

Weather Forecast:

Fair and Cold

53rd YEAR. No. 22705

THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 27, 1917. 96 COLUMNS.

HOME EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

HAG ON FEELS OF RETREATING HUNS LA CONIA SINKING AN OVERT ACT, WILSON'S VIEW

CUNARD'S LOSS ANOTHER 'USITANIA CRIME; CLEAR-CUT VIOLATION OF U. S. RIGHTS

Overt Act at Last Recognized by U. S. Government, But No
Action Taken Until Congress Considers President's
Request—Action Will Be Hastened by
Liner's Destruction.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—The sinking of the Laconia, with the loss of American lives, is looked upon by the American Government as a clear cut violation of American rights, according to an authoritative expression of opinion obtained after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. No further investigation is considered necessary.

OVERT ACT AT LAST.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches, confirming reports of the death of Americans on the Laconia, torpedoed without warning, establish the case as "the overt act."

The situation, however, was unchanged from where the president left it yesterday when he asked Congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril.

President Wilson and state department officials took the position that no further step would be taken

Continued on Page Three.

LA CONIA'S LOST NUMBER 13, U. S. CONSUL REPORTS

At Least Three of Slain Were
Citizens of U. S.

267 SURVIVORS LANDED

Five of Missing Drowned, and
Eight Died of Exposure.

SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

Liner Went Down Forty-Five
Minutes After the First
Blow.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The following dispatch from Consul Frost, at Queens-
town, dated at 11:15 o'clock last night,
was received today at the state de-
partment.

"Two American ladies believed dead
from exposure and bodies last at sea
from Laconia, namely Mrs. Mary E.
Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chi-
cago. Four Americans saved; F. B.
Gibbons, Chicago Tribune; Mrs. F. E.
Harris, wife of Col. Harris, U. S. A.;
Port Dupont; Arthur E. Kirby, Upper
New York State, and Father Waring
of St. Joseph's Seminary, Baltimore.

No Warning.

"Laconia torpedoed without warning,
10:30 p.m., February 25th, 150 miles
west of Fastnet. Overcast, heavy
fog, breaking, fair breeze, light
swells. Laconia carried 47 gun invisible
at night. Second torpedo twenty minutes
after first. Six minutes after second
torpedo, which was 8 miles away,
of which No. 8 with Hoy ladies, was
lost. Wireless has been sent out.
Boats picked up admiralty patrol 4:00
p.m., February 26th. Cargo cotton,
foodstuffs and non-explosive munitions.
Apparently eight deaths out of
335 on board, 260 crew and 75 passen-
gers, including many women and chil-
dren.

Sank in 45 Minutes.

"Ship sank in about 45 minutes from
first torpedo. Dead bodies seen at
rockets, which were seen by admiralty
patrol. Wireless also used up to last
moment. Bodies scattered two or three
miles in swells 12 feet high. Burned
flares and were picked up scuttling be-
tween 3 and 4 a.m., February 26th.
A second dispatch from Consul Frost,
dated 8:30 o'clock this morning, says:
"The sinking of the Laconia was re-
ported, now positively confirmed."

Cedric B. Ivatt of New York, probably
American, was apparently lost.

Lost and Missing.

Consul Frost adds to Americans sav-
ed 15 negro firemen and seamen in
continues: "Total survivors landed here
267. Landed at Bantry 14. Total on
board 334; missing 15, of whom 13
drowned and eight, including Hoy
ladies, died of exposure and buried at
sea. Six hospital cases, none believed
dead. First torpedo struck abaft
engine, steamer going 17 to 18 knots.
The second torpedo struck amidships,
causing the ship to turn, listing to
starboard so that most boats went off
that side. Twenty minutes later, when
most boats were clear, submarine fired
second torpedo, striking engine port
side."

SHOOK THE SHIP.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—Via London,
Feb. 27, 12:22 p.m.—After having landed
here, Father Waring and Mr. Gibbons
said the voyage was a very pleasant
one. They had no trouble with the
torpedo. It was at about 9:30 o'clock
Sunday night, they said, when they
were awakened by the explosion of the
torpedo, which shook the ship on the
starboard side by the stern. The vessel
listened to starboard, and the crew, with
imminent discipline, got out the boats
and provided the passengers with life-
belts. All hands took to the boats, the
passengers first.

