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SATURDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 24 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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Senate Reading Room
31der17—97
SENATE P O OTTAWA

BRITISH CAPTURE TURK TRENCHES AT SANNAIYAT

Germans Lose More Positions

U. S. WILL GIVE VESSELS POWER TO HAVE GUNS

Washington Sanctions Arming of American Ships Against Submarines.

SEIZES OPPORTUNITY

Lloyd George Acts Chiefly to Strengthen Britain's Position Abroad.

Washington, Feb. 23.—There was a two-hour cabinet meeting this afternoon, followed by the announcement that the international situation had undergone no change. Members were more than usually reticent in discussion afterwards, altho they indicated that President Wilson still had made no plans for his expected visit to congress to seek authority to protect Americans and their ships from submarines.

No word has been received from Ambassador Penfield concerning Austria's reply to the request for a statement as to whether the Vienna Government adheres fully to Germany's submarine policy, and whether the pledges given in the Ancona and Persia cases are repudiated. Germany is believed to be exerting strong pressure on Austria for a complete defiance of this country, and officials here do not conceal their belief that a break is inevitable in spite of the reluctance of both governments to permit it.

The question of arming American ships has been further complicated by a request from P. A. S. Franklin of the American Line not only for guns but for gunners. While the government has sanctioned the carrying of guns, no official thinks the government will provide gunners at this time. Aside from other difficulties, the placing of national gunners on a private ship would make her status questionable.

Use Campaign as Excuse.

Premier Lloyd George's speech to the effect that extreme measures must be taken to safeguard England from disaster from the submarine campaign, caused much surprise here because of the frankness of its expression. Nevertheless it was pointed out that the German submarine campaign had given the British premier just the opportunity he wanted of making a supreme appeal to the British people and of imposing restrictions, both on them and on neutrals which he had long desired to put into effect.

The drastic prohibitions of imports were understood here, not only to be a means of saving cargo space, but of enforcing the same personal economy in England that has been practised in Germany during the war. The immense financial saving which this will effect is expected also to strengthen England considerably in neutral markets and increase the expenditures for munitions.

Officials at the state department allowed it to become known that, while the official notification of the new British order-in-council widening the blockade had been received here, no protest by this country was likely in the existing circumstances.

BRITISH IMPROVE LINE ON SOMME AND ANCRE

Advance North of Gueudecourt Leads to Capture of Trench—Enemy Post South of Petit Miraumont Falls.

London, Feb. 23.—The war office communication issued this evening reads:

"We improved our position during the day north of Gueudecourt, on the Somme, where we captured a portion of a hostile trench, over 30 prisoners and a trench mortar. We also gained ground south of Petit Miraumont (south of the Ancre), where we occupied an enemy post.

"A successful raid was carried out yesterday evening by our troops southeast of Souchez, and a number of the enemy were killed and his dugouts destroyed. At dawn hostile raids were repulsed south of Armentieres and in the neighborhood of the Ploegsteert wood. A smaller number of the enemy, who succeeded in reaching our trenches, were killed or taken prisoner. The enemy's artillery was more active than usual in the neighborhood of the Somme and south of Arras. We carried out an effective bombardment of the enemies' trenches south of Ypres."

TWO SANNAIYAT LINES FALL TO BRITISH DRIVE

Turks Lose Trenches at South End of Strong Position on Left Bank of Tigris Near Kut-El-Amara.

London, Feb. 23.—The British forces operating against the Turks in the Tigris region of Mesopotamia have captured two lines of trenches near Sannaiyat, according to an official statement issued this evening. The statement says:

"Since the clearing of the Dahra Bend (of the Tigris) our efforts have been concentrated upon the taking of the Sannaiyat position on the left bank of the Tigris. There has been a systematic bombardment daily since the 17th, when our attack failed. All preparations were made for a new effort. This attack was launched Thursday, and two lines of trenches at the south end of the position were secured and consolidated. The fighting is still progressing.

