ADMIRALTY WILL CONFIDE MORE FREELY IN PUBLIC

Needs in Future-Lord Pirrie Controller of Shipbuilding-6,000,000 Tons Sunk During 1917.

London Cable says--One of the most important statements made to the country recently was the speech delivered in the House of Commons to-day by Sir Eric Campbell Geddes. First Lord of the Admiralty. lie

appeased the demand which has become general recently that the country should be told the exact amount of the shipping losses, and amount of the snipping losses, and he also announced the appointment of Great Britain's foremost builder. Lord Pirrie, as controller-general of merchant shipbuilding.

Lord Pirrie will not be a member of the Board of the Admiralty, but will have direct access to the

ne will have direct access to the Premier and the War Cabinet. His appointment, it is indicated, will be received with the greatest satisfac-

Figures on the shipping output and touning losses of Great Britain will be published regularly hereafter, it was announced by Sir Erle. It would was announced by Sir Eric. It would not be in the national interest, however, to give the tonuage of losses up to date, the First Lord added but, he stated, the world's tonnage, exclusive of enemy ships, had fallen 2.596,000 from the beginning of the war to the end of 1917.

Sir Eric's speech was a simple atoment of facts, with no oratoriwas a simple cal sentences, but he was listened to more attentively than the most elo-quent orators in the Government

MEN AND MATERIAL NEEDED It was well within the capacity of the allied yards, and even of the British yards, declared Sir Eric, to make good the world's losses if an adequate supply of menaterial. In the fourth quari material. In the fourth quar-of 1917 the foreign construction was 12,000 tons, he stared, giving a total output of 922,000 tons, while the losses in the same period were 1,200,000 tons, which were the lowest since the intensive submarine

war began. Great Britain had lost on average 260,000 tons monthly dur-ing the last quarter of 1917 and has built 140,000 tons monthly, the Pira Lord announced. British shipping had suffered the mass, he pointed out, but the British had contributed the greatest naval effort to the allies and had systained the greatattack, and should not bemoan

GERMAN EXAGGERATION.

Sir Eric declared that the German statement of the allied shipping losses for January was an exaggeration of 112 per cent. Since he had shown up these grossly false returns for previous months, he added, the German statement had not been issued, and was overthe. get been issued, and was overdue. The amount of tonnage sunk in the last tweive months was 6,000,000, said Sir Eric, instead of 9,500,000 as he Germans claim.

the Germans claim.

The First Lord's figures on the world's tomage were reached after deducting take craft and a considerable amount of small craft. His figures on the tomage sunk included vessels damaged and ultimately leading on the figures on these

bandoned. The fleures on losses briefuded those due both to enemy action and marine risks.

During the last quarter of 1917, said Sir Eric, the Allies were averaging within 100,000 tons monthly of making their lesses good, and were 47 SHIPYARUS ENGAGED

At the present time, the First Lord t on, forty-seven shipyards, with berths, were engaged on ocean-og merchant vessels. The shipvard work was completely disor-ganized during the first two years of war from various causes, he explained, but nevertheless, there had by the ship-building industry. The output for the last quarter of 1917 was 420,000 tons, as against 213,000 tons for the last quarter of 1916, while during the last quarter of 1915 it had been only 42,000 tons when the Controlor of Construc-

tion took over the shippards there were fifty large uncedent ships in various stages of construction, upon which work had been stopped for lack of sufficient material or of labor, said the First Lord, and in many cases they were congesting the ship

WITHDRAW MEN FROM ARMY. The head of the Admiralty empha-sized the importance of the gradual withdrawal of men from the army for the shipyards, so that the amy for should not be impaired and that men might be replaced or efficient substi-tutes. The yards were gradually get-ting from the arms at the skilled and semi-skilled shippard men, he said, but there was still a considerable defi-ciency in the requirements of the shipyards, which must be filled by newly-trained men, by dilution and by

grading up.
-The output of repair work, con timed Sir Eric, had increased in February, 1918, by 89 per cent.; ten times more naval craft were docked for repairs in the last quarter of year than in peace time, and than 3,000 ships were dealt in that period. The men so more than with in that period. employed might have produced a half million tons of merchant ship-ning if they had been engaged in

The three main factors in building problem, said the speaker, were, first, patrol and other craft to destroy submarines, and safeguard ships at sea; second, salvage and repair work; third, the building of new merchant ships. It would be sim-

British Authorities to Tell ply providing sheep for the butcher's knife to put all the industry's energies into the building of new ships, he remarked.