It was very shortly afterwards that
the second torpedo was fired, striking
the Laconia amidships. The vessel then
quickly settled down, sinking in about
twelve minutes.

Called for Help.

The wireless on the Laconia sent out
a call for help, and rescuing steamers
were soon on the way to the scene. After
about six hours the boats were picked
up. In addition to the survivors brought
to Queenstown, fifteen were landed at
Bantry.

Leave the suffering of the women, but
the shock and the hardships of exposure
were too much for some of them. The
sister daughter, Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife
of an American army officer, was
killed. She was the last woman to
leave the ship, getting into the cap-
tain's boat. She displayed such bravery
that she was accorded the honor of be-
ing the first to land.

Those who were injured are receiving
every attention, as are also the other
survivors. The agents of the steamship
continued on Page Three.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest
temperatures recorded in London during
the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last
night: Highest, 35°; lowest, 25°.

The official temperature for the 12
hours ending at 4 a.m. today were:
Highest, 31°; lowest, 19°.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COLD.

Forecast.

Today—Fine.
Wednesday—Fair and moderately
cold.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and
lowest temperatures during the 24 hours
previous to 8 a.m. today.

Stations. High. Low. Weather.
Canada 20 12 Cloudy
Victoria 20 12 Cloudy
Winnipeg 8 0 Fair
Perry Sound 32 10 Snow
Toronto 45 23 Clear
Ottawa 40 20 Clear
Montreal 32 20 Snow
Quebec 15 16 Snow
Father Point 14 4 Snow
Minus (—) means below zero.

The disturbance which was over the
Great Lakes yesterday is now moving
across the Maritime Provinces with
diminished intensity.

Snow or rain has occurred in nearly
all localities from Ontario eastward.
The temperature has been a little in
the Western Provinces.

Brothers Doing Their Bit in France



These four brothers, sons of R. Russell, reeve of Walkerton, are all serving
their King and country in the overseas forces. Prior to enlisting, Sergt. R. S.
Russell was manager of the Manitoba Government telephone system at Brandon.
He fought in South Africa, and wears the medal.
Pte. A. Leith has recently been wounded. He lived at Walkerton, and en-
listed with the 71st Battalion.
Pte. James W. enlisted with the 2nd A. M. C. from this city. He was for-
merly with the Hydro-Electric Commission at Stratford.
Corp. John F. was employed by the Alberta Telephone System, but enlisted
with the 71st Battalion.
The last three named were all well-known lacrosse players.
One sister of these four warriors, Mrs. I. Thompson, resides at 374 Hill
street, this city.

WIRELESS OPERATORS HEROES OF LA CONIA

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Queenstown, Feb. 27.—Wireless Operators Tay-
lor and Donnes were heroes of the Laconia disaster.
They were the two last survivors to leave the sinking
Cunarder. They stuck to their apparatus, sending out
"S. O. S." calls until a British warship responded,
and then jumped overboard. The lifeboat commanded
by Capt. Irvine picked the two men up, little the worse
for their experience.

All survivors' stories today united in eulogy of the
splendid conduct and discipline of the Laconia's offi-
cers and crew.

FIGHT BEGINS IN CONGRESS OVER GIVING THE PRESIDENT BLANKET POWER IN SUB CASE

Foreign Affairs Committee Strikes Out the Phrase "Other
Instrumentalities," and Republican Senators Vote
Solidly Against Giving Broad Authority
To Wilson.

Washington, Feb. 27.—While de-
tails of the deaths of ten Ameri-
cans in the unwarmed destruction
of the Laconia began coming in to-
day, the opposition in Congress to
giving President Wilson the broad
authority to deal with the submarine
menace began taking definite
form, and showed considerable
strength.

At the White House it was made
known authoritatively that the de-
struction of the Laconia was a clear
cut and ruthless violation of Ameri-
can rights, and that a demonstra-
tion of what might be expected in
the future, of sufficient force to
hurry Congress into clothing the
president with full authority to
meet the peril.