"A heavy rain has caused the Tigris to rise to flood level, hindering the operations and making the supply of troops to the left bank a matter of difficulty."

SUBMARINE SINKS FRENCH STEAMER

Athos, Carrying Senegalese Troops and Colonial Laborers, Founders.

WARSHIPS SAVE MANY

U-Boat Torpedoes Ship Despite Convoy by Two Destroyers.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The French steamer Athos, carrying Senegalese troops and colonial laborers, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean Sea.

The torpedoing occurred despite the fact that the Athos was escorted by the French torpedo boat destroyers Mameluk and Enseigne Henry, which, aided by a gunboat, saved 1450 persons from the steamer.

The French steamer Athos of 12,000 gross tons, according to the New York maritime register, was last reported as arriving at Kobe, Japan, on Jan. 17 from Marseilles, France. She was a steel twin-screw steamer and was built in 1914 at Dunkirk, France. She was 508 feet long, 61.7 in breadth and 45.1 feet in depth.

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BLOW UP CONSULATE

Attempts to Destroy British Offices at Groninen Fail and Plotters Arrested.

Amsterdam, Feb. 23, via London, Feb. 24.—The Nieuwe Vandendag says that a plot against the British consulate at Groningen, 92 miles northeast of Amsterdam, has been discovered. A bag of explosives, to which fuses were attached, the paper adds, were found in the hotel where the consulate is housed. The newspaper reports that five arrests have been made.

London, Feb. 23.—An Exchange Telegraph despatch from Rotterdam says that the persons who were arrested in connection with an alleged plot against the British consulate at Groningen admitted that they tried several times to blow up the consulate, for which they received 2000 florins.

Col. Spencer Appointed To Superintend Canteens

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, Eng., Feb. 23.—Colonel Nelson Spencer, Medicine Hat, has been nominated by Sir George Perley as the Canadian member of the committee which looks after the canteens, a share of the profits from which are devoted to patriotic funds.

General Carson will shortly return to Canada, it is said.

SHIP'S GUN DRIVES SUBMARINE OFF

British Steamer Tynemede Has Exciting Encounter With U-Boat.

HAD NO TIME TO FIRE

Submersible Dodged Each Time Gun Crew Took Aim.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—The Associated Press says that the British steamer Tynemede, one of the four vessels which arrived here today after having passed thru the European war zone, encountered a submarine when one day out from Swansea, Wales, according to Capt. Griffith, master of the ship. Several attempts were made to sink the submarine, but each time it submerged before the three-inch gun mounted on the stern of the Tynemede could be gotten in position to fire.

"We left Swansea on Feb. 1 in ballast," said Captain Griffith. "On Feb. 2 a submarine was sighted about 400 yards away on the port side. The thirteen-pound gun which the Tynemede carries on her stern was trained on the U-boat, but the submarine submerged before a shot could be fired. We kept on moving at full speed in an effort to escape, but the submarine soon fired again, this time on the starboard side. The gun was again trained on it, and the submarine commenced taking a zigzag course, apparently attempting to get in position to fire a torpedo.

"About the time we were prepared to shoot the submarine apparently decided the risk was too great and again submerged. We did not see it again."

The remainder of the voyage, Captain Griffith said, was uneventful.

Besides the Tynemede a number of steamers arrived here today after having passed thru the war zone. They included the British steamers Bloemfontein from Calcutta and Colombo, Carventum from Genoa and the Norwegian steamer Ellen from Marseilles.

British steamers clearing here today for belligerent ports were Nevizan, for Liverpool; Lecoq, for Bordeaux River; Tweeddale, for Kola Bay and South Point, and Maine, for London.

COL. MARLOW WILL GET OVERSEAS POST

He Will Soon Proceed to England to Assume Duties.

By Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 23.—Col. Fred W. Marlow, assistant director of medical service in the Toronto military district, whose report on military hospitals has occasioned some discussion, applied some time ago thru General Logie for an appointment to the overseas forces, either in a medical or staff capacity. The application has been favorably considered at headquarters, and Colonel Marlow will soon proceed to England to assume his duties.