EFFICIENCY OF PATROLS.

Sir Eric admitted that the disappointing results for the January and February building gave justifiable cause for anxiety. He denied the charge that the Admiralty was an unsure gamerous gadwother to merchant generous godmother to merchant shipping. The naval service, he de-clared, had often subordinated its in-

the terest to merchant shipping.

The drop in the curve of merchant tonnage losses was attributed by the speaker mainly to the efficiency of the patrol and anti-submarine craft, and to the valuable convoy work of

and to the valuable convoy work of other vessels.

The great effort in construction and repair work had been made, the First Lord pointed out, concurrently with the enormous increase in the output of munitions.

The output of guns and ammunition

The output of guns and ammunition in 1917 was nearly double that of the previous year, and the output of airplans was two and one-half times as large, while arrangements were in progress during 1917 providing for great increases this year

SKILLED LABOR REQUIRED. The First Lord defended the Shipping Controller and the Admiralty against charges that shipbuilding had been delayed by changes in designs of ships on the stocks. The reasons for the changes were, he said, to secure increasel speed that submarine attacks might be evaded, to secure greater comfort for the crews to simpersist the said. greater comfort for the crews, to simplify the designs to convert ships into oil-burners, and to provide additional heavy gun mounting.

The yards had suffered from a short-

age of material during the summer months of 1917. he admitted, but today the material position was satisfac-tory and the stocks in the yards were more satisfactory than for years. The need to-day was for skilled labor. He hoped within a few weeks it would be

for unskilled labor only. The delay is the output for January and February was largely due to repairs and the conversion of ships into oil tankers, which class the Germans had set themselves to sink. The net addition to labor in the last seven months had been 18,000 men, mostly unskilled. During February there was an increase of 2,500 men, which was as many men as the yards could digest

Sir Eric reiterated his earnest wish that both masters and men would ap-preciate the seriousness of the shipping position. After announcing the appointment of Lord Pirrie, the First Lord mentioned the Pirrie yards as putting more than half their output into standardized ships, and said he hoped before long it would be pos-sible to launch one standard ship every fortnight from these yards. He urged all concerned to gather themselves into the production of the 100,000 tons of shipping monthly which was necessary to overtake the present rate of loss

DIFFICULTY ONE OF LABOR. In a general reply to criticisms raised in the debate, Premier Lloyd raised in the debate, Premier Lloyd Georgo said that shipbuilding, had not been stopped for lack of steel or steel plates. The difficulty had been largely one of labor. Every man in the home service skilled in shipbuilding had already been taken from the army, but when it was demanded that twenty thousand men should be withdrawn forcibly from the field operations a very serious responsibility was involved. Many of these men were essential in manning batteries and were the mainstay of complete organizations.

"We cannot take the risk of destroying the efficiency of the army in the field at a very critical and perilous moment," added the Premier, "where the skill of these men is essential to the successful conduct of particular op-

their replacing 75 per cent, of their the successful conduct of particular op-COULD MAKE UP DEFICIENCY.

The Government believed, continued the Premier, that by special exertion the deficiency of 12,000 tons monthly in British shipping could be wade good, thereby making it impossible for the enemy, who was unable to defeat the Allies in the field, to defeat them by the process of destroying their

This would do more to shorten the war than any individual effort the country could put forward," said the Premier, "because it would bring home to the enemy that however long he went on with the war he would never be able to defeat us."

