CANADA STANDS PREPARED TO CONTINUE FULL ASSISTANCE

Bank of Montreal Annual Meeting Marked by Striking References to Part Played by Dominion and Lays Down Policy For Country's Guidance. Campaign of Thrift Strongly Urged. Bank's Record at Front.

Canada's position in the great European war—the policy the Dominion should follow in order to be all the better prepared for post war conditions—the resolve of the country to continue to give, in youth and money, full assistance to the great cause were among some of the outstanding features of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal, held at the head office.

The importance of the announcements made and their bearing on conditions that the Dominion would most likely have to meet seemed to impart a special significance to the meeting, and the shareholders were quick to give their heartiest support to the suggestions firmly offered by Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., President, and Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, the General Manager.

There was no misunderstanding the firmness of the suggestions, as it was clearly shown that many of the conditions that prevailed in the country were purely of a temporary character, and what was most important was to get ready for the time when normal conditions only might exist.

In this connection it was pointed out that all efforts should be centred on the attainment of three objects, viz., Economy, Production and Immigration, but at the same time a note of confidence was struck as to the ability the country would show in dealing with any new problems that might present themselves.

Proud Record in Overseas Service.

Sir Frederick made special mention of the record of the staff of the Bank of Montreal overseas, saying:

"As for the Bank of Montreal Contingent with the colours, I have no words sufficiently eloquent wherewith to fully express our pride in their achievements, our grief in their losses. 48 per cent. of our total male staff, or 67 per cent. of those of military age, have enlisted. 51 of our best have been killed and 107 are wounded, missing or prisoners of war. Several of our men have been decorated by the King for conspicuous valour, and the whole contingent is illustrious."

A very cordial demonstration was given by the shareholders when Mr. Yulle, on their behalf, asked to be allowed to especially compliment Sir Vincent Meredith on the great honor which had been conferred upon him during the course of the past year, in being created a baronet. Mr. Yulle pointed out that this was regarded by the shareholders not as an honour to Sir Vincent alone, but to the Bank as well, and the honor conferred was alike popular with the shareholders and the public generally.

The vacancies on the Board of Directors were filled by the election of Captain Herbert Molson of Montreal, and Mr. Harold Kennedy of Quebec. At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., was re-elected President, and the Vice-Presidency, which had been vacant for the past few years, was re-established by the appointment of Mr. C. B. Gordon, President of the Dominion Textile Co.

Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., President in referring to the principal developments of the year and the plans that should be laid to cope with them, said in part:

"I hoped when I last had the pleasure of addressing you that before this Annual Meeting the end of the cruel and devastating war, which has convulsed Europe would be, if not reached, at least within measurable distance. In this expectation we have been disappointed. No one can yet fix the day of its termination but I am sure I express your feelings when I say we hold an unshaken confidence of the ultimate victory of Britain and her Allies.

"Canada, inspired by a deep-rooted loyalty to the Empire, has given and is still prepared to give freely her gallant youth and monetary means to the great cause, upon the success of which her liberties and national existence so greatly depend.

"As the result of the phenomenal crop of a year ago, coupled with vast expenditures by the Allied Governments in this country, for munitions, and by our own Government for requirements in connection with the war, high wages are being paid for all classes of labor, and trade conditions at the moment in Canada are buoyant in nearly all lines of business. The few exceptions will, generally speaking, be found in industries concerned with the production and sale of luxuries.

Success of Domestic Loans.

"In a little more than a year Canada has issued two Domestic Loans amounting to $200,000,000, and the Canadian Government has borrowed in New York $95,000,000. The success of our internal loans is a matter of pride and congratulation. It is due largely to the spirit of loyalty of our people and a determination to all within them to bring the war to an early and successful conclusion.

"So far, a depletion of Bank deposits in consequence of these contributions has not taken place; in fact, they show month by month a gratifying increase. It must not be forgotten, however, that these increases are only partially due to the savings of our people. They may be accounted for to a very considerable extent by the husbanding of resources by our large corporations, a prudent and wise precaution in view of the uncertain conditions which now prevail and will continue to exist during the continuance of the war.

