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# GERMANS STILL RETREATING

## TWO AMERICANS AMONG LACONIA'S LIST OF MISSING

### Mother and Daughter From Chicago Were on Board Liner Torpedoed Without Warning, and Are Supposed to Have Been Drowned—Seven From Toronto.

London, Feb. 26.—According to a Central News despatch from Queens- town, Mrs. Foy and daughter, who were aboard the Laconia, are missing and are supposed to have been drowned. (It is probable that Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chi- cago, are the passengers referred to. They were in the first cabin.)

### AWAITING DETAILS

Apprehension is Felt Least Overt Act Has Been Committed.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The sinking of the big Cunard liner Laconia, apparently without warning and with 26 Ameri- cans on board loomed up tonight as the most serious disregard of Ameri- can rights since the ruthless German submarine campaign began. Govern- ment officials here made no attempt to conceal their concern.

Officials pointed out that, while final reports may show that no American lives were lost, the fact will remain that the 26 Americans on board were illegally assaulted on a peaceful mis- sion and escaped death only by good fortune.

The U. S. is concerned in the sink- ing of the Laconia also, because a large amount of diplomatic mail had been entrusted to her after the Ameri- can liner St. Louis had canceled its sailing. The state department after hav- ing had its mail held on the St. Louis for three weeks, had transferred it to the Laconia, when it was definitely announced that the St. Louis would not sail until it secured guns.

In the absence of the official infor- mation expected hourly from Consul Frost no official would venture an opinion on the outcome of the sink- ing. Beyond saying that it would gravely complicate the already criti- cal situation with Germany. Whether it may prove to be the overt act, they expected tomorrow.

### AMERICAN SAILORS HAVE BEEN RELEASED

Notice Comes Thru Spanish Of- fice, But No Other Information is Given.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Ambassador Willard at Madrid cabled today that the Spanish foreign office had notified that 72 American sailors taken on the prize ship Yarrowdale into Germany had been released by Ger- many on Feb. 26.

Absolutely no other details were given either as to the whereabouts of the men now or the long delay in hearing from Berlin on the many re- quests for their release.

In addition to cargo and passengers, the Laconia carried 5,000 bags of United States and Canadian mail, 1- 300 sacks of which had been trans- ferred from the American liner St. Louis. The Laconia, sailing on the same date the Holland-American liner Ryndam returned to port after being turned back from her voyage to Rot- terdam by the submarine menace, had on board nine of the Ryndam's pas- sengers.

No Warning Given.  
The Laconia, when she left here, was armed with one defence gun.

(Concluded on Page 6, Column 7).

## BRITISH RETAKE KUT-EL-AMARA ROUTING FOES

### Turks Hastily Retreat Westward From Fortress on Tigris.

### HORSEMEN IN PURSUIT

### General Maude Promptly Sends Out Cavalry to Attack Enemy Flank.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.  
London, Feb. 26.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, an- nounced in the British House of Com- mons this afternoon that the British forces in Mesopotamia, under Gen. Maude, have recaptured Kut-el-Amara. This town had remained in Turk- ish hands since the surrender of Gen. Townshend and his garrison of 9,000 men nearly a year ago. Mr. Law said that the Turkish garrison was in full retreat.

An official communication of the British war office shows that the Turks began their retreat the morn- ing after the British had crossed and bridged the Tigris River and had carried a ridge across the neck of the Shuman bend. In the early morning the British patrols say that the Turks were making a full retreat in the direction of Baghdad, 24 miles west of Kut-el-Amara. The British are giving the enemy close pursuit, and they had taken 1789 pri- soners in two days' fighting. The struggle has now become of the open field variety, and it has extended to a wide front, so that the full extent of the Turkish losses has not been as- certained.

The Official Version.  
The British official communication says:  
From reports from the commander of the Mesopotamian expeditionary force, the course of operations on the Tigris during the 24th was: The passage of the stream of Shuman, on the 23rd was rapidly and effectively

(Concluded on Page 6, Column 6).