Ex-Premier Asquith, welcoming the publication of the shipping output and the losses, said that so far from dismieting the country or giving information to the enemy, it would have the best possible effect in regularizing the position and enabling the country to face the facts without panic or suspic-

Countless have been the cures worked by Holloway's Corn Cure. It has a power of its own not found in other preparations.

DUTCH-SHIPPING **WAS TAKEN OVER**

All in U. S. Waters Seized Last Night.

Britain Took Same Course at Same Time.

Washington Report says-All Dutch shipping in American waters was ordered seized to-night in a proclama

tion by President Wilson.

The proclamation was issued after the War Trade Board received word from London that ilolland had refus-ed the American ultimatum for a transfer of the ships according to the original agreement which Germany blocked. All Dutch shipping in Brit-ish waters is being requisitioned sim-

ultaneously.

A total of 77 ships, of probably 600.000 tons, were added to the American merchant marine by the requisitioning. Another 400,000 tons are put into the allied service by Great Britain's action. Most of them will be used in the forders wing trade be

tain's action. Most of them will be used in the food-carrying trade between the United States and Europe. The vessels will be equipped and operated by the Navy Department and the Shipping Board, the Dutch crews being supplemented by American civilian sailors and naval reservists. Compensation will be made to the owners as required by law. Although the ships have been taken over without any formal agreement.

over without any formal agreement, the United States proposes to carry out scrupulously the terms of the original pact, so that Holland shall receive ample foodstuffs and will be protected in her colonial trade by hav-ing sufficient tonnage to maintain its

WHOLESALE **SLAUGHTER**

Of Civilians Normal Feature of Russian Life.

Two Streets Cleaned Out in Sebastopol.

Petrograd Cable says----Wholesale murder is now the normal feature of Russian life. In the small town of Glukhow, in the Government of Chernigoff, 500 members of the local middle class were massacred in a single night. Details now come to hand of the latest massacres in Sinteropol and Sebastopol are revolting beyond des-cription. In Sebastopol, for instance the sailors decided to execute a general massacre in two streets inhabited days). by the most well-to-do people in the town. After the massacre the bodies were thrown into the sea. The widow of one of the murdered men asked a diver to go down and bring up the body of her husband. A few minutes after immersion the diver hurriedly pulled his rope and was drawn to the surface. He was in a state bordering on insanity, and for a long time could only mutter one word. "meeting." The bodies of the murdered men had bee. thrown into the sea with stones tied to their feet, and there was a throng standing upright, swaying under the

To Asthma Sufferers. Dr. J. D. Kel logg's Asthma Remedy comes like a helping hand to a sinking swimmer. It gives new life and hope by curing his trouble—something he has come o believe impossible. Its benefit is too evident to be questioned—it is its own best advertisement. If you suffer from asthma get this time-tried remedy and find help like thousands

NEW ATTITUDE TO THE SOVIETS

Ally Missions Now Meet Russian Government.

Trotzky Denies Arming German Captives.

Moscow Cable.-Leon Trotzky's reply to the Allies' enquiries concerning reports that the Bolsheviki had armed thousands of German and Austrian war prisoners in Siberia who now threatened the trans-Siberian Railway, Was:

"Send officers and investigate."

The offer was accepted, and to-night Capt. Wm. R. Webster, of the Am-erican Red Cross. and Capt. W. L. Hicks, of the British Military Mission, left for Irkutsk, Tchita and other points where the Germans are report-ed to be provided with rifles, field pieces and ammunition.

The Bolsheviki papers charge that the reports of the menace of armed German and Austrian prisoners in Siberia is part of the German propaganda to discredit the Soviet Government and encourage Japanese intervention. M. Trotzky has also asked the Am-

erican Military Mission for 10 Ameri can officers to assist him as inspectors in organizing and training a new volunteer army, and has requested the services of American railway engineers and transportation experts to assist in the reorganization of the railways. He has also asked for American railway equipment in the way of locomotive

and cars.

