

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Strong winds and moderate gales from eastward; cool with rain.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY MATINEE 2:30
TONIGHT 7:15
Feldman and Christie Musical Co.
"MY WIFE'S FAMILY"

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GERMANS BALKED IN EVERY MOVE IN WEST WHILE FRENCH WIN BACK MORE LOST GROUND

LATEST BUDGET PROVIDES FOR ABOUT 65 MILLION POUNDS YEARLY BY NEW TAXATION

New Taxes on Amusements, Railway Tickets and Increase of Old Rates on Tea, Sugar, etc.—War Costing \$25,000,000 Daily—Expenditure Came Below Estimated Figure for Year.

London, April 4.—When the House of Commons met shortly before three o'clock to hear the fourth budget speech of the war and the second since Mr. McKenna took over the chancellorship, there was a full attendance of members and the galleries were well filled, chiefly by business men who had a direct interest in the new taxation proposed. Despite the fact that the new taxation will make the annual bill of the people of Great Britain the largest in the history of the country and that there is in plain view a national debt of £3,600,000,000 with a debt charge which is double the annual expenditure and taxation for a generation, the general public took but little interest in the occasion.

Mr. McKenna said a generous allowance would have to be made for the difficulty of framing exact estimates in view of such questions as the shortage of tonnage and restriction upon foreign trade, and he had assumed that the war would last during the whole of the financial year.

Expenditure Below Estimate.

The actual expenditure during the year was £1,380,000,000, or £21,000,000 below the estimate, said the chancellor. Great Britain's allies had been assisted to the amount of £264,000,000 and her dominions to the amount of £52,000,000.

The chancellor was able to open his speech in a cheerful strain, as the figures published March 31 showed revenue to exceed the estimate by £21,000,000, while the expenditure was under the estimate by almost the same figure. The treasury, consequently, is £42,000,000 better off than it was expected it would be at the end of the last financial year.

Mr. McKenna said the maximum income tax would be five shillings in the pound. The chancellor estimated the revenue at £1,380,000,000 and the deficit at £1,323,000,000. He said the deficit would be made good by borrowing.

The chancellor said that there had been a saving both in the estimates and to the amounts needed for the assistance of the nation's allies and its dominions, due to the case of the dominions, to the public spirited action of Canada, which raised loans in her own territory. The difference between the estimate and the actual expenditure for assistance to the Allies was largely due to delays, and would ultimately approximate the estimate. He emphasized the power of British trade as shown in the revenue returns.

The actual deficit on the year, continued the chancellor was £1,200,000,000, while the debt on March 31 was £2,140,000,000 as compared with a debt of £651,000,000 before the war, but that was not a dead weight debt, he added, as £268,000,000 had been lent the Allies. That was on the debit side. On the credit side was an increased yield by new taxation which gave the nation's credit or its full assurance that they were properly secured. Not a pound was borrowed without making provision for interest

STRONGLY ENDORSE WEST SIDE ROUTE FOR VALLEY RY.

Public Meeting at Armstrong's Corner Approves of Change and Urges Connection with C. P. R. at Welsford.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, April 4.—At a public meeting held at Armstrong's Corner, Queens County, a resolution was passed approving of the proposal to change the route of the St. John Valley Railway from the so-called east side route, and urging that the line be constructed so as to make connection with the C.P.R. at Welsford and thus reach St. John.

The meeting was unanimously in favor of the resolution and it was pointed out that the changes proposed would greatly assist in opening up extensive coal fields of Cloves and iron mines at Headline, while the fine agricultural district through which the road would pass is in need of railway facilities. The section would also provide a sufficient freight traffic in lumber to make it a paying job business.

The resolution, which has been forwarded to H. W. Woods, M.L.A., by W. H. McCracken, chairman of the committee, is as follows:

"Resolved, that as the government has decided to abandon the route of the Valley Railway via crossing of St. John river, this meeting begs to lay before your honored government the need of this section of the country for railway accommodation, as we believe we have the shortest and best outlet for the Valley Railway by making connections with the C.P.R. at Welsford and opening up the coal fields of Cloves and iron mines of Headline, it would also pass through a fine agricultural district in need of railway facilities and there is an abundance of lumber that would be shipped that would make freight traffic for years.

"As your honored government is deeply interested in the development of the resources of the province, we would therefore pray that you would make a survey of the proposed route from at or below Upper Gaspoint to Welsford before deciding on any other route, that being the original location of the Valley Railway and first proposed, and we trust that you will give this route your careful consideration, and feel confident that by so doing you will find it the cheaper and the shortest route.

"We also wish to express our satisfaction with the government as far as they have gone in the construction of the Valley Railway and also our confidence in the government that the change in location of the route is in the best interests of the province."

LAURIER RESOLUTION VOTED DOWN

Commons Votes 83 to 45 Against Parliamentary Probe Into Shell Charges.

