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ITALY EXPECTED TO DECLARE WAR ON AUSTRIA WITHIN TWO WEEKS

RUSSIANS DEFEAT CHIEF AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE AND ENEMY RETREATS TO BALIGROD

General Election Looked For in Canada in Two Months

AUSTRIAN POSITION TAKEN IN CARPATHIANS

Russians Make Important Coup at Middle of Enemy's Offensive Area.

ENEMY BEATS RETREAT

Success Also Gained in Fights in East Galicia and North Poland.

PETROGRAD, March 16.—Despite the obstacles of deep snow, blizzards and intense cold, the Russian troops in continuing their offensive in the Bukovina region of the Carpathians, carried the last Austrian position, right in the centre of their chief offensive area, and forced them to retreat in the direction of Baligrod. The Russians took 2400 prisoners, capturing 14 officers and 17 machine guns. This important success will compel the enemy to readjust his lines several miles back, and give the Russians in the important strategic position of Baligrod, an invasion of Hungary, which would be a serious blow to the Austrians. The Austrians also lost a number of trenches towards the Usok Pass. The opening stages of a big battle to the east of the Stanislav-Kamienka railway are being fought with open success by the Russians, whose infantry, marching through snow, great numbers of machine guns, and other heavy arms, captured the town of Stanislav, and 700 prisoners. Parties of the enemy attempting to advance from Kopolovo were destroyed. An offensive of the Germans in the Galicia district was defeated. The Russians report partial success north of the Przasnysz-Grodouk line. Fresh Russian advances in the northwestern Bukovina is reported. It is stated that bad weather makes progress slow. The Russian army has certain Austrian trenches at the point of the bayonet, the Austrians retreating with heavy losses.

HOST OF PRISONERS ON WAY THRU KIEV

Nearly Fifty Thousand Germans and Austrians Passed in February.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, March 16, 9.40 p.m.—A Petrograd despatch to Reuters' Telegram Company says that in February 40,000 German and Austrian prisoners passed thru Kiev.

According to the same despatch it is announced that the Turks having recently lost several important points in the region of the Tchoruk River, Turkish Armenia, have completely abandoned their positions to the Russians. The latter are seriously threatening the Turks in the Old district of Transcaucasia.

U.S. VESSEL WRECKED ON FRISIAN ISLANDS

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 16, 11.40 p.m.—The American barque "Pass of Balmaha," is ashore near Sylt, one of the North Frisian Islands, according to a message from Bremen. The Pass of Balmaha from New York for Bremen with a cargo of cotton was recently detained by the British authorities at Kirkwall for inspection. She was allowed to proceed on her voyage.

ITALY IS TRYING OUT HEAVY NEW ARTILLERY

SPERZIA, Italy, via Chiasso and Pisa, March 16, 8.57 p.m.—The commission of artillery officers came here and tried out some of the new 305 millimeter cannon recently. They stated that the guns would be most powerful in making an attack on fortifications. These cannon, together with others of the same calibre now ready at Genoa, are being transported to the front. The Italian central artillery depot from there the guns can be transported rapidly and speedily to whatever point requires them.

Getting the War News

The World has pointed out on more than one occasion, this paper is the habit of drawing attention to the general excellence of its news columns. The World rather would have its readers—and they are increasing—and they are increasing rather than decreasing. The Star of today or two an article pointing out that The Star is the only paper that does this and The Star is the only paper that does this. News-paper readers generally recognize the fact that the daily papers in Toronto are the best published in Canada and among the best in America. Each paper tries to give its readers the best and most authentic news of the war. It is a fact that the morning papers get the best of the war news. The evening papers also publish good news, but the greater portion of it either already has appeared in the morning papers, or is rewritten and published in the form of "special cables." Especially is this the case with The Star.

German Ambassador Makes Desperate Efforts to Stave Off War.

Princ von Buelow, the German ambassador, has given formal assurances that Germany will be able to overcome the resistance of Austria and induce Vienna to concede to Italy the territorial concessions demanded, together with a free hand in southern Albania. The central empire would further Italy's ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean. The German diplomat said that the maritime supremacy of Great Britain and the effect of crushing Italy.

ALLIES NOT INACTIVE

Full National Aspirations for Her People Promised by Diplomats.

Canadian Press Despatch. ROME, March 16.—The political pressure upon the Italian Government to pledge Italy's course in the future, either to the empire of central Europe or the allies, has been augmented for some time, and is today believed to have about reached its climax. Prince von Buelow, the German ambassador, has given formal assurances that Germany will be able to overcome the resistance of Austria and induce Vienna to concede to Italy the territorial concessions demanded, together with a free hand in southern Albania. The central empire would further Italy's ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean. The German diplomat said that the maritime supremacy of Great Britain and the effect of crushing Italy.

RUSSIA BOUGHT ALL THE WHEAT

England and France Will Have First Option of Purchase.

GOVERNMENT TO SELL

People Will Have to Depend on Government for Transportation.

PRINZ EITEL BAND PLAYS U.S. ANTHEM

Launching of Dreadnought Makes Occasion for Fuss and Frills.

DANIELS WAS THERE

Presidential Yacht Responds to Musical Offering With Salute.

U. S. WILL PROTEST AGAINST RESTRICTIONS

WASHINGTON, March 16.—President Wilson indicated to callers today that a strong protest would be made by the United States Government against the action of Great Britain and her allies in subjecting neutral commerce to the numerous restrictions imposed on it by the British order-in-council just issued.

