

"SCRAP OF PAPER" CHANCELLOR DIES

Bethmann-Hollweg Passes Away
After Brief Illness.

HAD RETIRED IN 1917

Headed Kaiser's Cabinet At Out-
break of the War.

BERLIN, Jan. 2.—(Associated Press Cable)—Dr. Theobald Von Bethmann-Hollweg, former German imperial chancellor, died last night after a brief illness on his estate at Hohenfinow, near Berlin.

Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg was the originator of the famous neutrality treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium as a "scrap of paper." The reference was made in a statement before the Reichstag in August, 1914, when he gave the German viewpoint of what causes led to the war. He frankly admitted in this same speech that Germany's action in invading Belgium had been morally and legally wrong. He justified it only on the grounds of "military necessity."

HIS RECORD
Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg was chancellor of Germany from July 4, 1909, to July 14, 1917. He was succeeded in the office by Dr. George Michaelis, an appointee of the former kaiser. It was said that Von Bethmann-Hollweg was forced out of office through the efforts of the militarists, headed by Von Hindenburg and Ludendorff, largely because of his "scrap of paper" statement and his admission that the German invasion of Belgium was unjust. The former chancellor had on several occasions issued statements blaming the militarists for the war, these appearing in 1916 and 1917, while in the two previous years he had frequently declared that England alone was responsible.

LOYAL TO KAISER
Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg received prominent attention throughout the world in June, 1919, when he formally asked the allied and associated powers to place him on trial instead of the former kaiser. The supreme council decided to ignore his request. He was often mentioned as among those who might be tried by the allies for political offenses in connection with the origin of the war.

His national activities before 1914 were marked by his strong opposition to democratization of Germany. At times he was sharply outspoken in his denance of Socialism and he rejected any move to make himself and the other German ministers responsible to the Reichstag. In the early stages of the war, however, he became known as a moderate. Late in 1919 reports from Geneva said he was credited in diplomatic circles there as being at the bottom of a monarchist movement in favor of both the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs, the nucleus of which was said to be under way in Switzerland. On several occasions during his tenure of office Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg threw out peace feelers, particularly in 1916, when he invited the allies to enter negotiations. All of his overtures contained only the vaguest indications regarding the German attitude on a peace settlement and they were rejected. It was on the failure of his peace efforts in December, 1916, that he incurred unlimited submarine warfare.

MOTHER AND TWO CHILDREN KILLED

In Auto Hit by G. T. Train Near
Toronto

TORONTO, Jan. 2.—Mrs. Louise Bernard, of Downview, a short distance from this city, and her son, Gordon, aged 12, and daughter, Vera, aged 5, were killed on New Year's Day while coming to Toronto in an auto driven by Mr. Bernard.

KENT YOUTH VICTIM OF HUNTING ACCIDENT

Edward Carswell, 17, Son of Comden Farmer, Killed by His Own Gun
THAMESVILLE, Jan. 1.—(Special to The Free Press)—Edward Carswell, son of Edward Carswell, of the Comden-Zone town line, was almost instantly killed this afternoon by the accidental discharge of a gun in his own hands. The young man, who was out hunting, tripped and fell with his gun, the discharge entering the abdomen, and death quickly followed.

WM. FITZGERALD DIES AT OTTAWA, AGED 78

Former Superintendent of Insurance
and a Native of This City
Succumbs

OTTAWA, Jan. 2.—William Fitzgerald, former superintendent of insurance for the Dominion Government in the finance department, died here to-day in his 78th year.

