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The Toronto World

FRIDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 16 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

OFFICES FOR RENT

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VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,246

British Continue Somme Fighting With Raid Near Gueudecourt Canadians Raid Many German Trenches and Repulse Attacks

AMERICANS ARE GIVEN FREEDOM IN BERLIN REPORT

Wilson's Strong Demand for Seamen's Liberation Has Proved Effective.

MADE STRAIGHT ISSUE

President Was Greatly Angered Over Germany's Stubborn Attitude.

Berlin, Feb. 15, via London, Feb. 16.—The American seamen who were brought prisoners to Germany on board the British steamer Yarrowdale have been liberated.

Special to The Toronto World. Washington, Feb. 15.—A flat demand was made upon Germany by the U. S. tonight for the release of the 72 Yarrowdale prisoners.

A message was sent out thru the Swiss minister setting forth the facts relating to the treatment of German sailors on interned and detained ships in the United States, and its territorial possessions, and making the assertion that there is not the slightest shadow of justification for Germany's illegal detention of the American sailors, who were brought into Germany on the prize ship Yarrowdale.

Wilson Really Angry. A reasonable time will be allowed Germany to accede to the request, it is believed in Washington tonight that the belligerent temper of the U. S. Government will bring Germany to its senses and postpone the danger of action at the present time. It is stated that the president is much more incensed over the Yarrowdale instance than the detention of Ambassador Gerard in Germany for several days in an effort to browbeat him into reaffirming the treaty of 1885.

CUBAN RISING BEING CRUSHED.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Havana, Feb. 15.—President Menocal's government has gradually gained control of the rebel movement and but one uprising has occurred during the day.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

GERMAN submarines sank four steamers of 7,000 tons burden or thereabouts yesterday. Thus their daily toll is constantly falling off, although it must be conceded that the enemy would increase it by sinking more neutral vessels, if they ventured out to sea.

At Washington the government has decided little or nothing about its future action towards Germany and Austria-Hungary. It has sent a peremptory demand to Berlin for the release of the American seamen taken from captured British merchantmen and detained by Germany for no special reason except insolence towards the United States.

The British continued their operations on the Somme front by carrying out a raid northeast of Gueudecourt. They brought back several prisoners. The artillery kept up a considerable amount of activity north of the Somme and in the Ypres salient, where the British were attacking the enemy's positions at Loos and west of Messines, came under the British artillery fire and scattered back to their lines.

A Conspiracy of Silence on Public Ownership of the Old Grand Trunk Will Fail

Never more than in war time is it necessary for the government to take over and operate the great public utilities of the country. In Great Britain the government is operating the railways and the coal mines, and few doubt their permanent nationalization. Here in Canada we are faced by a transportation breakdown that calls for immediate action by the government.

This is hard for our people to realize, accustomed as they have been for years to look upon the Grand Trunk as a powerful and prosperous railway system. They do not all of them realize that within the last ten years the Grand Trunk has sunk seventy million dollars into the sinkhole of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

The old Grand Trunk, as well as the Grand Trunk Pacific, would have been in liquidation a year ago if the Dominion Government had not fairly forced a loan upon them of eight million dollars.

This may seem a broad and sweeping statement, but again we venture to quote from a letter written by Chairman Stewart of the Grand Trunk Railway Company to Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada, under date of December 10th, 1915, as follows:

In the course of conversation, as an alternative, you suggested that the government might advance by way of loan sufficient money to supply any deficiency in the amount required to meet the fixed charges for a period of, say, five years, anticipating that at the expiration of that period the accumulated surplus would be sufficient for that purpose.

From what he could learn, he was convinced that the three hundred men had been taken into Mexico from American soil by Mexican raiders and then killed.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—The Prussian cabinet has appointed Under-Secretary Michaelis, Prussian food dictator, in accordance with his resolution to name a special commissary for alimentation during the period of the war.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Berlin, Feb. 15.—Parties of Russian and German troops recently met in a fierce skirmish when a large pack of wolves came on the scene and attacked the wounded. Hostilities were at once suspended and both detachments attacked the animals, killing about 60 of them.

Continued on page 2, cols. 1 and 2.

BRITISH ASSAIL FOE AGAIN ON SOMME FRONT

Another Big Successful Raid Punishes Germans Near Gueudecourt.

ENEMY RUSHES FAIL

Considerable Artillery and Aerial Activity Continues to North Sea.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Feb. 15.—The chief event on the British front reported tonight by the war office consisted of a successful raid against a point in the German system of defence northeast of Gueudecourt, on the Somme front.

The British official communication issued this evening says: "The enemy held a mine this morning south of Bouchevaines. No damage was done to our position."

"We carried out a successful raid last night on the Somme front northeast of Gueudecourt and brought back several prisoners."