There has been a marked change in There has been a margett change in the attitude of the Allies toward the Soviet Government. The Entente Missious are no longer rushing away from Russia. The English, French, American cans, Italians and Serbians now have military missions in Moscow, and they are taking quarters, as they expect to remain. There are many signs of renewed co-operation between Russia and the Allies

CLOSE TO PETROGRAD. London Cable.-While reports from Russia show that the fall of PetDRS. SOPER & WHITE



SPECIALISTS

Call or send history for free advice, Medicine turnisted in tablet form, Hours-10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Sundays-10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consultation Free DRS. SOPER & WHITE 25 Toronto St., Toronto, Ont.

Please Mention This Paper,

rograd is probably only a matter of a few hours, they also indicate the greatest anxiety over what appears to be an enveloping movement the Austro-German forces are carrying out against Moscow. There is talk of moving the Government, according to these advices, to Sarjoff (probably Saratoff, 450 miles southeast of Moscow), or to Nijin Novgorod (265 miles cow), or to Nijni Novgorod (265 miles

cow), or to Nijni Novgorod (265 miles northeast of Moscow).

A Reuter despatch from Petrograd, dated March 19, reports the Patriarch of the Russian Church to have sent a message to the orthodox population declaring that the Church cannot regard as binding a peace which dispared to the control of the contr gard as binding a peace which dis-members the country and places it un-der the domination of a conquering foreign power.

In this connection the Communist is quoted as declaring that the Russian prolteariat cannot make further con-cessions, but must be ready to rise at any moment, irrespective of its state

of preparedness.
Other reports from Petrograd state that the Council of Peoples' Commissioners has ordered the arrest of M. Bibenko, the Commissioner of Marine, for opposition to the ratification of the peace treaty. (Petrograd despatches filed on March 13th, reported that M. Bibenko had been missing for several

ERADICATION OF FARM WEEDS

Results of Co-operative Experiments in Ontario

With the Programme for This Year.

This experimental, work was com-menced in 1912 and has been conducted now for six successive years. The object of this work is to have garried on by men on their own farms experiments in the eradication of weeds, the results of which will furnish data from which definite information may be obtained regarding the best methods of controlling the various troublesome weeds of the Province. Before the results of these experiments began to accumulate there was very little or no definite knowledge concerning the

no definite knowledge concerning the cradication of weeds.

The weeds experimented with are perennial sow thistle, twitch grass, bladedr campion or cow bell, wild tard, ox-eye daisy, field bindweed, or wild morning glory, wild oats and choss.

Each spring leaflets are sent out to numerous farmers of the Province in-viting all who have any of these troublesome weeds on their farms to co-operate with us in this work and my the experiment outlined for the partieular wied which is giving them to ble. Application forms for the periments accompany the leaflets. To those who fill in these and return them detailed directions for the carry-ing out of the experiment selected are sent and in the fall they are supplied with blank forms on which to report the results of their work.

In the past six years (1912-17) over sixty tarmers have operated in this work, and some valuable information has been obtained. It may be briefly summarized, as follows:

1. That good cultivation followed

by rape sown in drills provides a means of cradicating both perennial sow thistle and twitch grass.

2. That rape is a more satisfactory crop to use in the destruction of twitch grass than buckwheat.

3. That thorough, deep cultivation in the fall and spring, followed by a well-cared-for hoed crop will destroy

bladder campion.

4. That mustard may be prevented from seeding in oats, wheat and bar-ley by spraying with a 20 per cent solution of iron sulphate without serious injury to the standing crop or to fresh seedings of clover.

The following are the experiments outlined for this year:

1. The use of rape in the destruction of perential sow thistle.

2. A system of intensive cropping and cultivation, using winter rye for-

lowed by turnips, rape or buckwheat for eradicating perennial sow thistle.