"The Minister of Finance to whom the country owes much for his wise and far-seeing administration of our financial affairs, will doubtless keep in view these conditions when making further calls on our resources, which of necessity he must do from time to time.

Outlook For Post War Period.

"And now, as my remarks draw to a close, I am tempted, contrary to my usual practice and unrestrained by the old adage 'Never prophesy unless you know,' to look into the future. The thoughts of many men are turned towards the problems that will confront us after the war. Government Commissions are dealing with them; the press devotes much space to their discussion; international conferences have met but our first, obvious and imperative duty is to WIN THE WAR.

"When that is done, new conditions will unquestionably supervene. It seems probable that for some months to come, orders for munitions and war supplies will continue to keep our industrial plants actively employed.

"Canada is bearing up magnificently under the strain of this world-wide war, and her sacrifices will be amply repaid by the engendering of a spirit of self-reliance, and she will emerge a comparatively little known country to take her rightful position in the affairs of the nations.

"The future, as I have said, is beset with new problems and is not entirely free from financial anxieties, but by a young people possessing great national spirit, a territorial Empire and unrivalled natural resources the future can be looked forward to with hope and confidence."

General Manager's Address.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, the General Manager, dwelt especially with the main features of the changes in the Bank's business during the course of the year, and the manner in which Canada's adverse trade balance had disappeared as though by magic. Sir Frederick said in part:

"The outstanding business feature in Canada is an industrial condition more abnormal in character than ever before in the history of this Bank, or of this country.

"The same statement applies in a greater or lesser degree to several belligerent and neutral countries, but in Canada economic conditions as well are in an unnatural state. This is partly due to the war, also a result of suspended immigration and of a lengthy period of an extravagance of which we are now feeling the cumulative effect.

"Canada sold her record crop of last year at high prices, as in the years of the American Civil War, while this year we are disposing of a moderate crop at such steadily mounting prices that we again reap a golden harvest about equal in amount to that of 1915. The total value of last year's crop was $798,000,000.

"Our much criticised adverse trade balance has disappeared as though by magic, and our exports are now vastly in excess of our imports.

Note of Caution Sounded.

"The transient nature of our increased exports alone is a simple index to a situation that commands the attention of all thinking people.

"These views may not be acceptable to all, but they are common sense and based upon arithmetical facts. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

"These are the main factors that have influenced and will influence the banking position—the movement in deposits and loans and the safety of both. Therefore, in my opinion the business of this Bank should be conducted with such views plainly before us until the situation clears.

"These are two obvious means of lightening Canada's coming burden, viz., thrift and immigration. The two are closely allied, for only by practising national and personal economy or thrift can we reduce our high cost of living—that most effective barrier to immigration. Upon immigration we mainly depend for the fuller development of our unsurpassed natural resources.

"Thrift is overdue but can be started forthwith; immigration must wait, but should follow in natural sequence. I have no words at my command with which to adequately urge the necessity of an organized and an individual effort to promote thrift.

"The timely and eloquent 'Call to Action' of our Minister of Trade and Commerce commands attention. I am not sure that it should not be preceded by a 'Call to Reason,' in order that the importance of the problems of the situation be impressed upon those who are living in, let us say, the paradise of the unwise.

"Sane optimism and self-confidence are admirable national qualities and should be the order of the day. There is a point where optimism loses its value and the danger of over-confidence begins. That is the point for nations to avoid."

Bank Helping the London Market.

Sir Frederick drew attention to the important position occupied by the Bank now in the London market. In this connection he said:

"It is not out of place to mention here that this Bank is among the important and appreciated lenders of short money in the London market, and though it is not for us to take praise for this, yet the fact is not to be lost sight of when weighing Canada's assistance to the Empire in this war."