Nevertheless, the House foreign
affairs committee after debating
the Flood bill which has the sanc-
tion of the president, decided that
the broad powers to be conferred
by the use of the phrase "other in-
strumentalities" should be mod-
ified, and that the president should
be limited to using the "naval
forces of the United States, includ-
ing the naval militia."

In the Senate foreign relations
committee, Republican senators ad-
vised against giving the president
blanket authority, and it was re-
ported they drew support from younger
Democrats, Senators Stone, Hitch-
cock and O'Gorman.

No formal action was taken in
either committee, and while the
House committee was adjourn-
ing at 4 p.m., Chairman Flood
took to the White House proposed
amendments, including one to pro-
hibit arming of ships carrying
munitions or contraband, and the
other to limit the president's
authority.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

Administration officials consid-
ered the House action as a victory
for the president, and the im-
portance of the situation was
emphasized by the fact that the
official war.

FOR BREAKING RECORDS RUNNING BEFORE HAIG; SWEEPING ON BAPAUME

Trust Company
Awards Prizes To
Aid Production

Canada Trusts Starts Ball Rolling to
Get Londoners at Work in Gar-
dens.

"EVERYONE to the garden!"
It seems to be the watchword
in London. A co-operation unpar-
alleled is likely to be given to the
movement which calls for the pro-
duction of foodstuffs on the vacant
lands of London.

The advertiser will commence at
once a series of instructive articles
regarding the planting and care of
vegetables.

The Women's Gardening Associa-
tion, the original sponsor of the
movement, have many plans under
way and will hold another meeting
soon.

And this morning Manager Chas.
J. Clarke of the Canada Trust
Company announced that his com-
pany would conduct a garden con-
test, awarding prizes for the best
production on a city lot, under the
auspices of the Horticultural Soci-
ety.

The company will divide the city
into four sections, taking the pre-
sent ward boundaries for dividing
lines, and each man who enters will
place his work at once under the
inspection of a committee of judges
of the Horticultural Society. It is
believed that the minimum space
will be 1,000 square feet.

The judges will examine the property
at the start of the season and two or
three times during the year, but
most especially will they judge the
results, as to quantity and quality.

There will be three cash prizes
for each ward.

"We are doing this to endeavor
to stimulate production," said Man-
ager Clarke this morning.

It is quite possible for others to do the
same thing along different lines."

Asks That States
Avenge Death of
Mother and Sister

London, Feb. 27.—A demand that
the United States should avenge the
mother's and sister's death, who
went down with the Laconia, was
made in a cable dispatch to Presi-
dent Wilson today by Arthur
Young Hoy. He requested the pre-
sident to grant him his father's
body, and to have it buried in the
United States. He also requested
that the United States should avenge
the death of his mother and sister,
who were killed in the sinking of
the Laconia.

More Prisoners and Much Am-
munition Taken.

London, Feb. 27.—Turkish troops
taken prisoner by the British at Kut
in Mesopotamia, numbered several
thousands, Earl Curzon, member of the
war council seated in the House of
Lords.

The retreating Turkish army was
being pursued and an artillery and
infantry action was taking place 15
miles northwest of Kut, he added. Besides
the additional prisoners, the British
had taken further quantities of equip-
ment, munitions and stores.

It was obvious from the telegram
from General Maude, continued Earl
Curzon, that the scene of the operations
had been transferred up the river, and
that the initial success was being fol-
lowed up. The prisoners accumulated
had been taken at different stages of
the operations.

DEPOTS DESTROYED, IS
REPORT FROM BERLIN

Berlin, Feb. 27.—Via Sayville.—The
Frankfurter Zeitung says it has received
from a private source in France, by way
of Switzerland, a report that more
than 200 persons were killed and 700
wounded by an explosion of ammunition
depots on February 2. According to this
report, more than 30,000 tons of ammu-
nition was destroyed.

