

## MILLS MAY START CUTTING LUMBER FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES IN NEAR FUTURE

IMPERIAL MUNITIONS BOARD LOOKING FOR SITE TO PILE  
HUNDRED MILLION FEET OF LUMBER NEAR  
RAILWAY—LOGS WILL SPOIL  
IF LEFT IN WATER

There is a possibility that the lumber mills may open up again in the near future, some of them at any rate. The Imperial Munitions Board have been looking around for a site where they may stack from fifty to one hundred million feet of lumber. That is the amount that can be cut from the logs which are already felled on the Islands.

It is well known that if the logs are allowed to lie in the water any length of time they will be spoiled by the teredo. Even in the woods the logs do not last very long. The only way to save them is to cut them up and pile the lumber. This must be done near the railway so that it may be loaded again without any difficulty.

### For Reconstruction.

For reconstruction work in Europe there will be a tremendous demand for lumber. The Imperial Munitions Board already owns the logs which have been cut on the Islands. There will be no longer be much demand for aeroplane spruce, so the only thing to do is to cut it up for commercial purposes.

Now that ships will be released from war work some of them will soon be available for carrying lumber. The lumber will be taken to France and Belgium and used in rebuilding operations.

### Prince Rupert Mill.

It is understood that arrangements are being made by the Prince Rupert mill for work to start before very long. Owing to the snowfall it has been impossible to take stock and no attempt to scale logs or undertake any of the cleaning up work will be attempted until the weather improves. There is a general understanding however that the Munitions Board will let contracts to the mills to cut the logs which they have on hand. The rate will be much lower than has been paid for aeroplane lumber and it is possible that the rate of wages to be paid the men will also be reduced somewhat. It is claimed that the rates recently obtained were war-time rates and impossible under ordinary commercial conditions.

## 2,500 A MONTH WILL RETURN TO ALBERTA

It is planned to return Alberta's soldiers at the rate of 2,500 a month according to the information that has come to Premier Stewart. This schedule will, it is expected, begin January 15, and from that on they will come back at the rate of 2,500 a month to that province. It is understood that many of the women who have been overseas during the war will be returned first, and in fact that most of them are already on the way home now.

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saxe, to be sold at cost  
Saturday.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
COME AND SEE  
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**WESTHOLME**  
TONIGHT  
WILLIAM FARNUM  
—in—  
"The Conqueror"  
A gripping Drama Picturing  
the Career of  
General Sam Houston.  
COMEDY

## WAR EXPENDITURE IS ESTIMATED AT \$1,068,000,000

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—Sir Thomas White, the minister of finance, has forwarded to Sir Robert Borden, prime minister, who is in London for the peace conference, full particulars as to the war expenditure of the Dominion, also the annual pension burden which will result from the war.

The total expenditure of Canada is estimated at \$1,068,000,000 to November 30, and to March 31 next it is estimated at \$1,290,000,000. To this estimate should be added the amount of war outlay which will be necessary after March 31, 1919, which may exceed \$300,000,000.

The pension load is estimated at \$30,000,000 per year, and probably more. Canada's net debt at March 31, 1914, was \$336,000,000 and the net debt to March 31, 1919, it is estimated, will total \$1,500,000,000.

## H. B. THOMSON FOR TRADE COMMISSIONER

H. B. Thomson, chairman of the Canada Food Board and formerly member of the Provincial Legislature and chief whip for the Conservative party, is resigning his position in order to become Canadian Trade Commissioner. His headquarters will be in Ottawa, but he will also visit London from time to time in connection with the work.

As local M. P. P. he was senior member for Victoria City.

## ELECTRICITY USED TO EXTRACT OCEAN SALT

It is stated that experiments in Norway with a view to extracting salt from sea water by means of electricity have been successful and that two salt factories will be started for this purpose in the near future, under the name of De Norske Saltverker. One is to be in western Norway and the other in northern Norway, as these districts, on account of the fisheries, are the best home markets.

Each factory is calculated to produce 50,000 tons of salt per year for a start, but they will be so constructed that the production can be doubled, if necessary. Besides the salt, certain by-products will be produced. The capital of the two factories will be 20,000,000 crowns (\$5,360,000). Each of them will use about 6,500 horsepower for the normal production.

## VICTORY LOAN

Purchasers of Victory Bonds under the instalment plan are reminded that a payment of 20% became due on the 6th instant and they are urged to make payment without delay in order to avoid having to pay overdue interest.

Under the terms of the loan failure to pay any instalment when due renders previous payments liable to forfeiture. 289



EXPATiation.

## STEAMER PRINCE JOHN TO MAKE SPECIAL RUN TO STEWART TONIGHT

Horses and Outfit to Be Taken  
In For the Bush Mine  
Owners.

The G. T. P. steamer Prince John is to make a special run to Stewart tonight carrying both freight and passengers, and leaving about ten o'clock. This is necessitated by the large amount of freight which has been piling up here awaiting an opportunity to get through to the mining camp.

Among the stuff which is offering is a consignment of horses and outfit for Mr. Neill of the Bush mine, who is preparing to ship ore just as soon as he gets his paraphernalia there. The road should be in good shape now for sleighing and the two thousand tons of ore which is to be shipped to the smelters will be got out before the snow goes. It is understood that the low grade ore is going to Anyox and the high grade to Tacoma for special treatment.

## BOYS' CLUB FORMED FOR WINTER SEASON

Officers Elected From Among the  
Lads to Conduct Affairs  
During Year.

