

The Herald

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Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 29.—Another brilliant speech was delivered by Hon. Arthur Meighen in the House this evening in the debate on the budget. This has been a season remarkable for brilliant speeches, but it is not too much to say that the utterance of the Solicitor-General will compare favorably with the best of the year. It is true that for the most part, he had recourse to deal with the arguments of the opponents, that his was the task of pulling down the castles of the opposition, and so he had to assume the attitude of the inevitable critic, necessarily he had to appear as counsel for the defence, gathering up the stray shots of the attackers, and hurling them back, but he did it as few men in the House can do it. He made several of the opposition speakers in the debate appear ridiculous, particularly J. G. Turiff of Assiniboia, who had foolishly attacked the policy of the government regarding the export of nickel to the United States. Mr. Turiff had argued that the government should stop the export of nickel from Canada in the unrefined state, and that all the refining should be done in this country. He declared that the Germans had succeeded in getting Canadian nickel for their own war purposes.

The Solicitor-General easily disposed of Mr. Turiff. He showed that not one pound of Canadian nickel had reached Germany since the war began, and as to the possibility of bringing the refineries of New Jersey to Canada by means of an export duty, he said the supporters of this proposal had not a very serious sense of responsibility if they understood the question. Would they, he asked, have prevented the manufacture of munitions in the United States for Great Britain and her Allies? It would take a year to establish a nickel refinery in Canada, and no one knew that the war would last so long as a year when it broke out. He mentioned the fact that the British government had not interfered with the export of nickel to the United States, thus showing that it had no fear of its reaching Germany, and, said Mr. Meighen, "The British government knows its own business in this matter a trifle better than the honorable member for Assiniboia."

He resented the attack made upon the Jewish people by Mr. Boulay, the member for Rimouski, who had declared that the immigration of Hebrews should be restricted. Mr. Meighen said that the Jewish people were a creditable people from end to end of the Dominion and they were joining hands in the awful struggle in which Canada was engaged. Sir Meighen paid a glowing tribute to Sir Thomas White, saying that the people of the west would regard the budget as not only eminently fair, but eminently generous, and that the Minister of Finance had the best interests of agriculture throughout the whole country at heart. The burden of debt had been placed on the shoulders of those who were making large profits out of the war, and in this Sir Thomas had given evidence of courage, resource and initiative.

Ottawa, March 1.—Two of the veteran and most respected members of parliament have been decorated with the title of "Honorable" by being sworn in as members of His Majesty's Privy Council. They are David Henderson, M. P. for Halifax and Andrew Broder, M. P. for Dundas. On the advice of the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness has been pleased to call them to the privy council, and they are now receiving the congratulations of their fellow members without distinction of party. A similar distinction was accorded by the present government to the late Hon. Samuel Barker and the late Hon. George Clarke. While the new honor does not give them an increased emolument or the entry into the cabinet councils, it gives them precedence at all state functions over their fellow members of parliament, and entitles them to be addressed, as "Honorable," and to wear, if they like, a privy councillor's uniform with gold braid and if they like to be extreme silk stockings and a cocked hat. Such a spectacle, however, is hardly expected in the case of such democrats as the Hon. David and the Hon. Andy.

Ottawa, March 2.—In giving notice of motion of his amendments to the budget resolutions at the opening of the house, Sir Thomas White stated that in order to avoid taxing profits made previous to the war, he proposed to extend the date from which profits are to be calculated from Aug. 4, 1914, to December 31, of the same year, with a like extension of the duration of the taxation from August 4, 1917 to December 31, 1917. This where in the original resolutions the taxation was provided to apply to accounting periods ending after August 4, 1914, it will now apply to accounting periods ending after December 31, of the same year. No business will pay no more than three accounting periods or less, than three accounting periods of one year each. As far as taxation is concerned the change will thus make no difference, as three accounting periods will be paid on by a company just as originally proposed. In discussing the retroactive feature of the budget, Sir Thomas stated that if a measure had been provided which was not retroactive in character, no revenue would have been obtained during the present year, since he estimated it would take almost a year to make assessment, and collect the taxation. Sir Thomas then turned to the matter of capitalization. He stated that it had been found a very difficult matter to deal with the question of reserves, which differed in nature. There were companies which had placed their reserves into their business in a legitimate manner. There was no question that such reserves should count as capital. There were other companies whose reserves were largely a matter of bookkeeping, such as public franchise corporations which wrote off very little from year to year on plant, while profits in excess of those distributed to shareholders were carried over to profit and loss account as reserves for the benefit of the price to be asked from municipalities, which might desire to make them over. The finance minister proposed to deal with actual, unimpaired reserves. The company which had placed its reserve in its business legitimately would be allowed to treat it all as capital. On the other hand, companies of the second class mentioned, would be allowed to calculate their reserves as capital only to the extent that they were actual unimpaired reserves. Sir Thomas then took up the matter of companies with so-called watered stock.

