.

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FREDERICTON, N. B. THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1915

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RUSSIANS THOUGHT TO HAVE STARTED BIG OFFENSIVE IN THE BUCKOWINA; GERMANS REPULSED AT SEVERAL POINTS

ALLIES ARE STRONG ON WESTERN FRONT

British Staff Confident That They Can Break Through the German Lines When the Right Time Arrives---Severe Weather Conditions in the Eastern Theatre--Saloniki is Now Believed to Be Safe From Attack.

London, Dec. 29--Despatches from both east and west express the belief that the winter is likely to prove the most severe obstacle to war operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks.

"The most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January," was a French general's reply a year ago to the demand for a great offensive. The same remark would probably apply equally this year.

Reuter's correspondent at western headquarters, after remarking that the British staff is confident that the Allies are now so strong in men and munitions that they can break through the German lines whenever the right time comes, declares that the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big movement and adds:

"Such movement needs careful planning and extreme caution."

Rolling-up tactics always involve the possibility of counter-attacks, which may end in rolling-up the aggressor. With the face of the country in a porous and mushy condition, it is impossible to effect the essential quick movements of artillery without which any big offensive is foredoomed to failure.

MORE THAN FRONT TRENCHES.

The allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the great part of the German front trenches forthwith, because the enemy holds these lightly. But when, with the ranges registered to a nicety from myriads of artillery and machine guns, such a step would be sheer suicide, until the opportunity is right.

A Russian correspondent writes: "The most severe part of the winter has now begun in the Russian theatre. All reports agree that the weather this year is harder than usual. It is increasingly doubtful if any serious events will occur until the end of January."

Despite the weather the duel in the Vosges mountains, in the western zone, continues, and may eventually prove to be one of the big operations of the war. The gains in either direction thus far have been small, but the French claim progress in their efforts to establish themselves on the crest of the foothills which here dominate the plain and have taken nearly two thousand prisoners.

ALLIES ENTRENCHED.

By all accounts Saloniki is now safe. Certainly the Central Powers show no haste to attack the Allies' position. Seventy-five thousand Serbians have reformed at Scutari and Elloassan, in Albania, and the Montenegrin army, which heretofore has been debarricaded geographically from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing itself energetically into the contest against the Austrians.

Reports that the Austrians are attacking Scutari are authoritatively denied. According to the latest advices the Austrians were at Bjeloplozje, where they were recently repulsed by the Montenegrins, and cannot reach Scutari without crossing the Albanian Alps and the flooded River Drin.

No official announcement is yet available in London as to the decision of the cabinet in favor of compulsion, but the political atmosphere

has been considerably cleared up by the admission that the principle of compulsion is accepted by a majority of the cabinet. Public opinion has not yet crystallized, but there is widespread approval of Premier Asquith's general attitude, and there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced.

The difficulties within the cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself in practical form.

A joint meeting of the representatives of the Labor party with the Federation of Trade Unions has been summoned for tomorrow, and a detailed statement of the Labor attitude is likely to follow.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS

This week's Royal Gazette contains the annual financial statement of the province for the fiscal year, ending October 31st, published over the signature of the auditor general. The total receipts on consolidated account are given as \$16,674,079.44 and the expenditure \$1,626,683.86, leaving a carefully cooked up surplus of \$7,445.58. The federal subsidy amounted to \$637,976.18 and the territorial revenue was \$591,906.14. Succession duties totalled \$155,191.63, the largest in the history of the province. On school books the receipts were \$16,824.18 and the expenditure was \$209,448.84. The government's financial transactions for the year totalled \$4,315,603.41.

ST. JOHN VALLEY RAILWAY TO CLOSE DOWN JANUARY 1st.

Peremptory Order Received From Ottawa has Created a Great Sensation--All Employees to Be Dismissed--No Explanation Offered.

Orders were received from Ottawa last evening that train service on the St. John Valley Railway would be terminated on Saturday next and shippers were notified that no consignments of freight would be accepted for delivery after December 31.

