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BRITISH REPULSE FOUR RAIDING ATTACKS IN BELGIUM Allies Seize Dutch Ships After Holland's Rejection of Ultimatum

ALL SHIPS OF DUTCH SEIZED IN U.S. PORTS

Britain Follows American Example, on Receipt of Holland's Refusal. BULLIED BY ENEMY The Hague Government Feared to Accept Required Agreement.

Washington, March 20.—Upon Holland's refusal, in the face of German threats, to put into effect her voluntary agreement for restoring her merchant marine to normal activity, the United States Government tonight requisitioned all Dutch ships in American waters. At the same time Great Britain was taking over Dutch vessels in British ports. A total of 77 ships, of probably 600,000 tons, was added to the American merchant marine by the requisitioning. Another 400,000 tons is put into the allied service by Great Britain's action. Most of the ships will be used in the food carrying trade between the United States and Europe.

President's Statement. In a statement outlining the negotiations which preceded the requisitioning, President Wilson pointed out that the permanent agreement with the Dutch Government, the danger of Germany's seizing the little kingdom's acute need of foodstuffs, for which the agreement provided, a temporary agreement was reached to take care of the emergency, and that, too, was held up by Prussian diplomacy.

At the reason never was formally expressed by the president said, it was generally known that the Dutch shipowners feared lest their ships would be destroyed by German submarines. That this fear was not wholly unjustified has unhappily been shown by the recent act of the German Government in sinking the Spanish ship Sardinia, outside the dangerous waters of the English Channel, and, after the submarine commander had ascertained that this was an inspection of the ship's papers.

For two months the proposed agreements lay in diplomatic pigeon holes without action, and meanwhile, the president says, German threats have grown more violent. The United States proposed to carry out the terms of the original agreement, that Holland shall receive ample foodstuffs and will be protected in her colonial trade by having sufficient tonnage to maintain its commerce.

HOW 25 MILLION LOAN WAS DISTRIBUTED

Statement Regarding Sum for Equipment Advanced to C. N. R. in Commons. Ottawa, March 20.—A statement from the department of railways and canals, showing the distribution of the twenty-five million dollars loaned by the government to the Canadian Northern Railway for the purchase of equipment, etc., was tabled in the house of commons this afternoon. The total amount was paid to the Central Trust Company, New York, in payment of a loan to the C. N. R. The quantity of equipment to be purchased was valued at \$1,500,000. The rolling stock securities of the railroad demanded a payment of \$4,975,500 for principal of equipment bonds, and a payment of \$1,675,000 interest on equipment bonds. The remainder of the \$25,000,000, amounting to approximately \$18,350,000, was divided between the 13 companies forming the Canadian Northern Railway system.

Table with columns for date and amount. Total \$25,000,000.00

British Government to Use Jewish Troops in Palestine

London, March 20.—So long as the exigencies of the service permit Jewish battalions in the British army, they are definitely intended for employment in Palestine. This announcement was made in the house of commons yesterday by J. L. MacPherson, parliamentary under-secretary of the war office.

CURFEW HOUR HAS BEEN FIXED FOR SOUTHERN BRITISH COUNTIES

London to Be Dark After Ten-Thirty Owing to Shortage of Coal Caused By Withdrawal of Coasting Steamers.

London, March 20.—The curfew hour has been fixed for London and the southern counties of England at 10.30 o'clock at night. At that hour all places of amusement must be closed, and the streets remain closed until one o'clock the following afternoon. There will be no lights for shop windows, and the hotels, clubs, restaurants and various other designated places must cease serving hot meals from 9.30 at night until 5 o'clock in the morning.

FINANCE MINISTER GAVE HIS SANCTION

Hon. A. K. Maclean, Acting Minister, Confirms Report of Bank Merger.

WAS SILENT AT FIRST

When Informed That Banks Had Announced It, He Confirmed Report.

Ottawa, March 20.—Hon. A. K. Maclean, acting minister of finance, when asked by The World to confirm the report that the minister of finance had approved the merger of the Bank of British North America and the Bank of Montreal, replied, that it was customary for banks to obtain such permission before proceeding with any negotiations. Such negotiations, he said, were always carried on as privately as possible, because in case of failure they might give rise to injurious reports concerning one or both of the parties to the negotiations. It was therefore not the policy of the department to give out any information respecting pending negotiations for a bank merger.