ALL SASK. SOLDIERS
EXEMPT FROM TAXES

Regina, Sask., Feb. 27.—By an amend-
ment which was agreed upon in the Leg-
islature yesterday provision is to be
made at once in the rural municipali-
ties act whereby all Saskatchewan per-
sons who have joined as volunteers or
reservists the forces of his majesty or
any of the allies of Great Britain for
overseas service in the present war
shall be exempt from all taxation of
their land up to half a section.

ENTER GERMAN LINES
AND TAKE PRISONERS

Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southwest of Vailly
we entered the German lines and re-
turned with prisoners," says today's
official announcement. There were
patrol engagements in the region of
Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Else-
where calm prevailed.

ROYAL RED CROSS MEDAL
FOR A MONTREAL LADY

Montreal, Feb. 27.—Nursing Sister
Laura Holland, 47 St. Mark street, has
been awarded the Royal Red Cross
Medal, second class, for her services in
the Gallipoli campaign. She is the
wife of the Montreal General Hospital
and went overseas in June, 1916. She
is now attached to a London Hospital.

ST. LAMBERT URGES ALL
TO DIG VACANT LOTS

Montreal, Feb. 27.—The town council
of St. Lambert, a southern suburban
town of Montreal, decided last night
to urge all citizens to use all vacant
lots this year for gardening pur-
poses to assist the owners by plowing the
lots.

RUSS WOUNDED KILLED
IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

London, Feb. 27.—Sixty-five wounded
Russians, homeward-bound from Ger-
many, were killed in a railroad wreck
near Holmelen, in Northern Sweden,
on Monday evening, according to a
Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange
Telegraph Company. The train was de-
railed and four cars were wrecked.

THE CEDRIC SAFE.

New York, Feb. 27.—The White Star
liner Cedric, which left New York on
February 12, arrived safely at Liverpool
last Thursday according to announce-
ment by the agents here.

The Cedric has over 5,000 bags of
mail originally intended for the St.
Louis, whose sailing was postponed in-
definitely. There were no passengers
aboard.

ENTER GERMAN LINES
AND TAKE PRISONERS

Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southwest of Vailly
we entered the German lines and re-
turned with prisoners," says today's
official announcement. There were
patrol engagements in the region of
Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Else-
where calm prevailed.

ENTER GERMAN LINES
AND TAKE PRISONERS

Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southwest of Vailly
we entered the German lines and re-
turned with prisoners," says today's
official announcement. There were
patrol engagements in the region of
Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Else-
where calm prevailed.

British, With Guns, Cavalry and Infantry,
Are Pressing Retiring Germans Closely
Along the Ancre—Great British Victory
Is in Sight.

New York, Feb. 27.—A news agency dispatch, published here
today, follows:

"With the British Armies afield, February 27.—There seems
every reason to believe the present German retirement will not be
ended until the Teutons reach a line approximating the front be-
tween Arras and Cambrai.

TOWARDS BAPAUME.

"Meanwhile the British are still pressing forward today. They
are constantly in touch with the Germans—and the Germans are
breaking many war records in their retreat. The British pressure
is toward Bapaume, and the advance is being rapidly forced.
The Germans, however, are offering stiff resistance with large-
calibre guns, which are evidently mounted on railway trucks, all
ready for a quick getaway at the psychological moment.

BLEW UP DEFENCES.

"Just before the Germans took flight they blew up their
strongest defensive works. But this didn't worry the British. A
new line is being established by the British troops far back of
what was the old enemy front line.

"It is said the Germans had many thousand soldiers and
civilian prisoners working on the defensive works in the line from
Arras to Cambrai for the past few weeks.

ALL EYES ON BAPAUME.

"For the present moment all eyes are turned toward Bapaume.
The Germans have converted the city into an underground
Gibraltar, and have lavished on it all the arts of modern fortress
building. Many explosions have been heard in the city, and there
were various reports today that the garrison had blown up all
these wonderful cellars and passages, as well as the city's wells,
preparatory to leaving when the pressure of the British forces
becomes stronger.

HARASSING THE ENEMY.

"The clearer weather of the last few days has enabled the
British to harass the retreating Germans and has permitted air-
plane activity. Thus the war god, whose mists at first favored
the Germans by preventing aerial reconnaissance, is switching his
affections from one side to the other.