BRITAIN'S FOOD CONTROLLER LAYS DOWN HIS PROGRAMME

Will Adjust Supplies so That Everybody Will Have an Equal Chance of Getting a Fair Share.

A despatch from London says:—Baron Devonport, speaking for the first time as Food Controller in the House of Lords on Thursday, said the solution of the food question resolved itself into one of a system of rationing. It was not enough to maintain the food supplies, but it was overwhelmingly essential that they be distributed fairly.

The Food Controller said his first duty would be to ascertain the quantity of food stocks available and the stocks visible. There were many unpatriotic people, he said, trying to get hold of supplies in excess of their wants.

"My remedy," said Baron Devonport, "will be to adjust the supplies coming into the country so that everybody will have an equal chance of getting a fair share—no more and no less. On account of many people buying up supplies sugar cannot be got at all. A remedy must be found for that. Possibly the only way will be by a system of rationing."

It was obvious, Baron Devonport added, that a general diminution in the consumption of staple food was necessary. At present this diminution could only be brought about by voluntary abstinence, but if voluntary abstinence was not successful it would be necessary to make abstinence compulsory.

FIVE HOT MEALS SERVED DAILY TO BRITISH IN FRONT LINES

Enemy Rations Almost Wholly of Tinned Goods—German Divisions Forty Days in Trenches Without Relief.

A despatch from the British Army front in France says: The problems of transport have been solved satisfactorily, and now attention is being largely devoted to ameliorating the iron hard condition of the British troops in the Winter fields and trenches. Heavy sheepskin and leather coats and jackets have been issued to the men, and warm and dry rest billets provided for those in the support reserve positions. Best of all, however, Tommy in the front line gets five hot meals daily. There is breakfast at 7, dinner at 12, tea at 5, and soup or stew at 9 and again at 2 o'clock in the morning.

From reports received from German prisoners and observations made during raids the British have discovered that conditions on the German front are very different. Along most of the new lines formed by the Battle of the Somme the German front trenches are merely a broken stretch of linked-up shellholes, with no deep dugouts and only a few improvised hiding holes, where two or three men can take cover from the shrapnel.

British reports from the Somme section say the German communication trenches are impassable from mud and the shelling of the British guns, so that all the carrying of supplies and the bringing up of reliefs have to take place over the open, without cover of any kind. That is why the British guns continue to hurl shells back of the German lines in the fog and rain. Often the shells or bombs from the British side throw up fountains of water high in the air from the German trenches. There are no floor boards or other trench comforts available for the Germans owing to the unceasing fire of the British artillery.

Thus far this Winter German prisoners say their troops in the west have not been supplied with any sheepskin, leather or fur coats. They have received only woollen vests, body bands and mittens. Normally, prisoners say, they are supposed to be in the trenches not more than from 14 to 18 days, but some divisions lately have remained there 40 days and over without relief. The rations consist almost wholly of tinned meat, sausage, herring, sardines, rice, rye bread, coffee and mineral waters. Recently a daily ration of brandy has been issued to the men in the front line. For rest the men often are crowded into damp cellars.

BRITISH ASSUME OFFENSIVE IN REGION OF KUT-EL-AMARA

Strong Turkish Positions Have Been Captured in a Forward Movement in Mesopotamia.

A despatch from London says: British troops have taken the offensive in the region of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and have occupied Turkish positions on the Hai River, south of Kut-el-Amara, says an official statement issued on Friday night. In the offensive movement the British crossed to the right bank of the Hai River and took Turkish trenches near Kala Haji Fahan, two and a half miles from Kut-el-Amara. The statement follows:

"Our forces on the Tigris assumed the offensive Wednesday and Thursday. The Turkish positions about Sannayyat, on the left bank, were subjected to an effective bombardment.

"During Wednesday night British forces secured the left bank of the Hai River between Atab and Basrugiych, crossed to the right bank and secured the ground to a depth of from one to one and a half miles, the cavalry subsequently clearing the Turkish troops from their trenches on the right bank about Kala Haji Fahan. The positions occupied are being consolidated by our infantry. Our casualties were slight.