LAURIER NOT CALLED TO RIDEAU HALL.

Sir Thomas White Refutes Statements of Carvell and Kyte that Dominion Iron & Steel Co. Were Refused Contracts.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Ont., April 4.—Parliament, by the handsome majority of eighty-three to forty-five, voted down tonight the resolution of Sir Wilfrid Laurier which called for a parliamentary investigation into the work of the Shell Committee and refused the judicial investigation ordered by the government.

Such an investigation as the Liberal leader demanded would have resulted in a discreditable sense of political defeat for the government, which had to witness the debating spectacle of members of parliament fighting for political ammunition over contracts for shells and fuses, while men are bleeding in defence of their country.

Sir Wilfrid admitted himself tonight that it would be a political battle between partisans, and as proof thereof he had become seized of the fact that the feeling in the country was against such an inquiry, he stated that he waived the question of an investigation by a parliamentary committee.

But Sir Wilfrid, benefit of the only argument he had for not withdrawing his resolution when he found that the Prime Minister had ordered a fave investigation, fell back upon the weak attitude that the inquiry into the work of the Shell Committee should be general in its character. In other words, he wants to set out on a fishing expedition for political capital.

Dr. J. W. Kite has made charges. He is the only member of the opposition who has done so. The charges will be investigated. Sir Robert Borden has said that if any other charges are made they also will be investigated. Nothing could be fairer than this.

It is a fact that many of the Conservative members of parliament went home during the last week-end to discover what was the feeling in the country, and they have come back satisfied that the action of the government in ordering an investigation into the Kite charges has met with the thorough approval of the vast majority of the people. They are satisfied that justice will be done the country by Sir William Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff, that their interests will be conserved and that political partisanship over a matter which should be far away above party politics will be eliminated.

Four members of the Conservative party voted with the opposition. Hon. Andrew Broder was one of them. It has been known for years, however, that Mr. Broder expected to be made a cabinet minister in 1911, and it was a keen disappointment to him that he was not. Since then he has been a candidate for the Board of Railway Commissioners, and he had been disappointed in this also. Further he has been anxious to be appointed to the Senate. These seem to be the chief reasons for his vote tonight.

As to the others, W. F. MacLean, P. E. Lamarche, and A. A. Mondoux, they have never been recognized as regular party men. Mr. MacLean has always been an independent, while the two latter are Nationalists.

Sir Thos. White.

Ottawa, April 4.—At the opening of the House Sir Wilfrid Laurier called attention to press reports to the effect that His Royal Highness, the Governor General, had sent for him to advise him as to the course he should follow in connection with "a certain investigation." The leader of the opposition said that he regarded the Governor-General as a model representative of the sovereign, and that perhaps, there have been traced."

ADVANCING HUNS RAKED BY FRENCH CURTAIN OF FIRE AND RETREAT IN DISORDER

SENTRY FIRES AT PROWLER, BULLET KILLS SUSSEX WOMAN

Shot Fired by Private Best of 104th Battalion at Suspicious Stranger Enters House 500 Yards Distant Causing Instant Death of Mrs. Jennie Cook — Best Exonerated.

Special to The Standard.
Sussex, N. B., April 4.—A shocking tragedy occurred here at an early hour this morning, when Mrs. Jennie Cook was instantly killed, accidentally, by a bullet discharged from a rifle in the hands of Private Frank L. Best of St. John, a member of B Co., 104th Battalion. An inquest was held this afternoon before Coroner Fenwick W. Wallace at which the facts regarding the lamentable affair were brought to light.

Edward Arnold, sworn, said: "I reside in the town of Sussex and am a farmer. Mrs. Jennie Cook was in my employ since yesterday at noon. About half past two this morning I had just left the room where my wife lay ill and had been out about 16 minutes when I heard a fall.

Found Woman on Floor.

"I rushed into the room and found Mrs. Cook lying on the floor. I picked her up and I knew she was dead as soon as I took hold of her. I put a pillow under her head and went to the doorway of the room and telephoned from there for Dr. Burnett, who came at once. I noticed blood flowing from the deceased but thought it was from her ear. The doctor told me she was dead and had died before she struck the floor. After he had gone my sister-in-law, Miss Gorbhan, called my attention to the looking glass which had been broken. As soon as I saw this I knew it was from a bullet.

Bullet Hole in Boards.

"I examined it and found a hole in the boards behind the glass and in the wall back of it. I then went outside and saw the entrance of the hole in the clapboards opposite the hole in the glass. The room was in the second story front of the house, west end. There was a considerable quantity of blood beside her and the pillow under her head and clothing were saturated with blood. There was blood on her face apparently flowing from her mouth.

Saw She Was Dead.

