

CANADIAN
SAYS NOTHING
CENT HUN OFFENSIVE

party and at least two casualties reported.

The following night a daring reconnaissance was made by a patrol of our 18th battalion, under Lieutenants Baxter and Bell. In spite of hostile fire our patrol crossed the enemy's wire, and getting close under the parapet at one of the strongest points in this sector of the German defenses succeeded in bringing in information of considerable value. The enemy's trenches were heavily manned at the time, but our patrol withdrew without casualties.

Reports on sections of the enemy's entanglements have been secured by Sergt. Haase and Corporal Rawlinson of our 49th Alberta battalion, who, on successive nights, spent several hours making examinations of the enemy's wire.

A patrol of our Royal Canadian regiment, consisting of Lieut. McCallum and Lance Corporal Pope and two men, carried out a special reconnaissance under heavy enemy sniping.

On the front of our 24th Montreal battalion some excellent scouting has been done by Lance Corporal A. F. Mott.

Early on the morning of Feb. 12, one of our battalions had a test gas alarm. The enemy manned his parapets at once, as was expected, and rapid fire by machine guns and rifles was immediately opened by our troops. The enemy's reply was very weak.

Our artillery have maintained their superior weight of fire throughout the period.

Numerous enemy working parties have been dispersed. On Feb. 10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade engaged a German trench mortar which was shelling our trenches. As the result of a second examination from our field guns a heavy explosion occurred near the enemy's emplacement, and the trench mortar was silenced.

Some accurate shooting has also been done by our trench mortar batteries and rifle brigade sections. Our machine gun brigade continues to hamper the enemy's efforts to improve his defenses.

On Feb. 10 Field Marshal Lord Kitchener inspected our 84th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ON ENGLAND

London, Feb. 20—Four German seaplanes yesterday raided the east and southeast coasts of England.

Lowestoft, Eng., Feb. 20—The damage done here by the air-raiders was not very serious. One bomb demolished the roof of a sawmill, another unroofed a private house; a third smashed the windows of a hotel, while a fourth smashed the windows of a church without injuring any of the worshippers.

Another bomb fell into a bedroom of a workman's house, but injured nobody. Several bombs fell into gardens and vacant lots.

Walmer, Eng., Feb. 21, 9.35 a. m.—The raiders were over the town more than a minute. There was a momentary stoppage of the service in a church near which bombs fell. Many members of the congregation left the building, but the service was resumed and carried through.

One of the victims was a paper boy on his rounds with the Sunday's news. He was instantly killed. Another victim was a man of 29, who has not yet been identified.

Some of the bombs fell in the roadway making large holes. The whole affair was over so quickly that most of the people hardly realized what had happened. Some of the people in the church said that the building was rocked with the concussion. The explosion of the bombs was heard all over Walmer, Deal and surrounding district, but there was no panic.

A dramatic story of the narrow escape of a boat which had just taken a pilot abroad at Walmer was told by the occupants of the boat. Three bombs fell into the sea directly in the wake of the boat, causing a tremendous upheaval of the water.

Cardigan Capital Dropped.

Rome, Feb. 10—The loss of one aeroplane in an air raid by an Italian air squadron on an Austria-Hungarian town is reported in the official statement issued today.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF METAGAMA'S SAFE ARRIVAL

Ottawa, Feb. 17—It is officially announced through the chief press censor's office that the trooperish Metagama, which sailed from Canada on February 5, has arrived safely in England. She had on board the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, thirty-one officers, 716 men; 9th field artillery brigade, twenty-four officers, 723 men; ambulance workshop, one officer, twenty men; sanitary section, one officer, twenty-five men; Fort Garry horse (reinforcements for cavalry depot), one officer, fifty men; army service corps reinforcements, four officers, forty men; flight lieutenants (naval), fourteen officers; details, three officers, seventeen men; total troops aboard, seventy-nine officers, 1,693 men.

Tug Ramos Loses Barge.

Halifax, Feb. 20—The tug Ramos, from Vineyard Haven, towing the barge Plymouth, reports by wireless that the barge broke adrift in a gale off the Nova Scotia coast. There are five men on the barge. Steamers have been sent out from here to search for the barge.

The tug Ramos was in St. John's a few days ago and went up the bay for the Plymouth.

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

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Heavy German Losses Chief Result of Verdun Battle; Wilson Firm in Stand Taken, Will Not Hesitate at War

FRENCH WINGS DRIVEN IN; FIRST LINE HELLS

German Attack Slackens in North But on Right and Left Their Men Are Hurling On

Kaiser Directing Operations, Regardless of Cost—Paris Says Fighting Still on First Line and That Three Inner Lines as Yet Untouched, Are Strongly Held—French Raid Metz by Air.