"Kala Haji Fahan is on the right bank of the Hai River two and one half miles from Kut-el-Amara. Atab is on the left bank, five and one half miles from Kut-el-Amara."

U. S. CITIZENS VOICE PROTEST

Urge The Government to Act Against the Enslavement of the Belgians.

A despatch from New York says: Vigorous expressions of indignation were voiced at a great mass meeting held here on Friday night to protest against the "enslavement of Belgians" by the German Government. The deportation of the Belgian populace was condemned in letters received from Theodore Roosevelt, Archbishon Ireland, Joseph H. Choate, and other prominent men. Equally forceful were addresses delivered by Elihu Root, James M. Beck, former Assistant Attorney-General of the United States; Alton B. Parker, and Rev. Wm. T. Manning, rector of Trinity Church, who presided.

Resolutions were adopted urging the "Government of the United States to protest with all its force and earnestness against these outrages; to emphasize the detestation with which the American people regard these abuses, and to request the German Government in the name of all neutrals to cease its policy of expatriation and slavery," and pledging "our utmost support to the Administration in whatever way it may conclude to act."

SPAIN PROHIBITS SUBJECTS FROM FEEDING FOE SUBS.

A despatch from Madrid says: Alejandro Lerroux, leader of the Radical party in the Chamber of Deputies, has introduced a bill prohibiting Spanish subjects and vessels from provisioning German submarines in any way.

FRENCH VICTORY MOST COMPLETE

Advance North of Douaumont on Six-Mile Front to Depth of Two Miles.

A despatch from Paris says:—The French troops in an advance on Friday north of Douaumont and between the Meuse and Woevre Rivers captured more than 7,500 prisoners and several heavy guns, according to the French official communication issued Friday evening. The advance was over a front of ten kilometres and a depth of three kilometres. The statement says:

"After several days of artillery preparation we attacked the enemy to the north of Douaumont, between the Meuse and the Woevre, on a front of more than ten kilometres. The attack started at 10 o'clock. The enemy's front broke down everywhere to a depth of about three kilometres.

"Besides numerous trenches we captured the villages of Vacherauville and Louvemont, the farms of Chambrettes and the fortified works of Hardaumont and Bezon-Vaux.

"We have taken a great many prisoners, whose exact number has not yet been determined. Seven thousand five hundred of them, including two officers, already have been passed through our commandants' posts.

"We have taken or destroyed numerous pieces of heavy and field artillery, and also a considerable quantity of material.

"Nothwithstanding unfavorable weather conditions, our aviators took a brilliant part in the fighting. Our success is complete. The troops have given vent to great enthusiasm. Our losses are slight."

GREEK GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ENTENTE ALLIES' ULTIMATUM

All King Constantine's Troops Must Be Withdrawn From Thessaly and Only Few Left in Peloponnesus.

A despatch from London says: The Greek Government has accepted the ultimatum presented by the Entente allies, says a despatch from Athens to the Central News Agency.

The demands of the Entente allies presented to the Greek Government calls for all Greek troops to be withdrawn from Thessaly, and only a certain number of soldiers are to be concentrated in Peloponnesus.

The demands for reparation for the events of Dec. 1 and 2, when fighting took place between Entente landing forces and Greek troops, are to be formulated later.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Dec. 19. — Manitoba wheat—New No. 1 Northern, $1.87½; No. 2, do., $1.84½; No. 3, do., $1.79½; No. 4 wheat, $1.76½, track, Bay ports. Old crop trading 4c above new crop.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 62½c; No. 3, do., 59½c; extra No. 1 feed, 59½c; No. 1 feed, 58c, track, Bay ports.

American corn, No. 3 yellow, new, $1.02½. December shipment subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 60 to 62c, nominal; No. 3, do., 59 to 61c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—New No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.63 to $1.65; No. 3, do., $1.61 to $1.63, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, $2.30, according to freights outside.