BRIBE OFFERED ITALIANS TO THE HANDS IN CRISIS

German Ambassador Makes Desperate Efforts to Stave Off War.

ITALY'S COURSE TO BE CHANGED IN TWO WEEKS

BY R. MACKENZIE. Special Cable to The Toronto World.

CHARGE OF TREACHERY REFUTED BY CAILLAUX

He Denies Visit to Vienna and Negotiations With Germany.

DUTCH NOT IN MOOD TO HOLD CELEBRATION

Centenary of Transformation of Netherlands Into Kingdom Not Observed.

USED MILITARY GARB AS CLOAK FOR FRAUD

Gillespie, Arrested in Port Arthur, Has Victims in Toronto.

TIME DRAWS NEAR FOR BIG EFFORTS

War Operations in West Assume Greater Significance With Spring.

HOLD TO NEW GROUND

British, Belgian and French Armies Consolidated in Positions Gained.

BULGARIA ATTITUDE OVERAWED GREECE

Ex-Premier Says Allies Twice Asked for Aid to Serbia.

LIGHT ON RESIGNATION

Venezelos Wanted to Send Large Force to Dardanelles.

U. S. AMBASSADOR TO PLEAD PIRATES' CAUSE?

Germany Asks Him to Lodge a Protest at London.

WOUNDED GERMANS EXPRESS THANKS

Grateful for the Care They Received from the British.

AFTER NAVAL BATTLE

Only Three Men Killed Before the Dresden Was Sunk.

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Federal Election Before Ontario's Hay Crop Is Cut

Premier Borden and Bennett of Calgary Virtually Sounded Tocsin in Spirited Speeches—Quick Dissolution of Parliament Likely If Obstruction Tried.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, March 16.—There will be a federal election before the hay is cut in Ontario. Parliament today was full of the electricity of coming conflict. Sir Robert Borden spoke in fighting mood and R. B. Bennett of Calgary simply set all the heather ablaze in the Conservative trenches when his eloquent invective was poured out against the Liberals this evening. The opposition made answer as best they could, and it looks as if they had decided that they can't head off an election, and therefore, that they might as well get the business of the house over at the earliest possible moment and trust to events to postpone the election. If they hold up business it might bring on a dissolution and a quick election. So that all the signs point to an early election and a still earlier closing of the house. Crisis is Reached.

UNCLE SAM PINCHED BY BLOCKADE ORDER

Cutting Off German Imports to Cost U.S. Treasury Hundred Thousand Daily.

BIG TRADE DOOMED

Retalatory Measures Will Be Effective in Choking Dual Alliance.

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BORDEN ANSWERED CRITICS VIGOROUSLY

Premier's Defence of Tariff Increase Was Made With Spirit.

ENTHUSIASM STIRRED

Bennett's Aggressive Utterances Stirred Conservatives to Great Enthusiasm.

Special to The Toronto World. OTTAWA, March 16.—Great Britain's orders-in-council, practically cutting off all commercial relations with Germany, will result in a net loss in customs revenue to the United States of approximately \$100,000 a day, according to estimates of the government statistical experts, and a loss to Germany of approximately \$10,000,000 a month in exports from the United States, according to estimates of the same experts. The average monthly import trade during the seven months ending January this year.

The effect of the German war zone decree and the retaliatory measures of Great Britain and France, have already had a marked effect on the import trade of this country, with accompanying loss in customs revenue. This latest move of Great Britain is causing the treasury department much anxiety, owing to the already large deficit. The customs receipts for the week ending March 13, as compared with the previous week, show a decrease of \$225,857. Imports dropped from \$23,830,015 for the week ending March 6 to \$23,611,660 for last week.

Special to The Toronto World. OTTAWA, March 16.—Many able speeches and several sharp encounters across the floor of the house marked the concluding day of the budget debate. At an early hour this morning Solicitor-General Meighen was summing up for the government, and the closing gun of the opposition is to be fired by Hon. George P. Graham. The house will then divide upon the Laurier amendment, condemning the tariff increases as unnecessary and lamenting the impairment of the British preference.

The debate was opened shortly after the house convened this afternoon by the prime minister in a vigorous and aggressive speech, which roused his followers to great enthusiasm. Even a greater ovation came, however, upon the government benches when R. B. Bennett of Calgary savagely arraigned the opposition. E. M. MacDonald, the Liberal member for Etobicoke, supported the Laurier amendment and declared that Sir Wilfrid's naval policy would be adopted as its permanent policy by the Borden government.

Preference Increased. F. E. Carvell, the Liberal member for Carleton Place, and Mr. Verelle, the Liberal-Labor member for Montreal, assailed the tariff increases as a heavy burden upon the poor which would not put a small revenue to the government.

Sir Robert Borden declared that so far from impairing the British preference, their friends in the senate by discussing the bill-lingual school question were receiving race and creed prejudices.

Premier Refutes Charge. Sir Robert Borden, in opening, said that the leader of the opposition had complained of being not consulted by the government.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1.) Distinctive Models in Men's Spring Bright Hats by Celebrated Hatters. The smartest men in town to Dimpens', 140 Yonge street, to look over the advance shipments in stylish Hats. They are buying freshly, too. What one considers that such world-famous makers as Henry Healy, Charles and Elligate, London, Eng., Dunlop and Stetson of America, and Borsalino & Co. Italy, are among the firms represented. It is not much of a stretch to realize that the world's best in hats is here. Make it a point to see these new styles today.