3. The use of rape in the destruc-

tion of twitch grass. 4. A method of cultivation for the destruction of twitch grass.
5. Method of cultivation for the eradication of bladder campion or cow

Spraying with iron sulphate to lestroy mustard in cereal crops.
7. A method of cultivation for the

destruction of ox-eye daisy.

8. A method of cultivation and cropping for the suppression of field bindweed or wild morning glory (requires two years to complete).

10. A method of cultivation for the destruction of chees

destruction of chess.

All who have any of these weeds on their farms are invited to join with us in this work. By so doing they should be able to clean the field of the should be able to clean the field of the weed experimented with, and demon strate to their own satisfaction the effectiveness of the method tried and at the same time their results will be of great value to others. Full infor-mation can be obtained concerning these experiments by writing to the Director of Co-operative Weed Experiments, Ontario Agricultural College

Worms in children, if they be not attended to, cause convulsions, and often death. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator will protect the children from these distressing afflictions.

OSTEND AGAIN IS BOMBARDED

British Monitors and Seaplanes Score Success.

Another Day of Heavy German Air Losses.

LondonCable — — Ostend was bem-barded by British monitors to-day and Helicologic was attacked by sealances, according to the official announcement to-night.

The Admiralty statement says

The Admiralty statement says:

"Osterd was homewred this afternoon by British monitors with successful results. Prior to the bombardment four enemy aircraft were destroyed by our naval air squadron. Enemy aircraft attacked the British machines while spotting for the bombardment, with the result that another enemy machine was destroyed.

"British scaplanes enraged in reconnaissance in Heligdant Ellight attacked enemy minesswegers with machines quanties on the British side. All our machines returned rafely."

Cleady weather on Wednesday almost prevented acrial activity, says an official report on aviation issued to-night. After dark the weather cleated and hostile airdrennes routhwest of Tournai and a large announition deser north-was of St. Ouenth were bombarded, 300 bombs being dropped.

"Nine tens of bombs were dropped Monday on enemy rest billets and amunition dumps and also on the Busigny railway station, and two airdrennes one of which was occupied by large bombing muchins."

machines.

"Acrial fighting was exceedingly intense, encounters occurring between
large formations. Nineteen German airtiances were destroyed and time were
driven down out of centrol.

Twelve of
our machines are missing.

TRAINS ATTACKED FROM AIR, TRAINS ATTACKED FROM AIR, There has been great activity by the aerial forces operating on the Macedonian front, according to an official report from Saleniki, The report says: "Our airplanes dropped bombs on the stations at Angistic and Porna. Near be latter place a trair was attacked by machine gain fire from a low altitude. The engine driver was seen to jump offind the train was deputed, Subsequently it was rembed,

ly it was fembed, Subsequent-"Another sirplane directed" machine-gan fire from an altitude of three hun-thed feet erginst a Bulgarian company 'fileted in Series, A hossile machine which was shot down fell into Lake Doman."

WOULD QUIT ONTARIO.

Jump to Manitoba Advocated in Thunder Bay.

Port Arthur despatch says: Company, yesterday afternoon addressed a largely attended meeting of the Board of Trade on joining up with Manitoba, and was enthusiastically applauded for expressing the opinion that Thunder Bay District would be better of as the eastern part of flani-

Mr. Fraser called attention for the slow grotwh of the district under the administration of the Ontario Govern ment, especially considering the rich ness of its resources in wood, mineral and water power.

BRITISH GAIN

London cuble says: The British have made, another advance in Palestine, capturing three towns, it is announced officially. A -ounter-attack by the Turks was repulsed. The statement follows:

"We occupied Beit Rima and Ke frtut, both east-southeast of Deir Bal-lett, unopposed. We drove off a coun-ter-attack at Deir Ballett and coured Elowsallabeh and the high ground to the westward. Airmen dropped 470 bombs on establishments in the vi-cinity of Elkutrani station. Direct hits were observed on the objectives.