He will be examined regarding his report next Thursday by the parliamentary committee on returned soldiers.

MORE SINN FEINERS PLACED UNDER ARREST

Have Been Prohibited From Living in Ireland and Must Go to England.

London, Feb. 23.—More arrests of members of the Gaelic League and of persons identified with the recent rebellion have been made in Ireland, says a Central News despatch from Dublin, which adds that other arrests were expected later today. A number of those arrested have arrived in Dublin and have been lodged at Arbour Hill Barracks.

It is stated officially that the persons arrested under the Defence of the Realm regulations have been prohibited from residing in Ireland, and "have been given their choice of places in England where they may reside."

R. B. Bennett Leaves for West To Discuss Farm Labor Issue

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 23.—R. B. Bennett, M.P., director-general of national service, left Ottawa tonight to take part in a series of conferences in the western provinces, with a view to devising means of supplying the shortage of farm labor this coming spring. Mr. Bennett expects to be away from Ottawa for about two weeks.

SATURDAY AT DINEEN'S

The first big day for the selling of new season style men's hats. Store open until 10 o'clock Saturday night. Dineen's exclusive importations of men's hats have arrived.

Christy's soft and stiff hats $3 and $3.50.

Henry Heath's London styles, $4.00.

The Dunlap stiff felt hat, $5.00.

Stetson hats, all shapes and shades, $4 and $4.50.

Hilligate's exclusive English hats, $4.50.

The genuine Italian Borsalino, $4.50.

Barbisio, another famous Italian make, $4.

Heath's silk hats, the selection of the Englishman of fashion, $8.50.

Along with the above assortment of particular hats, there is a wide and varied assortment in hard and soft felts, all in the new styles, and priced $2 and $3. W. & D. Dineen Company, Limited, 140 Yonge street, cor. Temperance.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

IN order to beat the submarine campaign, Premier Lloyd George and the imperial ministry have decided to cut down greatly the volume of British imports, so as to leave more tonnage available for the vital needs of the nation. In a speech made before the imperial house of commons yesterday, he gave details of what the government proposes to do. Instead of making a reduction of imports on the percentage basis, the government will prohibit many commodities from entering the United Kingdom. As France supplies many of these, it will permit a certain amount of importation under license, in order not to work unnecessary hardship.

* * * * *

In his speech Lloyd George did not indulge in optimistic forecasts, but he regarded this submarine menace in its most serious aspects. The government, he said, hoped to destroy these submarines in the deep, but they had to make ready for the worst that could happen and not to take any risks by failure to prepare fully for the worst. The British public, he acknowledged, would suffer severe privations, but not greater than the Italian public has been suffering.

* * * * *

These measures of the British Government come at a time when they will make available considerable surplus tonnage for the supply of the great army of Britain in the west. The British artillery, for example, will fire this year three times the quantity of high explosives that it fired last year, and this alone demands greater means of water transportation. The supplying of expeditions at Salonica, on the Sinai Peninsula, and on the Tigris, demands also increased shipping, especially since these forces have assumed, or are about to assume, the offensive.

* * * * *

By refusing to accept defeat on their first setback and by persistent artillery pressure the British on the Tigris have just won a success against the strong Sannaiyat position. Owing to Turkish counter-attacks a week ago the British had to evacuate two sections of trenches taken by assault, but they returned to the charge last Thursday, and they captured two lines of Turkish trenches at the south end of this Sannaiyat position. Altho the fighting is progressing round this position, the British have managed to consolidate their gains. The Sannaiyat lines, it seems, tho not vital to the British for their siege of Kut-el-Amara, possess considerable value for the Turks, because they impede the forwarding of supplies up the Tigris River. They lie about fifteen miles distant from Kut-el-Amara, on the left bank of the river, while the British have been making their advance on the right bank, pivoting on Sannaiyat. The Tigris has risen to flood level.