BORDEN AND MEIGHEN DOOMED TO DEATH

Detective's Evidence at Trial in Montreal of Alleged Dynamiters.

Montreal, March 20.—Detective Charles Desjardines was a witness for the defense at the alleged dynamiters' trial this afternoon. He said he had been to make his reports on the doings of the 'Constitutional Club' or 'Sons of Liberty,' as it was known to him at the time, July 7 last, which had been formed to fight conscription. Desjardines said that besides Hon. Albert Sevigny having been mentioned for the distinction of having a 'C' branded on his forehead the names of Sir Robert Borden, Hon. Arthur Meighen, Sir Joseph Flavelle and Major-Gen. E. W. Wilson were added. Borden and Meighen were to be killed.

Argentina Has a Hard Time In Getting Rid of Luxburg

Buenos Aires, March 20.—The Argentine Government is having a hard time in getting rid of Count von Luxburg, the former German minister. The agents of the Swedish steamer Volvariso, on board which Von Luxburg had granted a safe conduct to start on a homeward voyage, now refuse to accept the former minister as a passenger. The Argentine Government, therefore, is making attempts to have Von Luxburg leave the country on a Norwegian vessel which is due to sail at an early date.

FRENCH VESSEL ASHORE

Buenos Aires, March 20.—A French vessel bearing the name of St. Martin is ashore off Copacabana, Argentina. She has a crew of 19 men on board and was bound from Havre for Buenos Aires.

TO MAKE GOOD DEFICIENCY OF SHIP WORKERS

Premier Lloyd George Declines to Withdraw Men From Army.

TO INCREASE ENERGY

Jellicoe Retired From Admiralty to Deal With Submarines.

London, March 20.—In a general reply to criticisms raised in the shipping rebate, Premier Lloyd George said that shipbuilding had not been stopped for lack of steel or steel plate. The difficulty had been largely on the labor. Every man in the home service skilled in shipbuilding had already been taken from the army, but when it was demanded that 20,000 men should be withdrawn forcibly from the field operations a very serious responsibility was involved. Many of these men were essential to manning batteries and were the mainstay of complete organizations.

ESKIMOS KILLED IN SELF-DEFENCE

Result of Ten Months' Investigations Into Murder in Arctic.

Regina, March 20.—Details of the Radford-Street murder in the Canadian Arctic has reached Regina by wire from Inspector French, R.N.W.M.P., who for ten months has been conducting an investigation in this connection. Inspector French has reported by wire from the R.N.W.M.P. post at Baker Lake, the report coming by dog sledge to the nearest telegraph office, the message reaching Regina today.

AMERICAN OFFICERS TO TRAIN RUSSIANS

Trotzky Asks Loan of Experts to Organize New Bolshevik Volunteer Army.

DRAWN TOWARDS ALLIES

Soviet Government Friendly—Military Missions to Stay in Moscow.

Moscow, March 20.—Leon Trotzky's reply to the allies' inquiries concerning reports that the Bolsheviks had armed thousands of German and Austrian war prisoners in Siberia, who would be used to threaten the Siberian railway, was: "Send trained officers and investigate. I will give you a train."

PARTLY IN CASH, PARTLY IN STOCK

Believed to Be the Terms of Proposed Purchase in Latest Bank Merger.

Montreal, March 20.—If the absorption by the Bank of Montreal of the Bank of British North America goes thru, and the Royal-Northern Crown transaction is finally ratified, the banks in Canada will be operating under the provisions of the Canadian Bank Act, instead of one of them, the B.N.A., operating under a British charter, as at present. It is believed here that the terms of the proposed purchase will provide for payment to the shareholders of the Bank of British North America partly in cash and partly in the stock of the Bank of Montreal.

The Best Local Paper

The Toronto World yesterday published 66 purely local news items. The Mail published 36. The Globe published 34. The World had 39 more local items than The Mail and Empire, and 32 more than The Globe.

GOVERNMENT MAY PLACE AN EMBARGO ON DIAMONDS

RUMORS AS TO MINISTER OF FINANCE

Stories in Circulation That J. H. Gundy Will Replace Sir Thomas White—Borden Makes Statement Today.