Inspired by the presence of their emperor, and led by Crown Prince Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the front facing the fortress of Verdun. Attack has succeeded attack against the French line after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days.

While the Germans have not been able, despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French line, nevertheless the French, on their right and left wings, have been compelled to withdraw their lines, respectively to the south of Ornes and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.

Only between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse has there been any diminution in the intensity of the artillery fire. With Brabant, Baumont and Samogneux and the wooded sections north and northeast of Beaumont in their possession, the Germans from the Meuse eastward to Fromezey are forcing the fighting, seemingly regardless of the cost of life.

The French guns have answered the German guns shell for shell, and the casualties on both sides are very great. The French official report describes the battlefield between the Meuse and Ornes as piled with German dead.

FRENCH RETALIATE IN AIR RAID ON METZ.

A French air squadron has dropped a large number of bombs on the outskirts of Metz, a big fire being observed after the attack. In Champagne, at several points, and in the Argonne forest, German works have been pounded by the concentrated fire of the French guns, while in Lorraine the French repulsed a German reconnoitering party which attempted to capture a French post north of St. Martin.

On their end of the line, near Hulloch, the British exploded a mine and occupied the crater, and also bombarded German trenches near Fraulighien and Boesinghe.

On the Russian front, from the Riga region to East Galicia, there have been engagements at various points, but no great results have been attained by either side. In the Caucasus, Petrograd reports that the Russians continue successfully to press back the Turks.

ATTACKS STILL ON FIRST LINE WORKS.

Paris, Feb. 24—The Temps, in its military review, estimates that the Germans are employing on the average ten infantrymen to every three feet of the front where the attack is fiercest north of Verdun—that is over a line eight miles in length between Brabant and Ornes.

The reviewer maintains that the operations are not necessarily preliminary to an attempt to besiege Verdun, but comprise an attack upon a wide part of the front of which Verdun forms a part of the rear support. The attacks, he declares, are still held within the first line works, while there are three other lines at strategic intervals behind the first. These lines are more solidly constructed and more elaborate in their nature than the first lines, as work on them could be done at leisure without the workers being within the reach of the German fire.

No Infantry Attacks to North.

Paris, Feb. 24, 10.50 p. m.—North of Verdun the artillery duel continued, but there were no infantry attacks, says the official communication issued by the war office tonight. Between the Meuse and Ornes several furious German attacks occurred, but the front was broken nowhere.

The text of the official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "We have carried out a concentrated fire on the enemy's positions west of Malancourt and to the south of St. Marie-A-Py. In the Argonne destructive fires have been directed against the German works at La Pille Morte.

In the region to the north of Verdun the enemy continued to bombard, with the same intensity, our front from the Meuse up to south of Fromezey. The artillery activity slackened a little between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse. No infantry action has occurred, as yet, in this region.

"Between the right bank of the Meuse and Ornes the enemy has shown the same activity as on the preceding days, and multiplied his furious attacks, leading on the ground piles of dead, without having succeeded in breaking our front.

"On both wings we have withdrawn our lines one part behind Samogneux, the other to the south of Ornes. Our artillery has replied without respite to the attacks of the enemy. In the Argonne we repulsed and pursued an enemy reconnoitering party which attempted to approach one of our small posts to the north of St. Martin."

Kaiser Spurring On Troops.

London, Feb. 24—Emperor William has established his headquarters at the German positions facing Verdun, according to information received from Berlin by the Evening News by way of Copenhagen.

The despatch, which is dated Feb. 23, says: "According to information received from Berlin, Emperor William since his

Paris Has Zeppelin Scare But Raider Did Not Appear

Paris, Feb. 24, 11.45 p.m.—The lights of Paris were lowered at 11 o'clock tonight, the military governor having issued a warning of the threatened approach of an airship. As the striking light did not appear the lights were turned on again at 11.40, when all danger was declared over.

WOMEN AND WHITE-CLAD SOLDIERS USED; NEW PROJECTILE IN EAST

Petrograd, via London, Feb. 24, 10.30 p.m.—The following official communication was issued today: "In the region of Iltis and the Drina, on the German front, German aeroplanes dropped bombs. In the region of Oger the enemy developed violent night firing, which was followed by a movement toward our trenches of scouts who were clad in white raincoat, and who were repulsed by our fire.

"On the Dvinsk sector, near the Poniwesch railway and north of Gostoyarsk, our detachments checked the enemy and made some prisoners.

"In the region of Pelsk, southwest of Olyka, the enemy sent women, probably Russia, to work in the positions thus exposed to our fire.

"In Galicia, northwest of Tarnopol, and near the villages of Gliadki and Vorobichka, we exploded a small mine and occupied the crater. The enemy vainly bombarded the scene of the explosion with mines and trench mortars, throwing projectiles which made, in their flight, a noise like that of a revolving propeller.