It was practically impossible, said Sir Thomas to ascertain the precise value of intangible considerations for which a capital stock of a company has been issued at the time of issue. Stock market value was unsafe and inconclusive evidence. To meet the case of watered stock companies however, he proposed an amendment, the first part of which declared: "That the amount paid up on the capital stock of a company shall be the amount paid up in cash. In the case of a company where this condition obtained, explained the minister, no question thus would arise. The amendment went on to state that "where stock was issued before Jan. 1, 1915, for any consideration other than cash, the fair value of such stock on such date shall be deemed to be the amount paid upon such stock; and where stock has been issued since Jan. 1, for any consideration other than cash the face value of the stock at the date of its issue shall be deemed to be the amount paid upon such stock. That part of the amendment which set forth the manner in which the value of stock was to be arrived at was as follows: "In estimating the value of stock issued for any consideration other than cash regard shall be had to the value of the assets, real and personal, movable and immovable, and to the abilities of the company at the date which such value is to be determined. In no case shall the value of the stock be fixed at an amount exceeding the par value of such stock. "The proposed taxation," said Sir Thomas, "is due to the exigency of the present situation. Our debt is \$425,000,000 this year; next year it will be greater. Even if the war ends this year, it will be a long time before we get off a military basis. I do not desire to mislead the House or the country. Canada's financial responsibility is very heavy. I feel as if we did not bring in this taxation the financial credit and borrowing of the country would suffer."

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Ottawa, March 3.—The house spent a dull but businesslike day of it. Agricultural estimates formed the subject matter of discussion all the afternoon and again in the evening. A number of items totalling about three million dollars, were passed during the intervals of opposition criticism which as usual was conducted largely by a small group of Maritime Liberals. Mr. F. B. Carvell endeavored to make use of the occasion to explain the now famous hay contract which as Secretary of the New Brunswick Hay Company during the South African war he had been a party to and which forbade under pain of penalties provided, sub-contractors to pay more than \$8 per ton for the farmers hay. Mr. Carvell admitted responsibility of the contract but claimed the price restriction was inserted at the request of one of the sub-contractors to protect him against members of the company who were themselves engaged in purchasing hay from the farmers. The statement was also made by Mr. Carvell and Mr. J. G. Turiff that a report by the Dairy Commissioner of Canada, which had been printed had been recalled and altered because it contained the assertion that purchases of the war office were being made "under the same satisfactory methods as during the South African war." The Acting Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. D. Hazen, stated that any alteration which had been the deletion of information which it was not in the interest of the public to circulate and that nothing had been eliminated which contained any reference to hay contracts or anything of the kind. As for Mr. Carvell's hay contract the Minister reminded the Carleton member that the Minister of Agriculture had already discussed the matter in the House and had shown the would-be champion of the New Brunswick farmers in a light which was making him extremely unpopular in his own constituency. Reference to the epidemic of powdery scab led Hon. J. D. Hazen to announce that the United States embargo against potatoes has been removed and that the tubers could now be