## BRITISH ADVANCE ATTAINS DEPTH OF TWO MILES ON 11-MILE FRONT



FLIGHT-LT. E. SYDNEY DUGGAN. FLIGHT-LT. R. D. BRADSHAW.  
Two Toronto soldiers, who were returning to active service on the Laconia, when that ship was torpedoed. They had both been home on leave follow- ing upon several months spent in France.

### Line is Creeping Nearer Bapaume, the Famous German Stronghold, Which is Rumored to Have Been Destroyed Before the Enemy Re- treated—New German Line Will Be Approxi- mating Arras and Cambrai—British Army Hopes for End of "Stationary" Warfare.

London, Feb. 26.—The British advance along the Ancre River has attained a depth of two miles and extends along a front of about eleven miles, according to the official report from British head- quarters in France tonight.

The text reads:  
"The movements referred to in the communications Saturday and Sunday were maintained during the day on both banks of the Ancre. Our advance extends over a front of about eleven miles, from east of Gueudecourt to south of Gommecourt, and has attained a depth of two miles.

"In addition to the Village of Serre reported yesterday, we now occupy the strong point known as Butte de Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Pys and Miramont. We have reached the outskirts of Lebarque, Iries and Puisieux-au-Mont.

"A hostile attack made early this morning on one of our posts south of the Somme was driven off with loss.

"We carried out a successful raid this morning north of Arras and captured 24 prisoners. We also entered the enemy's trenches during the night west of Monchy-aux-Bois and west of Lens and brought back a few prisoners. The hostile artillery was more active than usual during the day south of the Somme and also south of Ypres. We carried out a successful bombardment of a number of points and caused an explosion in the enemy lines.

"In the course of the air fighting yesterday one German airplane was destroyed; another was driven down damaged."

MAY GO FARTHER BACK.  
The full extent of the German retirement in the Somme area has not yet developed. Outpost fighting continued today between strong British patrols pressing forward over the newly yielded ground and the German rear guards, who fell back under the fire of their heaviest calibered guns.

There has been comparatively little light artillery fire, the Ger- mans evidently depending on their heavies mounted on railway trucks, which could be rushed away at the last moment in case of necessity.

The British continued to move forward all along the line from just south of Gommecourt to Le Transloy, the latter point apparently being the pivot from which the German retreat swings backward. The line has been carried well to the northeast of Serre, while Iries and Warlencourt are in British possession. Serre, Pys, Warlencourt and Miramont, like other famous points in the Somme battlefield, such as Pozieres, Courcellette and Contalmaison, long ago ceased to have form as villages. The artillery fire they endured for months pulver- ized them to bits of stone and brick, the remnants of which will now be used by the British in restoring the roads to a passable condition.

CREEPING NEARER BAPAUME.  
The weather cleared today and the airplanes, quick to take ad- vantage of flying opportunities, were up, closely observing the Ger- man movements. The British line today was creeping nearer Ba- paume, the famous German stronghold, in regard to which there were reports that the garrison had blown up what had been pro- claimed as impregnable fortified cellars and other various underground works, on which they had labored for the greater part of two years. The roads leading into Bapaume were also reported to be obstructed by giant trees, mine craters and other barriers. No official hint as to the probable line the Germans propose taking up could be obtained tonight from any member of the British staff. There have been many conjectures during the past week, however, that when the Germans began to fall back under pressure they would probably make no real resistance until they reached a line approximating Arras and Cam- brai. It is known that the Germans have been preparing defenses that far back for some time, where they hope to hold against the ex- pected allied offensive.