"In the Black Sea, near the Bosphorus, one of our submarines was twice attacked by two aeroplanes, but without result. The submarine destroyed a sailing ship loaded with coal.

"On the Caucasus front we continue to press the enemy successfully."

TEN LIVES LOST IN BRITISH STORM; HEAVY SNOWFALL

London, Feb. 23—Ten lives were lost and extensive damage was done to shipping as a result of yesterday's snow storm, which swept the British Isles. Many villages bordering the flooded estuary of the Mersey were cut off from the mainland by the snow, and it is feared they may yield at any moment and inundate the city. Troops are busy strengthening the dykes. Many villages bordering the flooded estuary have been abandoned and are now devastated.

Reports from the provinces show snow falls in various parts of England, varying from five to ten inches in depth. Only two inches fell in London, but traffic was greatly hampered because men were unavailable to clear the snow. The need of men for the same purpose also was felt in the provinces.

Amsterdam Storm-Stricken.

London, Feb. 25—A despatch to the Times from Amsterdam says a strong northeaster, with a snow storm, is causing great anxiety there. The dykes protecting Amsterdam are subjected to a great strain from the water in the flooded regions, and it is feared they may yield at any moment and inundate the city. Troops are busy strengthening the dykes. Many villages bordering the flooded estuary have been abandoned and are now devastated.

HALF MILLION LOSS AND NARROW ESCAPES IN PITTSBURGH FIRE

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 24—Fire swept through the plant of the Union Storage Company here today, completely destroying one warehouse and wrecking another with a loss of \$500,000. Twenty-five men at work in the plant were believed to have escaped although a number of men were reported missing after the walls of the destroyed building collapsed.

WILSON TO ASSERT "WATER AND WEALTH" NOT TO ESCAPE NEW TAX

OF CONSEQUENCES

No Abridgement of Rights of American Citizens to Travel on Armed Ships

PEACE NOT TO COUNT WHEN HONOR INVOLVED

Letter from President to Chairman Stone of Senate Relations Committee, States View Clearly—"Do Everything in Power to Keep U. S. Out of War."

Washington, Feb. 24—President Wilson, at the end of two days of agitation in congress for some action warning Americans of armed merchant ships of the European belligerents, tonight wrote Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, that he could not consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

The letter follows: "February 24, 1916. "My Dear Senator,—I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of yesterday and that it is a great relief to me to find that you are in sympathy with my view on this subject. I am sure that you will do everything in your power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious moments I have striven for the object, and difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface, and as far as I have succeeded, I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed. The course which the Central Powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems, for the moment, to threaten insuperable obstacles, but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect upon it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future. "But in any event our duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has the right, while war is in progress, to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be infringed or denied by any such action we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be. "For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We cannot consent to any such action without a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit, all but an explicit, acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere, and whatever nation or alliance it would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen, even amidst the turmoil of war, for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted, and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations, meaningless and futile. "It is important to reflect that, in this instance, we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would, inevitably, be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abridgement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow. The whole fabric of international law might crumble under our hands, piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own impotency as a nation, and making visible surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world. "I am speaking, my dear senator, in deep solemnity without base, without conscious consciousness of the high responsibilities of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should, unhappily, differ, we should differ as friends; but where issues so momentous as these are involved we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation. "Faithfully yours, "WOODROW WILSON."

The president's letter was in answer to a written note this afternoon by Senator Stone.

Krupp Workmen Lose Savings in Big Bank Failure

London, Feb. 24, 9.32 p.m.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Zurich says: "The failure of an important bank at Essen, Germany, is announced. It is believed that many of the men in the Krupp works have lost their savings."

LORD DERBY IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF JOINT AIR BOARD

His Acceptance, Without Salary, Announced in House of Commons—Married Groups Called Up—Boost Fisher as Sea Lord.

London, Feb. 24—Lord Derby's acceptance of the chairmanship of a joint naval and military board to control the British air service was announced in the house of commons this afternoon by Premier Asquith. The position is not a salaried one. "All the groups of married men who attended for service in the army under Lord Derby's scheme will be called for service in batches, according to the Central News."

Beginning April 29 with the younger groups, the men of 24 to 30 years old will be called on, and subsequently the men will be summoned as follows: "May 18, men of 34 to 36 years; May 27, men of 37 to 39; June 10, men of 40 to 42, and June 24, men aged 43 to 45. The oldest group, men 46 years of age, will be called on July 8. These arrangements are provisional.

The British Weekly, which recently suggested Lord Northcliffe as a defence minister, now cries for Lord "Fisher" to resume the naval command. "Fishing" Wilson says the Weekly, "England will lack the greatest war brain she has bred since Nelson. The greatest war ever waged has produced very few war brains. Only one man has beaten the Germans in brain power, and that man is Lord Fisher."