shipped to that country after an examination which was by no means severe. The Minister maintained that the removal of the embargo was largely due to work of the entomologists and inspectors of the agricultural department. London, Mar. 2.—The Times military correspondent analyzing the situation around Verdun, declares his belief that the long expected big German offensive has begun, although he doubts whether Verdun is to be the real point of the great attack. He further declares emphatically that no front is impenetrable in the face of a modern artillery attack but he believes that the Allies are to "keep cool, to be vigilant in depleting the main reserves, and to keep increasing these reserves for action when the Germans have exhausted themselves." The writer's belief that the Germans are preparing to launch their main attack at some point other than Verdun is supported as follows: "Any great success by the Germans further to the northwest than Champagne may, under the present conditions, bring about an enforced retirement from the Meuse. What the Germans hope for is to attack the bulk of the Allies reserves east of the Meuse, making an immense clatter there, and the next German blow from the northwest probably awaits the fulfillment of this desire. The French appear to have met the Verdun attack with reserves just sufficient to maintain the conflict. There is no sign that General Joffre has yet drawn upon or is even moving his main force. The Germans in the battle-scarred region of Verdun continue their bombardment west of the Meuse, in the region between Malancourt and Forges across the river, eastward about Vaux and Damloup, and against French trenches in the Woivre region, southeast of Verdun. Their big offensive, however, so far as infantry attacks are concerned, has ceased, at least for the moment. Whether it will begin again, or whether the Germans will 'rest content' with the points of vantage they have gained, is not indicated in the official reports of either Berlin or Paris. Unofficial advice from Berlin has stated that the German plan of campaign has been 'primarily based on the bombardment of sectors they desire to attain, and it is possible that they may now be drawing up their big guns to captured positions with the object of shelling points nearer their objective—Verdun. To the east of Verdun, around Point-A-Mousson, the French have bombarded German positions heavily in Le Pretre wood, and near Thiaucourt. Artillery duels have been in progress in Alsace. There has been no resumption of German attacks against the French in the Champagne region."

While nothing of special importance has taken place along the British part of the line, the effect of the German offensive in the Verdun battle is shown in the lengthening of their front in order to release the French for the reinforcement of the army opposing the German advance. Unofficial advice had placed the extreme southern end of the British line in the region of Lens. The latest British official communication reports the British to the north of the Somme, "which would show that they have stretched their front between thirty and forty miles down to the region of Amiens. Little is going on in Russia, except isolated bombardments and infantry attacks and air raids. On the Italian front the Italians have occupied and consolidated an Austrian position on Mount Marmolada. Elsewhere in this region only artillery bombardments have prevailed. On the Asian battlefields the Russians continue their pursuit of the Turks in the Caucasus region and in Persia. Germany, according to a despatch from Madrid, has sent an ultimatum to Portugal, demanding the release within 48 hours of the interned German steamers seized by Portugal. A German seaplane has dropped bombs on the southeast coast of England. No military damage was done. Nothing short of a vote by congress on the res-

olutions warning Americans of armed ships of belligerent nations is acceptable to President Wilson. The president has stated unequivocally to the leaders in congress that a compromise proposition such as a vote of confidence in his foreign policy, is unacceptable, and that he will only take a vote which will show whether the members of congress favor or oppose his demands for full observance of international law. The president absolutely refuses to continue negotiations with Germany until the attitude of congress is settled. Paris, Mar. 2.—German attacks of great violence, both artillery and infantry, have been resumed to the north of Verdun. The official statement issued by the war office tonight says that furious infantry assaults have been repulsed by the French troops, whose fire decimated the ranks of the enemy."

Bulletin—London, Mar. 2.—A British official statement issued tonight on the fighting in the western zone says: "We recaptured the trenches at the bluff of the Ypres-Comines Canal, which were lost Feb. 14, and also captured a small salient in the German line." "A counter-attack launched by the enemy some hours later was repulsed. German mine galleries in the captured trenches were destroyed. We have taken 180 prisoners, including four officers. There has been much artillery activity on both sides today from Vlerstraat to Boesinghe." The capture of 800 yards of British positions southeast of Ypres after heavy artillery bombardments, was claimed in the German official statement of Feb. 15, which added that a majority of the defenders of the British trenches were killed.