Barley — Malting, $1.18 to $1.20, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.25, nominal, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.36 to $1.38, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $9.90; 2nd do., $9.40; strong bakers' do., $9.20, Toronto.

Ontario flour — Winter, according to sample $7 to $7.10, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots — Delivered Montreal freights, bags included, bran per ton, $33; shorts, do., $37; middlings, white, per ton, $38 to $40; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $12.50 to $13.50; No. 2, do., $10 to $11.50, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $9 to $9.50, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 41 to 43c; creamery prints, 45 to 48c; solids, 44 to 44½c.

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 40 to 41c; storage selects, 42 to 43c, new-laid, in cartons, 60 to 65c; out of cartons, 60c.

Cheese—Large, 25c; twins, 25½ to 25½c; triplets, 25½ to 26c.

Live poultry—Chickens, 15 to 16c; fowl, 14 to 16c; ducks, 13 to 15c; turkeys, 25 to 28c; geese, Spring, 14 to 15c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 21 to 22c; fowl, 17 to 19c; ducks, 18 to 20c; squabs, per dozen, $4 to $4.50; turkeys, 30 to 35c; geese, Spring, 17 to 19c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb. tins, 12 to 13½c; 5-lb. tins, 12 to 13½c; 10-lb., 12½ to 13c; 60-lb., 12 to 12½c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 9 to 9½c. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz., $3; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2.25 to $2.40.

Maple syrup—Pails, 2s lb., 10 to 12c; tubs, 65 lb., 9½ to 11c.

Potatoes—Ontario, per bag, $2.15; British Coumbia Rose, per bag, $2 to $2.15. New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $2.25 to $2.35.

Cabbage—Man. per ton, $50.

Beans — Imported, hand-picked, per bush., $6. Canadian, hand-picked, per bush., $6.50. Canadian primes, $5.50 to $6. Limas, per lb. 10c.

Provisions—Wholesale.

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 24 to 25c; do. heavy, 22 to 23c; cooked, 33 to 35c; rolls, 19 to 20c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; backs, plain, 26 to 27c; boneless, 28 to 29c.

Pickled or dry cured meats, 1 cent less than cured.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 18 to 18½c per lb.; clear bellies, 18 to 18½c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 20½ to 20¾c; tubs, 20¾ to 21c; pails, 21 to 21¼c; compound, 16½ to 16¾c.

Cooking oils—White, tierces, 16½c; 100-lb. tins, 16¾c; yellow, ½c below white.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, $1.15. Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, 63½c; No. 3, 63½c; extra No. 1 feed, 63½c. Barley—Manitoba feed, $1; malting, $1.30 to $1.32. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $9.60; seconds, $9.10; strong bakers', $8.90; straight rollers, $8.60 to $8.90; do., bags, $4.10 to $4.25. Rolled oats—Bbls., $7.95; do., bags, 90 lbs., $3.40. Bran, $32. Shorts, $35. Middlings, $38 to $38. Moullie, $43 to $48. Hay—No 2, per ton, car lots, $13. Cheese—Finest westerns, 25c; finest easterns, 24c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 43 to 43½c; seconds, 40½c to 41c. Eggs—Fresh, 60c; selected, 44c; No. 1 stock, 40c; No. 2 stock, 36c. Potatoes—Per bag, car lots, $1.75 to $2.

Winnipeg Grain.

Winnipeg, Dec. 19.—Cash quotations: No. 1 Northern, $1.73½; No. 2 Northern, $1.70½; No. 3 Northern, $1.64½; No. 4, $1.43; No. 5, $1.17½; No. 6, 89½; feed, 80c. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 54c; No. 3 C.W., 51c; extra No. 1 feed, 51c. Barley—No. 3, 90c; No. 4, 85c; feed, 78c; rejected, 70c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C. $2.53; No. 2 C.W., $2.50.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Dec. 19. — Wheat, May, $1.75¾; July, $1.71½. Cash wheat: No. 1 hard, $1.75¾ to $1.80¾; No. 1 Northern $1.72¾ to $1.75¾; No. 2 Northern, $1.67¾ to $1.73¾. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 85¾ to 86¾. Oats—No. 3 white, 47 to 47½c. Flour, fancy patents, $9.25. Other grades unchanged. Bran, $26 to $27.