Volunteer Corps Reorganized.

London, Feb. 25, 9.35 a. m.—The recent statement that all the married men who attended under the enlistment plan of Lord Derby will be called up by July 8, is unofficial, but that, says the Weekly, "England will lack the greatest war brain she has bred since Nelson. The greatest war ever waged has produced very few war brains. Only one man has beaten the Germans in brain power, and that man is Lord Fisher."

But the trouble was that the labor man was not content to present his theories. He proposed to apply them practically and wanted to start with parliament itself. The first step to be taken—the step that would give leading to the radical proposal and incidentally afford parliamentarians another chance to practice some of the patriotism they had been preaching with earnestness and eloquence—was for ministers of the crown to tax their portfolio stipends and members of the senate and house of commons to assess their indemnities.

"Let every member pay upon his indemnity and every minister upon his salary," said Mr. Verville amid unanimous silence, followed by some cheers from opposition benches. "I am ready to pay my share for one."

Mr. Verville spoke for the labor party in the relation to the war in answering a rather depressing speech from H. Boulay, of Rimouski, one of the Conservative Nationalists in the house.

Protest of Hon. G. P. Graham Brings New Announcement From Finance Minister

Bill to Provide That No Company Shall Escape Through Over-capitalization—Mr. Verville, Labor Member, in Patriotic Speech, Asks for Direct Taxation, Beginning with Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 24—The criticisms which have come from the opposition side of the house, from some of the members on the government side and from business interests all over the country against some of the obvious injustices and inequalities of the finance minister's new taxation proposal, have borne some fruit at least. In the house tonight, Hon. George P. Graham drew from Sir Thomas White an admission that in the bill which would be introduced giving effect to the resolution which came down with the budget, there would be a clause preventing "Any undue advantage being derived by over-capitalized companies." In other words, despite the declaration of the finance minister in his budget speech that it was impossible to go behind the "paid-up capital" he is now going to eliminate the water from the capital stocks of the big corporations insofar as the taxation of profits is concerned. Evidently the bill is to be radically different from what the country has been led to believe from the first presentation of the new taxation proposals.

Opposition that \$30,000,000.

Hon. Mr. Graham put in a vigorous plea for joggling off the \$30,000,000 from the estimates for this year, which the finance minister had himself admitted as being unnecessary and which he had promised would not be spent.

He argued that the government itself should practice the thrift which it advised the people to practice. He criticized the budget proposals as a tax on industry and integrity, while wealth and water escaped, and he gave some illuminative specific cases of how the tax worked out inequitably among various competing companies.

He closed a vigorous and effective speech with the declaration that the United States was a far greater use to the Allies as a non-combatant than it should be as a combatant nation.

As to the question of honestly in expenditure of public monies, Mr. Graham declared that what had happened in Peel was merely an intimation to the government of the serious thinking that the people of Canada were doing about scandals in war purchases. A change of some 1,200 votes in one constituency is enough to point the moral to the government.

Mr. Verville's Stinging Speech.

Alphonse Verville, of Malouneuve, the "Labor party" in Canada's house of commons, caused the parliamentarians to sit up and take notice today when he spoke in the budget debate. The labor man believes that other things beside charity ought to begin "at home." He wants direct war taxation equitably applied and efficiently collected. "The labor man believes that other things beside charity ought to begin "at home." He wants direct war taxation equitably applied and efficiently collected. "The labor man believes that other things beside charity ought to begin "at home." He wants direct war taxation equitably applied and efficiently collected.

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TURN-OVER OF 1,000 VOTES ELECTS LIBERAL IN PLACE OF J. R. FALLIS, IN PEEL, ONT.

Peel, Ont., Feb. 24—W. J. Lowe, Liberal candidate in Peel county was today elected to the legislature by a majority of 305 over J. R. Fallis, former Conservative member, whose resignation of his seat owing to the disclosures in the recent investigation into the horse purchases in Peel opened the constituency.

Mr. Fallis' majority at the last election was 627. The turnover in the Liberal candidate's favor was thus something like 1,000 votes.

Mr. Verville, of Malouneuve, expressed his surprise at Mr. Boulay's references to the Jewish people. The Jews, he said, were a law-abiding and democratic people and were anxious to become naturalized Canadians as quickly as possible. Therefore, Mr. Verville thought the remarks of the member for Rimouski unfair, unjust and unbecoming. The member for Malouneuve also paid some attention to Ontario affairs. "I am tempted to believe," he said, "that they have a system of espionage to prevent recruiting in the province of Quebec. Count Von Bernstorff could not have got a better means of setting up against race than they have in Ontario."