FIRE AT GOMMECOURT.  
A fire was observed at Gommecourt today, a heavy artillery ac- tion going on, and this may be the next salient to give way. One of the German trenches, which has passed into British hands, had the official name of "heaven trench," altho its condition suggested any- thing but that. The German retirement, coming so closely on the heels of unrestricted submarine war, forms one of the most interest- ing phases of the great war. The Germans gave the first intimation of the near approach of their retirement when they evacuated Grand- court three weeks ago. This was evidence of new German tactics, for thrust out the bitter fighting of 1916 they never yielded an inch of ground until they were driven out at the point of the bayonet. The backward movement inaugurated at Grandcourt now becomes the greatest retreat on this front since the battle of the Marne. The events of the past two days have sent a thrill thru the entire British army, a thrill which seems to forecast the end of the "stationary" warfare.

## VICTORY LOAN TOTALS FIVE BILLION DOLLARS

### Britain Doubles Best Effort Made in Germany, Bonar Law Says—More Than Five Million People Subscribe.

London, Feb. 26.—Andrew Bonar Law, the chancellor of the exchequer, this evening gave the Associated Press the following analysis of the new war loan:  
The new money subscribed to the war loan is \$1,000,000,000. The number of subscribers is 5,289,000, in- cluding 3,200,000 subscribers for \$25,000- 000 of \$1 for 15 shillings 6 pence war savings certificates of a cash value of \$15,000,000. If subscribers of one shilling and upwards, but of less than 15 shillings 6 pence should be added, the total number of subscrib- ers would exceed 8,000,000.  
The total new money of \$1,000,000,000 includes \$126,000,000 subscribed in the form of treasury bills. There were no special subscriptions from banks, whereas in the war loan of 1915 the special subscriptions from banks came to \$200,000,000 out of the total of \$616,000,000 then subscribed. The public subscriptions in 1915 were, therefore, \$416,000,000 from about 1,100,000 subscribers as compared with public subscriptions of \$1,000,000,000 from at the lowest, 5,289,000 subscribers.

Comparison With Germany.  
The largest German war loan was the third, which, at the rate of 20 (Concluded on Page 9, Column 4).

## U.S. TO PROTECT SHIPS WILSON FORCES ISSUE

### Bill Introduced Into Congress Following President's Solemn Declaration That Rights on Seas Must Be Upheld—Extra Session May Be Forced.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson today took the inevitable step and asked congress for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American ships and lives against the German submarine men- ace—to put the nation in a state of armed neutrality.

The immediate response was the introduction in the house of a bill, ap- proved in advance by the president, empowering him to furnish guns and gunners to American merchantmen, and to "employ such other instrumen- talities and methods" as may become necessary and providing for a \$100,000,000 bond issue to be used in his discretion for war insurance to en- courage American commerce to brave the submarine peril. The bill may be brought up in the house tomorrow with special rules for its immediate con- sideration.

A similar bill will be considered to- morrow by the senate foreign rela- tions committee.

Force Extra Session.  
The president's long-expected oc- cation, while received in the main as expressions of support, threatens to force an extra session of congress.

Republicans, disinclined to grant blanket authority while congress is in recess, give evidence of opposing the president's asks, not for the purpose of withholding it, but to force him to have congress in special session to take a hand in the next steps which they feel will lead to war. The Republicans are receiving passive support from the Democratic element classed as pacifist.

The administration faces this divi- sion in its own ranks in its effort to convince the kaiser that the United States is preparing to enforce respect for its rights on the high seas. Some Democrats point to the president's own statement in his address today

that he considered he already had im- plied authority to act and might do so without sanction of congress. Mr. Wilson himself, however, said he pre- ferred not to act on implications, and did not desire to be left without spe- cific authority, and no congress to which to turn. All these things point toward an extra session, altho a way out may develop at the last moment.

Laconia Casts Shadow.  
Altho President Wilson told con- gress he was not acting because of the long- feared "overt act" news of the destruction of the Cunard liner La- conia, with Americans on board, was received here as he was entering the doors of the capitol and was passed from mouth to mouth thru congress while he was speaking. Lacking de- tails, its seriousness could not be es- timated, but it was apparent every- where that it gave weight to the president's words, then falling upon a body of grave, silent legislators, as- sembled before him in a sombre mood- ment of American history, weighing the declarations which may lead the United States to war.