The Germans have resumed their heavy offensive in the region of Verdun, with the French everywhere strongly opposing it. While over most of the front, from the east of the Meuse down into the Woivre region, the German big guns have been active, Douaumont the Teutons launched several infantry attacks of extreme violence. Those, the French war office declares, were put down by the French troops, whose fire decimated the enemy ranks. Le Mort Homme, the Cole Du Poivre, and the Douaumont sector particularly have suffered heavy bombardment. Northeast of St. Mihiel the French guns have been worked effectively against the German positions. In Alsace, in the region of Seppois, a heavy artillery duel has been in progress. The British along the Ypres-Comines Canal have reversed the victory gained over them by the Germans February 14 by retaking 800 yards of trenches the Germans captured at that time. The German mine galleries in the trenches were destroyed, and four officers and 176 men were made prisoner. In addition, French guns have destroyed a German work in the region of Beauvraignes, which lies between the Somme and Oise rivers. The situation remains unchanged on the Russian and Austro-Italian fronts. In Asia the Russians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Turks. Nothing definite has transpired with regard to the report that the German commando raider, Moewe, had been captured and taken into Trinidad by British cruisers. A despatch from Trinidad says nothing is known there concerning the Moewe. The British Admiralty has made public its instructions to armed merchantmen. Armament is supplied to such vessels, the instructions say, solely for the purpose of resting attack by an armed vessel, and must not be used for any other purpose whatsoever.

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Progress of the War.

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(Continued from page two) ern (Russian) In the front; frict of Lake Kanger the C mans have bombarded, I naval guns the villages of I reness and Bigantzen. Nun ous German aeroplanes I bombarded the Riga sector, there has been an arial b bardment between Ikskull and Elisinhof on the Dvina r "In the vicinity of Dvinsk Germans bombarded our li near Iloukset, and the Poniew railway with shells weighing pounds. The German hea artillery has bombarded the L Seventen region. "Our artille has developed an efficacious against Novo Alexandrovsk a the Tourment station. "In Galicia, on the Middle Str front, the Germans' attacks ed to approach our trenches, on each occasion were repul by our fire. Caucasus' fr In the direction of Erzing kish Armenia, to the sou west of Erzerum) the Turks tinue their retreat. Here o cavalry has found four g abandoned by the Turks. In direction of Erzingian (Turk Armenian, to the southwest Erzerum) the Turks conti their retreat. Here our calva has found four guns abando by the Turks. In the directi of Bills the enemy continues retreat under the pressure o troops. We have occupi Kamaik and the Nekavar convent, seven miles northeast Bills."

London, March 3.—Around the village of Douaumont which is the hands of the Germans, raging a battle of great intensity. Having captured the village, extended their lines west and south, the Germans were forced to give ground before the victorious attacks of the French, who regained part of the terrain they had lost. Fighting here is proceeding unabated from the region of Malancourt, west of the Meuse, to the Woivre region, east of Verdun bombardments are of a violent character, the German endeavoring to force their way closer to the fortress of Verdun and the French tenaciously striving to hold them back. Several points of the German line were vigorously shelled by French, especially in the vicinity of Beaumont. The Germans admit that in the region of Ypres the British re-captured positions the Germans took from them on Feb. 14, but say they were immediately driven out of most of them. The British, however, declare they have concentrated these positions.

Paris, March 5.—Saturday night's official statement says: In Artois an attack by the enemy with the object of driving us from a crater which we occupied near the road from Neuville to Lafolie was repulsed. In Argonne we cannonaded German organizations and demolished several shelters. In Verdun violent bombardment was progress all day on the left bank of the Meuse at Hill 204 and Cole-De Lot. On the right bank the enemy after an intense bombardment directed on Handomf woods east of Cole-Du-Poivre launched against our positions an attack which was stopped by our machine gun and infantry fire. In the morning the Germans had succeeded again in gaining a foothold in the village of Douaumont from which we had driven him Friday evening by a counter attack. The struggle continues desperately with alternate advances and recoils for possession of villages. In Woivre the tier has been activity on the part of our artillery. In Lorraine, near Thiaucourt, after artillery preparation we carried several sections of an enemy trench. Sixty prisoners were taken, including one officer, two machine gun and one bomb thrower also remain in our hands.

Paris, March 5.—Sunday night official statement says: "North of Soissons our batteries carried out a destructive fire against enemy's works. In Argonne our artillery bombarded German organizations near the road Benarville, north of Haraze North of Verdun there was very violent bombardment, particularly between Haudeumont Wood and Fort Douaumont. The enemy, however, was not able renew his attacks in that region. There has been no change as regards the village of Douaumont.