"During the course of the night hostile raiding parties north of Loos and west of Messines were caught by our artillery and machine gun fire in No Man's Land and dispersed."

OVERSEAS FORCES ARE REARRANGED

Twenty-Six Reserve Battalions to Supply Troops for Front.

TERRITORIAL SCHEME

Units Represent Canadian Districts in Which Recruiting Was Effected.

By Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The territorial arrangement of the Canadian overseas forces has been completed.

Three Americans Killed By Raiding Mexican Band. Hachita, N.M., Feb. 15.—Three bodies, identified as those of Andrew P. Peterson, Hugh Accord and Burton Jensen, were found late today by Lam Spillbury, former scout with Gen. Pershing, one mile west of the Mexican border.

Michaelis Given Appointment As Prussian Food Dictator. Special Cable to The Toronto World.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—In an article in the Deutsche Blätter, Admiral von Crevel, retired, urges Germany to push her conquest into Holland.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Berton, Feb. 15.—The controversy between the Eastern Steamship Corporation and members of the crews of several of its vessels, which caused the detention of steamers at New York, Portland, Me., St. John, N.B., Vancouver, N.S., and this city at times during the past week, was settled today.

BECK CALLS FOR NATIONAL RAILWAY

Says Lack is Cause of Country's Present Transportation Difficulties.

HYDRO ACHIEVEMENTS

Addresses Municipal Electrical Association on What System is Accomplishing.

WAR SUPPLIES CONTRACTS STOP

Canadian Government Has Huge Stock of Clothing and Equipment.

WAR'S END IN SIGHT

Ottawa Does Not Expect General Election Until Peace Comes.

By Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Feb. 15.—A vast change has been creeping over the general situation here. It has had its genesis in the war aspect and this in turn has had its effect upon the political outlook.

In his address Sir Adam went into some detail in regard to the finances of the Ontario Hydro system, and intimated that there was now a handicap which very recently had entered the union under more or less of a handicap and now showed a surplus.

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Many European Neutral Steamers Will Thus Avoid Kirkwall.

FAVOR HALIFAX AS PORT OF SEARCH

DODGE DANGER ZONE

Change Will Relieve Congestion at U.S. Points—Permits Early Sailing.

New York, Feb. 15.—The Associated Press tonight says: "Steaming past the flags of neutral countries which have been detained here since the German submarine policy was announced, probably will resume their regular schedules."

Washington Stirred Over Reported Insult to Flag. Special to The Toronto World.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Washington, Feb. 15.—No confirmation has been received here tonight concerning the reported ordering down of the United States flag which flew over the embassy in Brussels.

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HALIFAX TO BECOME AN EXAMINING PORT

Neutral Ships Crossing Atlantic Eastbound Will Call There Henceforth.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—Official word has been received at Ottawa that Halifax is to be an examining port for neutral ships crossing the Atlantic eastbound. It is not yet certain that those coming west will also have to put in there, as pending the completion of the terminal works the berthing accommodation is limited.

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CANADIANS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN DASHING RAIDS

Foe's Lines Penetrated Far and Prisoners Taken East of Souchez.

GERMANS BEATEN OFF

Determined Efforts to Enter Canadians' Trenches End in Disaster.

London, Feb. 15.—The following communique has been issued by the Canadian war records office: "Clear, cold days and nights continued through the week, and the snow lay white and undisturbed like a healing bandage upon the scarred earth."

Brilliant Moonlight. During the day the sun shone brightly from a cloudless sky, but as in Canada its warmth could not melt the snow, at night there was a flood of moonlight, rendering movements almost as visible as by day.

A German party attempted one evening to enter our trenches, but they were discovered outside our wire and forced to withdraw. They evidently suffered several casualties and left one of their dead behind.

Successful Daylight Raid. A successful daylight raid was carried out by a Montreal battalion under cover of an artillery and smoke barrage. The whole party was able to enter and leave the German line without a single casualty, but the resistance actually in the trenches was considerable and necessitated several bombing encounters.

EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA TAKES OVER COMMAND

Archduke Frederick is Superseded as the Commander-in-Chief.

London, Feb. 15.—A Vienna despatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam says: "Emperor Charles of Austria has written a letter to Field Marshal Archduke Frederick placing him second in command of Austro-Hungarian army."

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL AGAIN DEBATED

Six Hours General Discussion Agreed Upon Before Five-Minute Rule.

Special to The Toronto World. Washington, Feb. 15.—The house began today another consideration of the army appropriation bill, which contains approximately \$247,000,000. Six hours of general debate was agreed upon, after which the bill will be taken up under the five-minute rule.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Feb. 15.—Premier Lloyd George will make on Monday an important statement with reference to the further restrictions of imports and the encouragement of agriculture, in view of the submarine menace.

BRITAIN PLANS GREAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Lloyd George Will Announce Important Measures Made Advisable by Submarine Menace.

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