Wigwag—Do you think that boy of pours will ever rise in the world? Grouchleigh—Well, it won't be my fault if he doesn't. I give him a good blowing up every day.

ALLIES COULD NOT AGREE TO **DUTCH TERMS**

Lord Robert Cecil Said Only Course Was to Seize Shipping.

UNDOUBTED RIGHT

Terms Offered to Holland Put Before British House.

London cable says: Lord Robert Cecil, the Minister of Blockade, announced in the House of Commons today that the only course of the allies was to exercise their undoubted right and requisition all Dutch shipping in

Allied ports.

The Allies considered the Dutch conditions, that the ships remain unarmed and that they should not carry war material as impospible of acceptance,

the Minister stated German warfare, said Lord Robert, was waged not only against enemy, but against world shipping, including neutral countries, and it was there-fore the view of Great Britain and her allies that it was a matter of deep re-gret that any Government should have appeared to assist those operations by falling to make the fullest use of its shipping. The British Government had been trying for months past to induce every power to make every use of its

shipping.
The Minister explained the course of the negotiations with Holland and the long delays incident thereto. He said that had an agreement been put into effect early in January the Al-lies would have been able to arrange to utilize Dutch shipping on routes outside the danger zone. The long delay, however, prevented such an arrangement and the position became entirely different. Moreover, experience had shown the Government that the Germans might, by extending the danger zone, or by other means, ren-der the modus vivendi nugatory. "Under the changed circumstances,"

he continued, "we felt compelled to inform the Dutch Government that we would no longer be able to make an agreement except one providing for the utilization of Dutch tonnage unconditionally, but at the same time we indicated that we did not desire Dutch interests to suffer, and hence that we were ready to replace after the war

any Dutch ships that had been sunk."
Lord Robert considered that this was a very generous offer under the circumstances. But the Dutch Gov-ernment appeared unable to agree except conditionally—that the ships should be unarmed and should carry no troops or war material. "Plainly," he added, "in the present stage of the war a ship debarred from carrying war material was of little value to anybody, as almost everything was

more or less war material."
ile thought, therefore, that the
House would agree that it was impossible to accept the Dutch condi-tions, and in the circumstances the Allied Governments felt that the only course open was to exercise their undoubted rights of requisition. He should explain, however, that any power of exercising such right was bound to insure that no injury was inflicted on any private interest, and so far as the British Government was concerned he could without qualifi-cation say that it was desirous of ex-J. Dix ercising this right in the most careful Fraser, manager of the Atikokan Iron | and the least obnoxious manner and was prepared to make provisions to carry out that design.

The Minister then outlined the agreement the Government was ready to make with the owners of the ships regarding insurance, the return of the vessels of their replacement, and compensation for losses in the shortest possible period after the conclusion of peace. These agreements would provide for the repatriation of the crews and insure that they were treated with every possible courtesy.

With the consent of the United States and the other allies the Government had undertaken by

ernment had undertaken that fifty thousands tons of wheat, or the equivalent of flour, should be placed at the disposal of Holland in a North American port at the earliest possible moment, and that another fifty thousand tons should be placed at Holland's disposal in a South American port. He hoped that the Dutch Government would immediately send available tonnage to lift this grain. The Allied Governments in this matter were anxious to meet Holland in every Allied Governments in this matter were anxious to meet Holland in every possible way.

The Oil of the People-Many oils Ine Oil of the People—Many oils have come and gone, but Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil continues to maintain its position and increase its sphere of usefulness each year. Its sterling qualities have brought it to the front and kept it there, and it can truly be called the oil of the people. Thousands have benefited by it and would use no other preparation. other preparation.

HUN THREAT

London cable says: Despatching from The Hague report that a .local news agency says that Germany considers her relations with Holland altered by the attitude of the Dutch Government toward the Entente and the United States, and publishes a report that the abandonment by the Dutch Government of the remaining restrictive clauses in its shipping loan terms would be regarded by Germany as cause for war. as cause for war.

