

WAR DEPLETING STUDENT RANKS

Oxford, Feb. 19.—The winter term at Oxford University, known as " Lent" or " Hilary," was never more lull than at present.

There were 1,200 undergraduates left for the autumn term but now there are only 1,000. No new students arrive, for the upper-class boys at the public schools are being taken directly into the army as officers as fast as they are ready. Of the various colleges which go to make up the composite whole, which is known as the "university," Corpus Christi College is the nearest empty having only 22 students left. St. Edmund Hall has 26, and Trinity College 24.

A considerable proportion of the students still in attendance are the Rhodes scholars and other men from foreign countries, particularly the Americans. They practically monopolize whatever is left of college sports, and they also take the majority of the scholastic honors.

GERMAN-RUSSIAN TRADE CONTINUES

Copenhagen, Feb. 19.—While the commercial blockade between England and Germany is maintained rigorously, there appears to be no particularly strong feeling against trading between Germany and Russia. Business men from the two countries continue to deal with each other, and commercial travelers from Germany are said to have booked orders for Russia, after meeting their customers by appointment in Denmark or Sweden.

Russian manufacturers established in the Scandinavian countries have supplied large quantities of shoes to Austria, the shipments being made via Germany. German holders of Russian bonds have managed to cash their interest coupons through middlemen here.

France watches the commercial situation with a keen eye and is as careful as England to avoid all trading with Germany. The French consular agent here has just been dismissed from the office which he had held for 22 years, on charges that he shipped leather to Germany. He admitted the charge, but asserted that his office as consular agent was unsalaried and he saw no reason for breaking off his old business relations with his trusted customers in Germany. He stated, however, that some of the European countries happened to be at war.

BATH TUBS BRING JOY TO SOLDIERS

Berlin, Feb. 19.—A German officer's letter tells how he saved all trading for joy at the opening of a bathhouse in a building partly destroyed by the artillery. Two bath tubs found under the ruins of another house were installed, and in addition a large swimming basin was built, with connection to a windmill pump about two miles distant.

"But there is one drawback to our fine establishment," he says, "the shells of the enemy continually roar and explode around it. But we have grown so bold that we do not let this check our impulse to get clean, we must have our pleasure in these tubs even though the French shells crash and explode around us. The establishment was opened several weeks ago, and since then it has been used to its utmost capacity. Every man in my company is happy on his bath day, although he knows that death and destruction threatens him while bathing."

GERMANS TO START STOCK FARMS WITH CAPTURED HORSES

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Three hundred Ardennes horses, taken by the German army in the agricultural districts of France, are to be put up for sale by auction in Berlin, with the idea of making them the basis for a new breed of horses for agricultural purposes in Germany. The government circular declares that they are the most easily maintained and least subject to nervous changes of climate of any breed known.

The auction list also mentions a number of Belgian horses and a few English farm horses, which were captured in France.

BELGIAN GETS PRISON TERM OF BOASTING

Paris, Feb. 19.—The Third Court Martial of Paris sentenced a Belgian named Snyen to two years' imprisonment for making the following declaration:

"Germany asks nothing better than to make peace if she is allowed to annex Belgium and Alsace. I don't give a fig whether I become Prussian or not. The Germans massacred in Belgium because they were fired upon."

The judgment has been reversed on account of an error of form and the case will be tried over.

SEARCHING BIBLE FOR KAISER'S QUOTATION

London, Feb. 19.—Theological scholars have been searching in vain through the works of John Knox to find the Kaiser's quotation attributed to him that "A man who walks with God is always in the majority." The Edinburgh Scotsman has called upon leading Presbyterian pastors, who confess themselves unable to find the words.

Did not the Kaiser quote from Stephen A. Douglas or Wendell Phillips, asks the Scotsman. Douglas said, "God and one are a majority." Phillips' expression took this form, "One on God's side is a majority."

Some scholars attributed the line to an old Spanish proverb. At any rate, it is pointed out that being "in a majority" was not a sixteenth century phrase.

Let Us Refill Your Fern Dish
JOHN RECK & SON

Factory and Store



Clearance Sale

CLOSED ALL DAY TODAY OPEN SATURDAY AT 9 A. M.

After Each Season Our Factory and Five Stores Make a Sweeping Clear Out

and in each sale, in addition to our own stocks, are included the surplus lines of many overloaded furnishings manufacturers, mills and wholesalers.

Our First 1915 Clearance Starts Tomorrow, Saturday, 9a.m.

All Winter Goods Will Be Sold at About Wholesale Cost.