HALIFAX LAWYER AND NAVAL COMMANDER KILLED IN NOVA SCOTIA

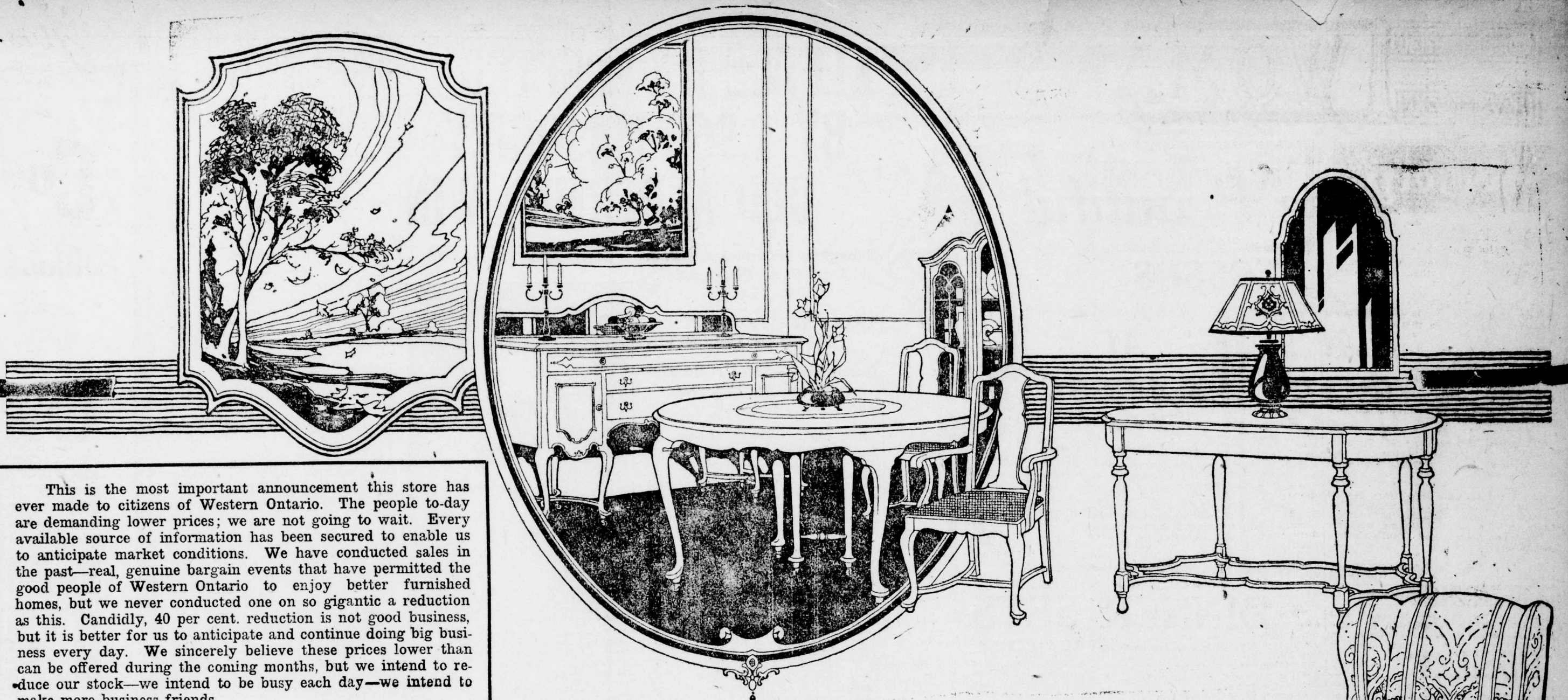
HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 2.—James Terrell, K.C., well-known Halifax lawyer, and Capt. James Adams, commander of the cable ship Lord Kelvin, were killed instantly on Saturday evening, when the automobile in which they were driving collided with the inward bound Maritime Express at the road crossing about 300 feet south of the Bedford railway station.

WINDSOR MAGISTRATE WARNS THE RUMMERS

WINDSOR, Jan. 2.—Police Magistrate Gundy has decided that fines are of very little use as a deterrent in violations of the Ontario Temperance Act, and hereafter those who appear before him on this charge stand a good chance of being sent to jail without the option of a fine.

GERMANY REDUCES ARMY TO 96,000 MEN

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—Official announcement was made to-day that Germany's armed forces have been reduced to 96,000 men in accordance with the promise made to the allies. The statement added that 50,000 pieces of ordnance have been destroyed as well as 5,000,000 rifles, 60,000 machine guns and 14,000 aeroplane parts.



This is the most important announcement this store has ever made to citizens of Western Ontario. The people to-day are demanding lower prices; we are not going to wait. Every available source of information has been secured to enable us to anticipate market conditions. We have conducted sales in the past—real, genuine bargain events that have permitted the good people of Western Ontario to enjoy better furnished homes, but we never conducted one on so gigantic a reduction as this. Candidly, 40 per cent. reduction is not good business, but it is better for us to anticipate and continue doing big business every day. We sincerely believe these prices lower than can be offered during the coming months, but we intend to reduce our stock—we intend to be busy each day—we intend to make more business friends.

—N. H. KEENE.

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Our buying power enables us to secure Furniture at rock bottom prices. This store stands supreme in its position of value-giving at all times. This sale is the most drastic bargain event in which we have ever participated. We sincerely believe that it enables people of Western Ontario to buy Furniture at prices that no other store in Western Ontario will be able to duplicate. Certainly we cannot buy wholesale hundreds of articles at the prices we offer them.

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