* * * * *

In France, the British, keeping up their strong pressure on the Somme and the Ancre, captured a portion of a German trench north of Gueudecourt, with 30 prisoners and a trench mortar, and they also gained ground south of Petit Miraumont, occupying a German post. They carried out another successful raid southeast of Souchez, killed many Germans and destroyed their dugouts. The Germans attempted to raid the British lines south of Armentieres and near Ploegsteert wood. Under the hail of British bullets only a small number reached the British trenches, and these either surrendered or died on the spot.

BRITAIN CUTS IMPORTS TO MEET U-BOAT PERIL

Lloyd George Announces Drastic Measures to Bar Out Goods Not Vitally Needed and to Increase United Kingdom's Food Production —Saving of Several Million Tons of Ocean Freight Will Be Effected.

London, Feb. 23.—Strong warning that the British public must be prepared for much greater sacrifices was given by Premier Lloyd George in addressing the house of commons today on measures to be taken to deal with the shortage in ocean tonnage. Announcing that stocks of food were lower in Britain than ever before, he declared that disaster could be averted by stern restriction of consumption of unnecessary foods only. To this end, he said, it had been decided to continue on the free list essential articles of food only. In designating luxuries and semi-luxuries to be forbidden importation, he intimated that it had been found advisable to add to the list a number of articles usually classed as useful imports because of the fact that their bulk made too great demand upon ocean tonnage. He estimated that food restrictions alone would save 900,000 tons in shipping in a year, and that he expected the total saving in space would reach several million tons. Paper users must henceforth get along with only half the supply they are now receiving. Certain savings also will be effected in the import of ore, and also in lumber, which at present is 4,000,000 tons.

To Stimulate Food Production.

To stimulate food production in the United Kingdom he said that fixed

Sir Robert Borden, Hon. J. D. Hazen, and Hon. Robert Rogers were among the listeners in the house. In his peroration, Premier Lloyd George referred gratefully to the fact that the colonial secretary within the past few hours had had the opportunity of conferring with some of the overseas ministers who, he said, were most ready that the trade of their own countries should be sacrificed in the present emergency if absolutely essential to save tonnage.

Britain Not Complaining.

In opening the debate on the statement of the premier, Walter Runciman, former president of the board of trade, after alluding to the gravity of the pronouncement, said that the last government had adopted drastic measures of a prohibitory nature in many directions, but that the country had borne them with fortitude. Difficult negotiations with the allies had had to be conducted by the government on this subject he commented, adding:

"Our hardships here are mighty ones, as great as those of Italy; but as a matter of fact there is a difference of temperament. We, in this country, do not make the same fuss about restrictions as did the Italians. In this country, men are ashamed to give expression to their feelings, even if the restrictions are felt to be hard."

Mr. Runciman said he thought the government should endeavor to reduce the amount of tonnage used for government purposes, which at present was 63 per cent. If it could be reduced to 50 per cent. of the total tonnage, he said, supplies would be permitted to enter freely to that extent. If not, the members of the house, he declared, had not heard the last of the shipping tale.

Tribute to Dominions.

Walter Hume Long, secretary of state for the colonies, in reply, paid a tribute to the dominions and colonies for the manner in which they had received the restrictions upon imports, which to them might be very important. The premier, he said, desired him to say that the importation of rum was stopped altogether, there being now a sufficient stock for the needs of the army, while there would be a reduction in the importation of wines and spirits of 75 per cent. on the basis of 1913.

Essential Imports Only.

The premier at the outset said the ultimate success of the allied cause depended on the ability to solve the tonnage shortage, which was now affecting the ordinary needs of the nation and military exigencies. The situation called for the gravest measures.

The premier said there was no sure way to victory without hunting the submarine from the deep. Enormous sacrifices were necessary from the British public, and the government proposed to dispense with all non-essential importations to save tonnage.