Men's and Youtis', and Children's Clothing, Hats and Furnishings are all being reprod today for easy and quick disposal tomorrow. That is why

THE SURPRISE STORE IS CLOSED TODAY

Almost everybody in the city knows what to expect, but if you've never attended one of our big Clearances, you can get an idea of the values they offer by the following selections from the present one. But remember, this is not a complete list of the items that comprise the sale.

A written Guaran tee will be given with every sale of a Suit or Overcoat, and the purchase price will be refunded for any other goods upon request.

\$7.50 Suits at \$4.85

There are many \$9.50 and \$10 grades in this lot, but we call them all \$7.50 values, as we would rather surprise you than exaggerate a value. Grays, browns, and fancy mixtures.

Models for Men and Young Men.

\$15.00 Suits at \$9.85

The lowest-priced suit among them is worth \$15; fully a third are worth \$18 and \$20. Very latest models and fabrics—and plenty of them. Serges, cassimeres, chevrons and fancy wools, including pencil stripes and Tartan plaids.

Models for Men and Young Men.

\$18.00 Suits at \$11.85

There are seven or eight suits worth \$21, among these, and quite a few \$19 grades, but any one you select will be an \$18 value; blues, grays, browns, stripes, checks, in almost unlimited assortment.

Models for Men and Young Men.

\$23.00 Suits at \$14.85

Many of these suits are made of the very finest all-wool imported and domestic fabrics; the colors and the patterns are the richest to be found in any store in town; highest-class custom-finish garments; splendid assortment of weaves and designs to select from.

Models for Men and Young Men.

\$7.50 O'Coats at \$4.85

Ordinarily four-eighty-five wouldn't buy the material alone for a good coat; but this is not an ordinary offer, remember; and we won't have to urge anybody to believe, in once the coats are seen and examined; Black Melton, dark oxford, and convertible collar models in gray and brown mixtures.

Styles for Men and Young Men.

\$15.00 O'Coats at \$9.85

You'll see that these garments are good values at \$15—and wonders at \$9.85; the Balmainian 1 nig and dark mixtures; the Wellington or Shawl-Collar model of Oxford Melton, also Kerseys, Chinchillas, plain oxfords and some medium-weight silk-faced coats.

Models for Men and Young Men.

\$18 O'Coats at \$11.85

Every popular fabric is included in this lot in one model or another—and these comprise the self-collar model, one of the new ones; the Button-Through Coat; the Balmainian, the Chesterfield and a few medium-weight coats; all fine hand-tailored garments.

Styles for Men and Young Men.

\$23 O'Coats at \$14.85

You can pick a coat from this lot with your eyes closed—and be sure of getting nearly half more than you pay for; all-wool imported and domestic fabrics and such styles as the Chesterfield, English Guard, Button-Through model, the Balmainian and others.

Models for Men and Young Men.

Second Week Of Our Big PANT SALE

\$1.50 and \$1.75 PANTS

Made of excellent quality tibets, fancy worsteds and plain blue serges; sizes 28 to 42 waist measure. SALE PRICE..... **\$1.00**

\$2.00 and \$2.25 PANTS

Good, durable blue serges, fancy mixtures and worsteds in a variety of patterns; all sizes up to 52 waist measure. SALE PRICE..... **\$1.50**

\$2.75 and \$3.00 PANTS

Splendid qualities and all good, desirable patterns in serges, corduroys, cassimeres and fancy worsteds; all sizes up to 52 waist measure. SALE PRICE..... **\$2.00**

\$3.50 and \$4.00 PANTS

Fine blue serges, neat and serviceable mixtures, and brown, blue and gray-stripe worsteds; all sizes up to 52 waist measure. SALE PRICE..... **\$2.50**

Boys' Clothing

SUITS & O'COATS

Russian and Norfolk Suits—newest models and fabrics; some with patch pockets; sizes 7 to 16 years; RUSSIAN OVERCOATS, in sizes 2 to 10 years.

Worth \$2 and \$2.50; at..... **\$1.45**

SUITS & O'COATS

RUSSIAN AND NORFOLKS—some with two pairs of pants; blue serges and all-wool fancy mixtures; 6 to 17 years; SCHOOL AND JUVENILE OVERCOATS, of all styles; Balmainians, Mackinaws, Norfolk and Belted models; 3 to 10 years.

Worth \$3.50; at..... **\$2.95**

Boys' 59c Coat Sweaters

Heavy knit in oxford gray; actual 59c garments reduced to..... **25c**

RUSSIAN BLOUSE SUITS

Worth \$1.25 and \$1.50 at..... **\$1.00**

Fancy Eton Suits in a variety of patterns; smart, stylish, well made garments.