Duluth, Dec. 19. —Linseed to arrive, $2.87; December, $2.79; May, $2.86. Wheat, No. 1 hard, $1.74½; No. 1 Northern, $1.73½; No. 2 Northern, $1.65½ to $1.70½; December, $1.74½ bid."

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Christmas steers, choice, $10 to $11.50; do., good, $9.50 to $10; do. cows, choice, $8 to $8.50; butchers' cattle, choice, $8.50 to $8.75; do., good, $8 to $8.40; do., medium, $7.50 to $7.75; do. common, $6.25 to $7; butchers' bulls, choice, $7.25 to $7.75; do., good bulls, $6.75 to $7; do., rough bulls, $4.75 to $5; butchers' cows, choice, $7 to $7.50; do., good, $6.50 to $6.75; do., medium, $6 to $6.25; stockers, $5.25 to $7; choice feeders, $6.50 to $7.25; canners and cutters, $4.25 to $5.25; milkers, choice, each, $70 to $110; do., com. and med., each, $40 to $60; springers, $50 to $100; light ewes, $8.50 to $10.50; sheep, heavy, $5.75 to $7.25; calves, good to choice, $10.25 to $12.50; lambs, choice, $12 to $12.75; do., medium, $9.60 to $9.90; hogs, fed and watered, $11.75 to $11.85; do., weighed off cars, $12 to $12.10; do., f.o.b., $11.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—Choice steers, $7.75 to $8.50; good, $7 to $7.75; choice bulls, $6.50 to $7; good, $5.75 to $6.50; canners, $5.25 to $5.60; cows, choice, $6.25 to $7; good, $5.75 to $6.50; canners, $4.25 to $4.50; milk-fed calves, $9 to $11.50; grass-fed, $5.25 to $8; sheep, $8.25 to $9; lambs, $11.75 to $12.50; choice selected hogs, $12.50; lights, $10.50.

LEAVE BEING CUT DOWN FOR TROOPS IN FRANCE.

A despatch from London says: All ranks are notified that owing to the necessity of reducing railway traffic in England leave will not be granted, except in very special circumstances. Week-end leave is for home service men or those in munition works, and Christmas leave will be confined to five per cent. of any unit, and none between December 22-25. This will not interfere with the four days' leave invariably granted men proceeding to the front, nor with leave granted troops already in the field.

HORSE MEAT AND LIVER 39 CENTS A POUND.

A despatch from Berlin says: Owing to the steady advance in the price of horse meat a maximum price of 39 cents a pound for the best cuts, liver and sausage, has been fixed by the authorities.

WAR COST $28,000,000 A DAY MUNITIONS AND LOANS INCREASE

Actual Expenditure Has Exceeded Estimate, Bonar Law States—Mentions Allied Peace Terms.

A despatch from London says:—Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon that the daily average expenditure of Great Britain in the war had arisen to £5,710,000. He said the actual expenditure had exceeded the estimate owing to the increase in munitions and additional loans to Great Britain's allies and to her Dominions.

He said that no proposals for peace had yet been received by the British Government from the Central Powers. He added that the Entente allies required adequate reparation for the past, and adequate security for the future.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said: "Financially we cannot hope to go on indefinitely on the present scale, but we can go on long enough to make sure that it will not be from financial causes if we fail to secure victory."

The Chancellor said the total amonut of votes of credit since the outbreak of the war was £3,852,000,000, including £32,000,000 for extra administration expenses.

Referring to the peace proposals of the Central Powers, Mr. Bonar Law said:

"In moving the last vote of credit Mr. Asquith used the words: 'They (the allies) require that there shall be adequate security for the future.' That is still the policy and still the determination of his Majesty's Government."