The premier declared he had not the slightest doubt that if the whole program were carried out, and if all those who could help in production did help, "I honestly say we can face the worst the enemy can do, and that is what we ought to be prepared to do."

Food Stocks Small.

In dealing with the question of production, the premier said:

"Then there is the question of our home supplies of food. I want the country to know that at present our food stocks are low. This is not due to submarines, but to the bad harvest. It is essential to the safety of the nation that we put forth every effort to increase production this year.

"There are still a few weeks to sow spring wheat, oats and barley; to induce the farmer to plow up pasture land immediately. The government proposes to guarantee the farmer a minimum price for a definite period, while a minimum wage of 25 shillings weekly will be fixed for the laborer."

In emphasizing the shortage of tonnage he said more than 1,000,000 tons of British shipping had been allocated to France, and a considerable amount to Russia and Italy.

Drastic Steps or Disaster.

"If we take drastic measures," he continued, "we can cope with the submarine menace, but if the nation is not prepared to accept drastic measures for dealing with the menace, disaster is before us.

"The government is hopeful of finding means of dealing with the submarine, but we should be guilty of folly if we rested tranquilly upon the expectation of realization of that hope. We have to deal ruthlessly and promptly with the tonnage problem by measures which impose great sacrifices upon the country.

"There are three sets of measures: First, by the navy, as described by Sir Edward Carson (ifrst lord of the admiralty); second, the building of merchant ships; third, dispensing with unnecessary commodities from abroad and production of as much food as possible at home."

High Prices After War.

The opinion was expressed by the premier that food prices were not likely to decrease for a long time after the war, inasmuch as Germany would then be a heavier purchaser than ever before. Therefore it was safe to grant to the farmers a minimum price over a definite period of time, which was the only way to bring about immediate action.

The premier announced that the government would guarantee a price of 38s. 6d. for oats this year, 32s. for the next two years, and 24s. for the three following years. The price of potatoes would be guaranteed, for the coming season only, at £6 a ton.

For wheat the government will guarantee the farmer the following minimum prices per quarter: For the present year, 60s.; for 1918 and 1910, 55s.; for 1920, 1921, and 1922, 45s.

The premier said powers would be given to the board of agriculture to compel landowners to cultivate their ground.

The minimum wage for farm labor announced by Mr. Lloyd George, 25 shillings a week, represents an increase of 50 to 80 per cent. over the present prevailing payment.

Brewing will be cut down to 10,000,000 barrels annually. A similar reduction will be made in the output of spirits, effecting a saving of 600,000 tons of foodstuffs.

On Prohibited List.

The importation of apples, tomatoes and fruits will be prohibited. The only exceptions made in the prohibition of fruit importations will be in the cases of oranges and bananas, in which the amount brought in will be restricted 25 per cent. The same restriction will apply to nuts. Canned salmon importations will be reduced fifty per cent. The importation of foreign tea, coffee and cocoa is prohibited, and even the amount of India tea which may be brought in is reduced. The importation of aerated, mineral and table waters will be prohibited.

The premier said it was expected to save 900,000 tons of shipping yearly on foodstuffs.

The importation of paper, the premier announced, must be curtailed by a further 640,000 tons annually. In announcing the decision to restrict the importation of paper, Mr. Lloyd George said the government had arrived at the conclusion that a very substantial reduction was necessary, and that the amount would be cut to half of what is now allowed. This would reduce the allowance to 640,000 tons.

In Effect at Once.

All essential articles of food, he continued, would be on the free list, but certain articles would be reduced or prohibited. The stoppage of importation of coffee, tea and cocoa for the time being was due to the fact that large supplies were on hand. The premier said he regretted very much the cutting off of certain luxuries which came from France and Italy.

These restrictions would be imposed immediately, said the premier. Steps would be taken to prevent speculative buying, and if necessary the food controller would take control of the commodity. The restrictions had been carefully considered, and he asked the house to take them as a whole.

Appeal to Labor.