"I saw she was dead but did not make any examination of the body because I did not want to disturb Mrs. Arnold unnecessarily, and the body was removed from the room and taken to the undertaker's morgue. This morning about ten o'clock I viewed the body. I found a wound immediately behind the right ear and a very small cut in the lobe of the ear on the left side of the neck from another wound almost directly opposite the first about an inch below the ear. I passed a large probe directly through the neck showing some body had penetrated the neck from one side to the other. The wound was no doubt caused by a bullet that entered at the right side of the neck

Repulsed Completely in Attempt to Press Further South Against French at Douaumont.

ATTACK ON HAUCOURT ALSO FALLS THROUGH

Floods Continue on Eastern Front Impeding Infantry Fighting But Artillery Fire of Russians Increased in Violence.

An attempt by the Germans to press farther south against the French in the region of Douaumont, northeast of Verdun, has met with repulse and considerable losses. In the same sector, north of Calette wood, the French have continued their progress in driving back the Teutons.

The German attack south of Douaumont was launched against the French first lines of defense, but the French raked the advancing "Teutons" with their curtain of fire, machine guns and infantry fire, forcing them to retreat in disorder northwest toward the Chaufour wood.

An attack by the Germans on the town of Haucourt, northwest of Verdun, also failed, as likewise did an attempt to reach the French trenches near Seppone, in the Vosges mountains. Elsewhere along the western front there have only been reciprocal bombardments and some action on the line held by the British. On the Russian front the artillery activity of the Russians on the lake region southeast of Dvinsk has increased, but in general no important changes in the positions of the Russians and Germans have taken place.

The Budget.

Another Zeppelin air raid was made on England Monday night—the fourth in as many days. Berlin says that fortifications near Yarmouth were attacked. A British official statement asserts that no casualties resulted and that no damage was done.

In presenting the new budget in the House of Commons, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer estimated the direct war expenditure of Great Britain for the present year at £1,150,000,000, the total expenditure amounting to about £2,000,000,000 daily. He provided for new taxation amounting to about £65,000,000 annually, and declared that the government was raising over £200,000,000 a year by the taxation imposed since the beginning of the war.

Great Britain has declined to release thirty-eight Germans, Austrians and Turks removed by British warships from the American steamer "China" off the Chinese coast. The right of the British government to seize subjects of enemy countries returning home to take part in the war is said to be insisted on in the British note handed to the State Department. The American government is expected to dispute the contention.

The new Russian war minister, Gen. Chouvaieff, announces that all his efforts will be directed to providing the Russian army with sufficient equipment to win the war. He declares that "there must be more deeds and fewer words" and that reorganization in some departments is necessary.

Austria has informed Holland that no Austro-Hungarian submarine was responsible for the sinking of the Dutch steamer Tuhantia.

A Greek Yarn.

Berlin, April 4, by wireless to Sayville.—The report that the Greek government has requested the withdrawal of the French and British foreign ministers at Saloniki is reiterated in an Athens despatch received by the Overseas News Agency, which says the Greek government has declared the Entente Powers will be held responsible for further bombardments of Saloniki by German airplanes in case the request of Greece is not complied with. Furthermore, it is said, refusal of the Entente Powers to meet the wishes of Greece is not considered as an unfriendly act toward the Greek government.

MAJOR PRINGLE SAILS FOR HOME ON LEAVE.

London, April 4.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Major John Pringle, of Sydney, N. S., has sailed for Canada by the Scandinavian on two months' leave. He has been with the first division.

THE FUND IS OVER \$800

A few more contributions such as were received on Monday and Tuesday, will bring the 140th Batt. Band Fund close to the thousand dollar mark. From far-off Chicago came a gift of fifty dollars yesterday. If Mrs. James Brown, who forwarded a gift from the Three K Circle will send her address to The Standard the contribution will be acknowledged by the treasurer of Brunswick Chapter, I. O. O. E.

Previously acknowledged:

Major J. A. Boak, Chicago	50.00
J. A. Tilton	10.00
Catherine Tilton	1.00
Mrs. C. B. Lockhart	5.00
F. C. Macneil	10.00
The Three K's Circle (Mrs. Jas. Brown)	10.00

ANOTHER AIR RAID, BUT NO CASUALTIES

Zeppelin Crossed East Anglian Coast Early Yesterday Morning but Did Not Remain Long.

London, April 4.—No damage was caused by last night's Zeppelin raid, it was announced officially today and there were no casualties. The statement follows:

"A Zeppelin is reported to have crossed the East Anglian coast between two and three o'clock this (Tuesday) morning. The aircraft does not seem to have been long over the land. Although several explosions are reported no fragments of bombs have been discovered up to date. No damage was caused and no casualties have been traced."

SEA FIGHT IN CATTEGAT, AT LEAST 1 ENEMY SHIP CRIPPLED

Copenhagen, April 4, via London, April 5.—A naval engagement of some kind took place Monday in the Cattegat, according to despatches received here from Kullen, Sweden.

About noon, the despatches say, a terrific cannonade was heard from the sea, and two hours later a German torpedo boat, badly damaged, was towed past Helsingborg.