FACTORY AND STORE CLEARANCE

SUITS & O'COATS

Russian and Norfolk Suits—some with two pairs of pants; wool cassimeres, all-worsted serge, and fancy mixtures; 8 to 18 years; OVERCOATS in Balmainian and Belted models.

Worth \$4.50; at..... **\$3.95**

SUITS & O'COATS

Russian and Norfolk Suits—mostly Bulgarian models with stitched belts and pleats; sizes 6 to 17 years; BUTTON-TO-NECK OVERCOATS—brown, gray and mixtures; blue and gray chinchillas; 3 to 10 years.

Worth \$3.00; at..... **\$1.95**

Boys' 12c Stockings

All new, fast-black, heavy-rib hose; reduced to..... **8c**

MEN'S FURNISHINGS

FACTORY AND STORE CLEARANCE OF ALL LINES NOW ON HAND.

59c Fleece-Lined Underwear

Clean, perfect, new shirts and drawers, reduced for quick selling to..... **29c**

Heavy Cotton-Rib 69c UNDERWEAR..... **39c**

59c Blue WOR KSHIRTS..... **39c**

69c Fancy PERCALE SHIRTS..... **44c**

15c COLLARS..... **8c**

Men's 12c Socks

These ought to go by the dozen pairs; for every one is new and perfect. If you don't buy a box you lose a rare chance; at..... **5c**

Men's 69c SWEATERS..... **45c**

White HANDKERCHIEFS..... **3c**

1119-1123 Main Street SECURITY BLDG., BRIDGEPORT.

STORE OPEN SATURDAY EVENING

The Surprise Store

BELGIAN REFUGEES ENJOYING LIFE AS HOLLAND'S GUESTS

Nunspeet, The Netherlands, Feb. 19.—The life of the nine thousand Belgian refugees who are enjoying the hospitality of the Dutch authorities in a vast camp here, is an interesting side light of the war. The camp, which is one of numerous similar concentration centers spread about Holland, is situated on a sandy plain surrounded by pine woods so renowned for their efficacy in the

treatment of incipient tuberculosis. It consists of four villages formed of capitably arranged and commodious huts, in which each family has a chamber. All have board floors and are illuminated with electric light. In each of the villages are large work-rooms for different trades, wash-houses, baths and a children's recreation shed, all provided with heating apparatus, while there are four schoolhouses and a wooden church capable of seating about 2,000 people. Hospitals for ordinary ailments and for infectious diseases, a dispensary and several small libraries have been either specially erected or established in houses already standing in the neighborhood and lent for the purpose by charitable people. The camp is under a Dutch mil-

itary guard and besides the company of 150 soldiers a small detachment of county police and Belgian gendarmes patrol the villages to keep order. Tools necessary to all the ordinary trades are provided and several small huts in each village are fitted up as workshops. The men make or mend all their own shoes and clothes, while the women do sewing.

It is interesting to observe the pride the refugees take in the decoration of the huts, which are separated by wide tracts of ground. Each shack has received its name and in the two Belgian races—Flemish and Walloon—can be marked at once by the inscription in Low Dutch or French. A small proportion of the people are bi-lingual, but 6,000 of them speak only Flemish and the

other 3,000 only French. Around the shacks, notwithstanding the sandy soil, some of the men have laid out little patches of garden. The authorities distribute daily premiums to those obtaining the best results in neatness and cultivation. In one place an excellent imitation of the Dutch lion is laid out in sand and green turf fetched from the woods.

Four priests and 34 sisters are engaged in the religious and educational work of the camp, and besides these there are men and women among the refugees who possess a high grade of education and who give their services as readers to their comrades in distress in the schoolrooms after nightfall. A benevolent resident of the district also has presented a moving picture apparatus for entertain-

ment. Sickness among the refugees has been little considering the number of people and the circumstances under which they were brought together in a spot where no drainage or sanitary arrangements existed before their arrival. Only one adult has died since the camp was formed and that was a woman of over eighty years of age. Among the children, a number have died of measles.

form of a "croix de Guerre" (war cross) consisting of a bronze cross bearing the words "citation" and the date "1914-1915." For each additional citation a bar bearing the word "citation" will be added. On the uniform the cross will hang from the green ribbon of the medal of 1870 but with the black bars, symbol of mourning for Alsace-Lorraine, suppressed. On civilian dress, to distinguish the cross from other medals it will be worn without ribbon in the button hole.

Berlin cafe owners will advance the price of beer.

Paris, Feb. 19.—A permanent recognition of soldiers cited in the orders of the day is proposed in the

SPECIAL "WAR CROSS" FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS

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