There were rumors current last night to the effect that operation of the railroad by the I.R.C. would end with the present week but definite news that such was the case spread this morning. The announcement came like a thunderbolt and all day there have been telephone inquiries from points along the railway concerning the matter. A general cry of protest has gone up from shippers and merchants at all points on the line, as a large freight business was being done. Not only are business men of those classes injured by the intended suspension, but the same is true of Fredericton merchants, who have extended credits to employees of the railway for employees today are being notified that their services will

BALFOUR PRAISES THE GRAND FLEET

London, Dec. 29--"The British grand fleet, which as a grand fleet has never yet had the opportunity of being in action, has nevertheless from hour to hour, day by day, through all the months of the war, been the foundation upon which everything else has rested," was the summary admiralty of the lessons to be derived from a moving picture had of the first production of which he presided this afternoon.

Mr. Balfour declared that the film shown was 'packed with lessons of the deepest importance to Britons and to the world.'

The success of all the land operations of the Allies, from Archangel on the north, to the Persian Gulf, ultimately depended, he believed, on the British fleet, because, were it removed, the allied nations, "now banded together against the tyranny of the Central Powers," would be cut off from the outer world and from each other. He doubted whether the magnitude of the task thrown upon the British navy and "so far triumphantly accomplished," was yet realized.

"Though silent," said the first lord, "it is performing, at this moment, not alone for the Allies, but for the whole world, the greatest, the most important part in the drama now being played out for the freedom of the world. The world has yet to know how much it owes to the British fleet and how the assured victory which is coming to us in the future is coming at least as much as the gift of the British navy, as of the splendid valor of the allied troops, whether British or foreign."

TENSION RELIEVED.

LONDON, Dec. 30.--Domestic tension in England over the compulsion question has been greatly relieved. Speculation continues concerning the methods to be adopted to reach eligible unmarried men, the majority agreeing that the Derby plan of attestation will be extended for the purpose.

OPINIONS VARY.

Opinions vary in this city as to the intention of the department of railways in ordering the I.R.C. to suspend operation. The general opinion is that the minister of railways, Hon. Frank Cochrane, is determined to have a show-down from the government of this province concerning the basis of operation of the St. John Valley line. In other quarters it is claimed that some arrangement will be made pro tem by which suspension of operation will be avoided.

CAME AS SURPRISE.

The reported suspension of operation was the general topic of conversation about the city today. The order came as a surprise to the public as it was only a few days ago that

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London, Dec. 30--Although Petrograd remains silent on the subject, the public is inclined to believe that the Russians are undertaking a great offensive in Bukowina, near Bessarab on the border.

Official Austrian reports, telling of attacks by dense masses of Russian troops indicate that an important battle is under way.

The fighting centres near Topor-Outz, a small town just within the border of northern Bukowina, but a simultaneous attack is being made along an extended front, reaching from Pruth to a position north of Dniester, a distance about forty miles. The latest advices state that the Russians assault is being continued accompanied by unusually heavy bombardment.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT

London, Dec. 30--Along the western front, except for mining and aerial engagements on the British lines, the chief fighting is continued to Vosges where in the region of Hartmans-Weilerkopf, the French claim to have made a successful advance. Berlin officially minimizes this success but does not deny it wholly.

CREW MAY HAVE BEEN LOST

New York, Dec. 30--A news agency despatch from London today says: The crew of the British steamer Morning, sunk by a submarine to-day, is believed to have been lost.

Despatches received here reported only the captain and second mate saved. The Morning was a wooden steamer of 444 tons, registered at Dundee.

BRITISH AVIATOR KILLED

Portsmouth, Dec. 30--Lieut. Rogers of the Royal Flying Corps, was killed today when his aeroplane, which was flying at a low altitude, suddenly tilted forward and plunged to the earth.

GERMANS REPULSED

Paris, Dec. 30--German attempts to capture the French works at Dompice last night were completely repulsed the war office announced this afternoon. In the Champagne region, west of Novarin farm, French artillery fire dispersed German troops engaged in repairing trenches.

FUTILE ATTACK BY HUNS

London, Dec. 30--Official reports from the extreme northern portion of the Germans have made a serious but futile attack in the region of Lake Habit while the Russians west of Lake Kanger are threatening Mitau.