But the president made it clear that (Concluded on Page 7, Column 4).

## AN INVESTMENT IN FURS.

Last days of the season for selling preparatory to arranging for the mil- linery opening which will take place early in March. All furs reduced 25 to 50 per cent, including a complete assortment of coats that are popular and serviceable for spring wear. Hudson Seal and Persian Lamb coats at investment prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, Toronto and 99-92 King street west, Hamilton.

## WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

NEWS received from the British front last night shows that the Ger- mans are continuing their retreat and the British are continuing their advance in the Ancre Valley. The British advance has now at- tained a depth of two miles on a front of eleven miles from a point east of Gueudecourt to a point south of Gommecourt. In addition to Serre and Petit Miramont, the British have occupied the strong point of Butte de Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Pys, and Miramont, and they have reached the outskirts of Lebarque, Iries, and Puisieux-au- Mont. Since this retreat has come after a series of local actions and local defeats of the Germans, it is plainly of the variety of a retreat after a defeat.

Unofficial reports from British headquarters in France say that the Germans are continuing to retire. The British pursuing force is creeping forward with aeroplanes preceding it overhead and they are occupying line after line of strongholds, declared by the Germans last year to be impregnable. The British staff is keeping secret its knowledge of where the Germans intend to make their stand again, but rumor conjectures that they will attempt to hold a line between Arras and Cambrai. The Germans are pivoting their retreat on Le Transloy, and Field Marshal Haig is forcing a salient on them at Gommecourt. Into this village the British batteries poured a terrific fire yesterday and the German lines at this point may give way next. Whether Sir Douglas Haig, since he has started the enemy on his retreat, will keep up the forcing of salients so as to compel the enemy to still further retrogrades depends a great deal on the condition of the ground and other factors conducive to a rapid advance. The German retreat this spring contrasts sharply with their steadfast holding of every inch of ground last year. The allies had then to take every foot of ground from them by hard fighting.

In their retirement the Germans are abandoning many strong positions that they previously deemed impregnable and the good point about this is that the British soldiers will not have to storm them and suffer casualties. Opinions differ as to the strength of the positions which the enemy has con- structed in the rear of his abandoned lines. Some persons believe that they are as strong as the old ones, but London military writers have commonly

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3 and 4)

St. John, N.B., Feb. 26.—By carrying all four seats in Gloucester today by heavy majorities, the Liberal opposi- tion comes into power in New Brun- swick with a clear lead of six seats in the legislature out of 48 seats. The Liberals have 27, leaving the govern- ment as compared with two seats for the Liberals and 46 for the Conser- vatives in the last house, spitting even.

A large vote was polled in Glouces- ter, and while the returns are not complete, owing to the difficulty in gathering the figures in Shippegan, Miscou and other islands on the coast, it would seem that the government candidates barely saved their deposits. The Caracquets went three to one for the opposition, while in West Bathurst, where the leader of the government ticket, J. Bennett Hachey, who is also the Conservative federal candidate in Gloucester, lives, the opposition had a large majority.

The opposition has won 10 of the 17 ridings in the province, spitting even in another vote. Queen's and the 17 ridings did the government make gains. While some opponents of the government have made the sixteen- new government has made the sixteen- section defeated the Murray administra- tion, the returns do not show this. For the first time in many years, the English, and Victoria, mostly English, converted big govern- ment majorities into opposition ma- jorities for the first time in many years, while in York, King's, Charlotte, St. John City and St. John County, all English, very large government ma- jorities were cut down from 100 to 400 votes. In St. John City in 1912 three of the four opposition candidates lost their deposits. This year one of the four opposition seats was elected, and the three others came within 300 votes of winning.

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