The Boys Club was formed last night at a meeting held in the Presbyterian Church Hall. This is a revival of a successful club that was running last year. It is undenominational in character, and is supported by adherents of most of the churches in the city. Those chiefly responsible for its success are the organizers, Messrs. Carmichael and Ed. Smith.

The following officers were elected at the meeting last night: President, Ralph Smith; vice-president, Eddie Clapp; secretary, Geo. Shaw. Additional members of the executive, George Mitchell and Jack Bulger.

## SCHOONER SEA WOLF WILL MAKE A DASH FOR HERSCHEL ISLAND

The Sea Wolf, a power schooner of American registry, famous for her many cruises along the northern Siberian coast and ice-gripped Arctic, is to try for new laurels next season, according to Capt. Harry Osborne, her master. The Sea Wolf is now at Sulzer, Alaska, where she arrived recently in a storm-battered condition and will shortly be taken to Seattle to be overhauled and equipped with a more powerful engine. Capt. Osborne is planning a cruise next season to Herschel Island, far to the eastward from Point Barrow.

## HARKLEY TO BE TRIED ON MURDER CHARGE MIDDLE OF JANUARY

Assizes Set for January 6 Next,  
Before Mr. Justice Macdonald Here.

On January 16 next, before Mr. Justice Macdonald, Johnston Smith Harkley will be tried on a charge of murdering Frank Martin at Swamp Point. The accused has been in custody for several months. He was to have been tried on October 24, but owing to the influenza epidemic which made it impossible for the doctor, who was one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution, to leave Anyox, the case was postponed indefinitely.

This morning Chief Minty received a telegram from the Attorney-General's Department at Victoria stating that the assizes would be held on the date mentioned.

There is but the one criminal case to be tried.

## TERRIBLE SILENCE GOT ON MEN'S NERVES

A letter received in last night's mail from one of the soldier boys in France tells of some of the circumstances attending the event of the armistice. One of the most noticeable things, he says, was when all the guns ceased firing, the "terrible silence" seemed to get on the men's nerves. After being accustomed for years to the constant booming of the artillery for miles on either hand, the cessation of sound gave the impression of something very important being lacking. The allied artillery of course was at its maximum power during the few weeks previous to November 11.

## RETAIL MERCHANTS MEET ON WEDNESDAY

George S. Hougham, the provincial organizer for the B. C. Board of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, will arrive on the Wednesday boat.

A special meeting of the retail merchants of this city will be held at the City Hall on Wednesday evening, December 11, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Hougham will address the meeting on many matters pertaining to the interests of each merchant and will endeavor to organize a live branch of the Dominion Association in Prince Rupert.

Every merchant is particularly invited to attend as Mr. Hougham has gone to considerable expense and inconvenience in making this 500-mile trip, and it is to be hoped that his efforts will be successful.

## PRESSING PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED WITH PREMIER AND TWO OTHER MINISTERS

QUESTION OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT DURING WINTER  
TO BE CONSIDERED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT; RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION  
SUGGESTED BY MANUFACTURERS

The establishment of a reconstruction commission, or a department of reconstruction, with a minister at its head, was urged upon Premier Oliver and members of his cabinet, by the reconstruction committee of the B. C. Manufacturers' Association, who with Mayor Gale, held a conference with the premier and cabinet members on Saturday afternoon in Vancouver. In addition to the premier, Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general and minister of labor, and Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands were present.

The members of the manufacturers' committee arranged the conference to ascertain the steps being taken by the government to deal with the war problems, especially in regard to industrial and labor questions, and also with regard to finding markets for British Columbia products. The premier and his colleagues, however, pointed out that the government had no definite plans to divulge, but would be willing to listen to any suggestions the committee had to offer.

One matter dwelt upon by the committee was the probable large number of unemployed during the winter and the need for creating work for these, as well as for the large number of returned soldiers. It was also urged upon the members of the government that British Columbia was not getting its share of development of trade.

### Premier's Comments.

Premier Oliver stated that while the government was not in the manufacturing business, if the province did not receive the aid due it from the Dominion government the provincial government would feel called upon to step in and handle the matter. As far as the question of unemployment was concerned, the premier thought that the province might secure aid from the Dominion government, through the municipalities. He cautioned against too extensive governmental works however from the viewpoint of caring for a large floating population, instead of its legitimate population.

## PROCLAIM EBERTS PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REPUBLIC

Political disorders continue in various parts of Germany as the Allied armies take up their positions along the Rhine. Armed soldiers and sailors, congregating before Chancellor Ebert's residence in Berlin last night, are reported in a Berne despatch to have proclaimed him president of the "German republic." Other despatches from the same source report that the entire executive committee of the workmen and soldiers' soviets elected November 10, was arrested and imprisoned by soldiers yesterday afternoon.

Several persons were killed in street fighting at Maniz, during riots in which many shops were plundered, according to a Copenhagen despatch. Would Oppose Bolsheviks. German newspapers express a universal dread of the various separatist movements and Cologne is reported to have invited President Wilson to visit that city to meet delegations from Berlin and other German cities in an effort to bring about an understanding regarding German integrity. It is also reported that Berlin wants to form a combined Allied and German army to oppose the Bolsheviks in Russia.

Germany has sent a note to Denmark declaring the empire is on the verge of famine. "It will be necessary to greatly reduce our rations in February, when our cereals will be exhausted, the present supply being only a third of normal," the note said. "Austria has not enough food to last a month. Vienna is without coal and it will be necessary shortly to cease railway traffic, put out street lights and close many schools and shops."

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