A MIGHTY SWEEP.

"The British forward sweep stretches from south of Gomme-
court as far as Le Transloy. Gommecourt is tottering.

"Prisoners taken by the British say the German retreat is an
"unpleasant job," because the British guns keep hammering away,
making the roads all but impassable either by day or night.

"This has been one of the great moves of the world war, with
deep significance and rich possibilities for the British."

MAUDE PRESSES ON
BEHIND THE TURKS
RETIRING FROM KUT

GERMANY MAY GIVE
SHIPS TO REPLACE
THOSE OF HOLLAND

More Prisoners and Much Am-
munition Taken.

Hague Reports Berlin Will
Make Loss Good.

London, Feb. 27.—The Government has
given no indication of its course of
action to be followed in connection with
the recent disaster to Dutch shipping
in the submarine attack on a flotilla of
Dutch steamers off the English coast.
It is taken for granted, however, that
a peaceful solution is being sought in
the form of a cession by Germany of
a certain number of ships to replace the
tonnage, such replacement being
considered imperative because of the
necessity of an immediate reorganiza-
tion of the Dutch fleet. The British
have already agreed to supply the Dutch
with a certain number of ships.

There is already talk of a wholesale
slaughter of Dutch cattle being neces-
sary owing to the lack of foodstuffs
among those destroyed by the
submarine attack, and the inevitable
delay in securing fresh consignments.

DEPOTS DESTROYED, IS
REPORT FROM BERLIN

Berlin, Feb. 27.—Via Sayville.—The
Frankfurter Zeitung says it has received
from a private source in France, by way
of Switzerland, a report that more
than 200 persons were killed and 700
wounded by an explosion of ammunition
depots on February 2. According to this
report, more than 30,000 tons of ammu-
nition was destroyed.

ALL SASK. SOLDIERS
EXEMPT FROM TAXES

Regina, Sask., Feb. 27.—By an amend-
ment which was agreed upon in the Leg-
islature yesterday provision is to be
made at once in the rural municipali-
ties act whereby all Saskatchewan per-
sons who have joined as volunteers or
reservists the forces of his majesty or
any of the allies of Great Britain for
overseas service in the present war
shall be exempt from all taxation of
their land up to half a section.

ENTER GERMAN LINES
AND TAKE PRISONERS

Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southwest of Vailly
we entered the German lines and re-
turned with prisoners," says today's
official announcement. There were
patrol engagements in the region of
Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Else-
where calm prevailed.

ROYAL RED CROSS MEDAL
FOR A MONTREAL LADY

Montreal, Feb. 27.—Nursing Sister
Laura Holland, 47 St. Mark street, has
been awarded the Royal Red Cross
Medal, second class, for her services in
the Gallipoli campaign. She is the
wife of the Montreal General Hospital
and went overseas in June, 1916. She
is now attached to a London Hospital.

ST. LAMBERT URGES ALL
TO DIG VACANT LOTS

Montreal, Feb. 27.—The town council
of St. Lambert, a southern suburban
town of Montreal, decided last night
to urge all citizens to use all vacant
lots this year for gardening pur-
poses to assist the owners by plowing the
lots.

RUSS WOUNDED KILLED
IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

London, Feb. 27.—Sixty-five wounded
Russians, homeward-bound from Ger-
many, were killed in a railroad wreck
near Holmelen, in Northern Sweden,
on Monday evening, according to a
Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange
Telegraph Company. The train was de-
railed and four cars were wrecked.

THE CEDRIC SAFE.

New York, Feb. 27.—The White Star
liner Cedric, which left New York on
February 12, arrived safely at Liverpool
last Thursday according to announce-
ment by the agents here.

The Cedric has over 5,000 bags of
mail originally intended for the St.
Louis, whose sailing was postponed in-
definitely. There were no passengers
aboard.

ENTER GERMAN LINES
AND TAKE PRISONERS

Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southwest of Vailly
we entered the German lines and re-
turned with prisoners," says today's
official announcement. There were
patrol engagements in the region of
Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Else-
where calm prevailed.