Dealing with shipbuilding, Mr. Lloyd George said he made a special appeal to labor, and that he was convinced the output could be very considerably increased by an alteration in methods.

"Wherever payments by results have been introduced," said the premier, "there has been an increase in the output of shipbuilding yards, sometimes by 20, sometimes by 30 and sometimese by even 40 per cent. We have made a special appeal to the great trade unions to assent to the introduction of these methods. In some yards they have already been introduced. This also involves the undertaking by employers that if larger wages are earned by the men as a result of special efforts no advantage must be taken of that to reduce rates. The penalizing of good work by reducing the rate of payment has been one of the great follies of the past that has caused the workingmen to fear piece rates.

"It is essential that we should get as much work as possible out of the shipyards, not merely for shipbuilding for the mercantile marine, but for the building of craft for coping with submarines. Our shipbuilding capacity is the greatest in the world and is fairly adequate for the gigantic task which is thrown upon it. The Italian, French and Russian contribution is a very substantial one, but in the main, the burden is on the shoulders of Great Britain, and if workmen and employers of all classes in the community strive their utmost. I think Great

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 6).

BRITAIN TO SHUT OUT MANY MORE ARTICLES

Prohibited List Includes Agricultural Machinery and Leather Shoes, Wood and Timber, as Well as Luxuries—Allies' Protests Are Given Consideration.

London, Feb. 23.—The official gazette tonight gives a list of articles, the importation of which is prohibited. The decree takes effect today. The list includes agricultural machinery, boots and shoes of leather, raw fruits, except lemons and oranges; hides, leather, gloves, glass manufacturers, linen and yarns, and manufactures thereto; canned lobsters and salmon, manufactured silk and skins, furs, food articles containing sugar, except condensed milk, typewriters, wine of all kinds, wood and timber.

It was announced that in deciding what commodities should be excluded from the United Kingdom in order to economize in tonnage the government had to take into account the interests of its allies. The threatened restrictions aroused immediate protests from France, as the imports from that country of mineral waters, wines, brandy, silks, needlework and of all kinds of garments and clothing, such a bonnets, feathers and flowers represent a considerable income to the French producers.

Can Issue Special Licenses.

The power given to the board of trade to issue special licenses, however, may be freely exercised in behalf of the allies of Great Britain as ships taking munitions and other supplies to France and Italy have ample tonnage to bring return cargoes. There are now heavy stocks of French wines in England.

American firms dealing in typewriters and photographic apparatus almost monopolize the English market but have factories here. The importation of American boots and shoes, once heavy, has decreased greatly in the last decade. The country has large supplies of coffee, tea and cocoa.

Premier Lloyd George announced that the United Kingdom would endeavor to depend upon its own resources for timber which, heretofore, largely had been imported, the chief obstacle to its production being an insufficient force of skilled workmen for cutting and finishing it.

Other Commodities.

Other commodities specified are: aerated, mineral and table waters; antimony ware, apparel not waterproofed, works of art, baskets and bamboo basketware, books, other printed matter including posters and daily and weekly and other periodicals exceeding sixteen pages in length; materials for the manufacture of leather boots and shoes, brandy, clocks and parts thereof, cloisonne wares, raw cocoa and preparations thereof, coffee, cotton hosiery, cotton lact and articles thereof, curios, diatomine and infusional earth, embroidery and needlework, fancy and ornamental feathers and down, fire extinguishers, flowers, artificial and fresh; hats and bonnets, incandescent gas meters, raw jutes and matting, mops, pointers' colors and pigments, perfumery, photographic apparatus, pictures, prints, engravings, photographs and maps, plated and gilt wares, live quails, quebracho, hemlock, oak and mangrove extracts; rum, soya beans, stereoscopes, straw envelopes for bottles and straw plaiting, tea.

Both wet and dry hides and dressed and undressed leather are included. Silk yarns are exempted. The prohibitions do not apply to goods imported under licenses, given by the board of trade.