A rumor has been going about Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, that Sir Thomas White has resigned, or at least, is asking to be relieved of his seat in the Ottawa government as minister of finance, and that J. H. Gundy of Toronto, of the firm of Wood, Gundy & Co., and a member of the war trade board, now sitting at Ottawa, is likely to take his place. An announcement is expected in parliament today in regard to the personnel of the cabinet from Sir Robert Borden, and there is likely to be some statement that will settle or confirm these rumors. Sir Gundy has had a most successful and rapid career as an investment broker and dealer in securities; was the most active worker in the recent flotation of the Victory war loan; is an intimate friend of Sir Thomas White, and has many qualifications for the office of minister.

MAY MOVE LIQUOR TO NEW RESIDENCE

Chairman of License Board Makes Ruling on Much Debated Point. Many questions are being asked J. D. Flavell, chairman of the Ontario License Board, in regard to the work of the board when the new Dominion temperance regulations come into force on April 1. From the answers given it would appear that the board intends taking a liberal view and that its interpretation of the law will be wide.

ORIGINALS ARRIVE HOME ON FURLOUGH

Bronzed Heroes Are Acclaimed at North Toronto Yesterday Afternoon. Their bronzed faces glowing with health and the pleasure they felt in being back in "good old Toronto," and looking every inch the conquerors they are, the men of the 1st Division Canadian Expeditionary Force, home on furlough, swung off the train at North Toronto station at 3.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon amid the enthusiastic cheers of the two thousand citizens present to welcome the "originals."

JUDGE'S DECISION IN INSURANCE CASE

Military Operations in Europe, He States, Not to Protect Canada From Invasion. Judge Denton has decided in favor of the London Life Insurance Company in the action brought by Mrs. M. F. Skimin for \$500 life insurance on her soldier son, Pte. Garnet Redvers Skimin, killed in action July 15, 1916. A legal point involved in a clause in the company's policy is thus disposed of temporarily, but there is a possibility that an appeal will be taken.

TOOK ALL PREMIUMS

Company, However, Fell Back on Clause in Policy Signed Before Enlistment. The company claimed that within the terms of the policy Skimin was not so engaged, and therefore they were not bound to pay the amount of the policy.

AN INCREASE OF \$97,400,000 IN STOCK OF GENERAL MOTORS

Wilmington, Del., March 20.—An increase in the capital stock of the company from \$102,500,000 to \$200,000,000 was voted at a special meeting today of the stockholders of the General Motors Company. The present directors and officers were re-elected.

Price Given for Live Hogs Touches New Record Mark

For the first time in the history of the Toronto Live Stock Exchange the price of live hogs yesterday touched \$21 per cwt. weighed off cars and \$20.85 fed and watered. The former price being paid for one deck of select. For a short time last summer the price touched \$20 per cwt fed and watered, but failed to hold the advance.

THE NEW DUNLAP HAT

The new Dunlap Hats have arrived at Dineen's. They could not arrive anywhere else in Toronto, as Dineen's are the exclusive agents. The Dunlap New York Hat is the latest combination of style, comfort and quality produced by American hatmakers. The new styles are most particularly exclusive and genteel and superior to all ages. The supply is limited. Call and see them today. Dineen's, 116, Dineen Company, 140 Yonge street.

Montreal, March 20.—A short meeting of the members of the Montreal Stock Exchange today resulted in a decision to make no change in a present schedule of minimum prices.

FOR SALE Leading Jewelers and Dealers in Precious Stones Go to Ottawa to Confer With Cabinet on the Matter.

Diamonds and imported jewelry have fallen under the official eye of the Union government in its campaign to reduce expenditure on non-essentials. The possibility of the passing of a law prohibiting the bringing of more diamonds to Canada during the war has taken on such symptoms of probability that the leading diamond merchants and jewelers of Canada hastened to Ottawa yesterday and conferred with the cabinet. It was learned locally last night that the government had decided either to forbid the importation of more diamonds or else increase the tariff to such a degree that the heretofore flourishing business will be reduced to a minimum.

THROUGH GREETED THEM

Platform and Friends Received Early Volunteers. Relatives and Friends Received Platform to Receive Early Volunteers.

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