Mr. Law said that, assuming the rate of expenditure was the same as at present, the vote would carry them until Feb. 24. The total for the financial year would be £1,950,000,000. The budget estimate of the financial year was exceeded by £350,000,000. Loans to allied governments amounted to £400,000 daily.

Mr. Law said the Government had taken "such actions as it considered necessary" regarding Capt. Blaikie, who was taken prisoner by the crew of a German submarine.

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TORONTO.

Agents Wanted in Unrepresented Districts

FRANCE TO DISCARD ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Government in Favor of Total Suppression of Its Consumption.

A despatch from Paris says: Total prohibition throughout France of the consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskies, brandies and liqueurs has been decided on by the Government. This is shown by the text in the Journal Official on Thursday of Premier Briand's declaration on Wednesday before the Chamber of Deputies on the subject. The Premier said:

"The Government will ask you to give it the faculty of solving by decrees all questions of interest in regard to the national defences which the laws are too slow to regulate. A particularly grave question which can be regulated only in war time, on the solution of which involves the life of the country and its salvation, is the total suppression of the consumption of alcohol."

The Premier's remarks were greeted with loud applause from many of the benches. Deputy Mayeras interjected: "In the army, also?"

"Yes, in the entire country," said the Premier.

The use of the term alcohol in this connection is understood in France not to include wines or beer.

NEW FRENCH CHIEF IS HALF ENGLISH

Gen. Joffre's Successor Related Through Mother to British Military Family.

A despatch from Paris says: The new Cabinet arouses but moderate enthusiasm in the press. The papers point out that seven Ministers and two Under-Secretaries belong to the preceding administration so that the change is not so radical as might be expected. At the same time the appearance of M. Claveille and Loucheur as technical experts is welcomed.

The most popular features of the reorganization are the appointments of General Hubert Lyautey, as Minister of War, and General Nivelle as successor to Joffre as commander-in-chief of the western front. All the newspapers print photographs of General Nivelle under the title of "One of the War's Revelations." Long biographies are also published recalling the general's brilliant stroke in recapturing Forts Douaumont and Vaux on the Verdun front. The papers also say that the fact that General Nivelle is half English—his mother having belonged to a well known Kentish military family—makes his appointment particularly acceptable across the Channel.

Jules Cambon continues in his post as General Secretary of the Foreign Office.

THE GERMAN POTATO FAILURE

Berlin Paper Says Crop is 30,000,000 Tons Short of Last Year.

A despatch from Berlin says:—The food plans for the current food year have been badly wrecked by the almost complete failure of the potato crop, of which the figures are now available. According to The Tageblatt, only 21,000,000 tons were harvested this year against 51,000,000 last year. This might have proved almost disastrous, particularly as the potato crop was not only quantitatively but also qualitatively a failure, and as a result only one-third as many potatoes are available for the current food year as durthe one ended last June. New plans have been made by Count Batocki for pulling through until next summer. The potato ration after January 1 will be three-quarters of a pound per capita per diem, and potato flour will no longer be an ingredient of the legal war bread, rye being used in place of the missing potatoes.

MANY NOTABLES KILLED.

War Makes Heavy Inroads on the Peerage of Europe.

A special cable to The New York World from London, says: The issue of Debrett's Peerage for 1917 states that the roll of honor from families usually noticed in that volume now numbers 1,450 persons who have been killed in action or have died of wounds. The list includes one member of the Royal family, fourteen Peers, twenty-one Baronets, nine Knights, nine members of Parliament, 290 Knights Bachelor, 114 sons of Peers, 110 sons of Baronets, and 150 sons of Knights.

GERMAN PRINCE DIES ON RUSSIAN FRONT.

A despatch from Berlin says: Prince Henry of Reuss, was killed in battle on November 29th, on the Russian front, according to the Overseas News Agency. Prince Henry was 24 years old and a lieutenant in a Prussian cavalry regiment.