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A preparedness plan so far as the army is concerned has been tentatively agreed upon by the U.S. House Military Committee.

A cat opened a gas jet in the home of Mrs. Bridget Boek, East Orange, N.J., and the flood of gas almost asphyxiated Mrs. Beek.

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR | BRANTFORD, CANADA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1916 | PROBS: Thursday, fair; lower temperature. | ONE CENT

CREW IN MOTOR CAR LYING ON THEIR BACKS WORKED ANTI-AIR CRAFT GUNS, AND DOWN ZEPP

Artillery Officer in Front Line Trenches of the Argonne Telephones Alarm That Zepp Was Coming—Automobiles Hurried Out and Soon Poured Shells Right into Floating Monster.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, Feb. 23.—An eye-witness of the destruction of Zeppelin L-Z77 by French gunners on Monday, near Revigny, a town which lies nine miles northwest of Bar-le-Duca, thus describes the exploit:

"Two Zeppelins were signalled at 10.25 o'clock at night by an artillery officer in a listening post in the first line trenches of the Argonne. The night was clear and the wind moderate. The officer could not see the airships, but he heard the noise of their engines and telephoned to the battery base, whence the news was forwarded to the army corps headquarters. All the batteries of the district were at once on the alert and within five minutes searchlights were sweeping the heavens in all directions.

THE ALARM

"The Zeppelins were first sighted by an officer commanding a battery of 775 millimetre guns. The nearest was then about two miles off, flying at an altitude of about 5,000 feet and rising rapidly. The second Zeppelin was some three miles behind the first. The officer was unable to get the elevation necessary to hit the airship, but he managed to give the exact position to the searchlight operators. From that moment until it was destroyed the first dirigible was never lost to view and the searchlights never left it. As it was moving against the wind its progress was relatively slow.

HOW GUNS ARE WORKED

"As soon as the warning reached Revigny, five automobiles, with searchlights and with special anti-air craft guns manned by naval gunners, started in pursuit. These guns throw a shell which is expressly designed to explode on contact with the aluminum painted covering of the Zeppelins and to burst into flames once it is inside. As the car rushes along the road, the officer standing in the back of the car gives the range and directs the fire of the gun by the crew who work the gun lying on the flat of their backs.

THIRD SHELL STRUCK

"The guns on the moving automobiles opened fire as soon as they came within range. A shell burst just behind the Zeppelin, throwing it into strong relief and immediately the gunners seized their opportunity. Another shell passed over the target, but the next of the inflammable type, hit the mark squarely about 75 feet from the stern. There was a shout of triumph from the Frenchmen as the shell appeared to go through the body of the airship and to adhere to the right side of the framework, which it set afire. A few seconds later two other shells went through the rear of the car, badly damaging the steering and elevating mechanicism.

THIN RED LINE OF FIRE.

"For an instant nothing seemed to happen, and then a thin red line crept along the side of the airship, which shone with a bright ruddy glow as the flames spread and moved upwards. No explosion was heard as the Zeppelin began to fall. The great mass now blazing more and more fiercely, descended slowly while burning fragments of the cover fluttered away in the wind, and all the onlookers expressed surprise that the airship took so long to come down.

BOMBS EXPLODED.

"The cargo of bombs, which there is reason to believe were to have been dropped on the inhabitants of Paris, exploded with a terrific roar as the Zeppelin struck the ground. Fragments of its car were hurled over 2,000 feet away and the remainder of the huge framework collapsed in a heap, the fire continuing to burn for several hours. The second Zeppelin, which had witnessed the disaster to its companion turned tail and hurried back to the German lines.

CROWN PRINCE'S ZEPP.

"It is believed that the Zeppelins belonged to the Crown Prince's army. The commanders had hoped to steal across the French lines unperceived, all lights in the gondolas having been extinguished, but the headwind proved an obstacle to the speed which is so essential to the success of an undertaking of the kind and gave the defence time to rig up their guns.

"The members of the automobile which fired the shot which proved fatal to the Zeppelin will receive prizes amounting to 15,000 francs, 10,000 francs being awarded by a leading Paris newspaper and 5,000 by Marquis Orano. Checks for these amounts have already been sent to the minister of war for distribution."

CALDER CLAIMS ROGERS WANTED HALT IN PROBE

Federal Minister Said to Have Wished Roblin Investigation Stifled.

SENSATION IN SASK. HOUSE

Provincial Minister of Railways Attacks Ottawa Bitterly.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Regina, Sask., Feb. 23.—The most dramatic point in the drama which for the past twelve days has been staged in the Saskatchewan legislature was reached last night when Hon. J. A. Calder, minister of railways, said that a few months ago he was approached by Hon. Robert Rogers, whose purpose was to induce him to use his influence to call off investigations which were being conducted in Manitoba into the administration of the Roblin Government.

The statement created a sensation. D. J. Wylie, Maple Creek, Conservative, frequently essayed to interrupt Mr. Calder, but the House each time called "order" and "sit down." Mr. Wylie's eventual reply was that Mr. Calder could not produce proof of his statements, and that, even if such was the case, thanks was coming to that outside party for having revealed so far that the province had been robbed of $50,000.

PLAIN SPEAKING.

Mr. Calder warned the House on rising, that he was going to indulge in plain speaking. He said in part:

"I consider the time has now arrived when the motive of the opposition in bringing down the very definite charges and refusing to aid the committee to sift them should be revealed. Mr. Bradshaw has drawn the political dagger and, a political murder has been contemplated. The time has come when the Liberal party in this country must fight in self defense. To-day we are witnessing for the first time in ten years, in the history of this legislature the strong arm of federal inerference in the work of this House. (Applause) The opposition is the tool used by that strong arm. This is a political plot we are up against. It was hatched in Ottawa, conceived in iniquity. The unreasonable position taken by the opposition in connection with the matter is part of the plot. They have stood in complete contempt for the authority of this house, and have played their part in the plot well."

WHAT MR. ROGERS SAYS.

Ottawa, Feb. 23—Hon. Robert Rogers this afternoon said that he will make a statement in the House in reply to the charges of Hon. J. A. Calder that he had attempted to stifle the Roblin enquiry.

"All I have to say at present," said the minister of public works, "is that the charges are wholly untrue—quite the reverse of what has been stated."

Plan to Bring Peace Through Fraternal Ties of Masonry

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 22.—(Montreal Gazette.)— The Savannah Morning News says:

A plan to bring about peace in Europe through the fraternal ties of masonry has been evolved by George R. Benton of this city, and submitted to Henry Ford for his consideration. Mr. Ford acknowledged the receipt of the plan to-day by telegraph. Mr. Benton, while in attendance upon the shrine ceremonial in Atlanta, revealed his plan to imperial potentate J. Putnam Stevens and Governor Harris, both Masons of high degree and it was approved by them. They agreed to aid in its consummation. The following plan then was despatched to Mr. Ford:

"Why not let us start a movement of Masonic nature to lift our fighting brothers in the war-ridden countries across the Atlantic out of their living graves, the trenches. This can easily be done by the strong Masonic influences and grip. If interested, will communicate further with you."

Mr. Ford's acknowledgement of the telegram was received by Mr. Benton on his return from Atlanta this morning. Mr. Benton pointed out that King George and members of the war cabinets, and several of the fighting nations are affiliated with the order. It is not believed the movement would be impeded by the fact that this would be the first insance in which the Masonic bodies lent themselves to an effort of this character.

Emperor Nicholas Glorifies Russian Victory to Duma

Historic Address of the Czar to His Representatives—Foreign Minister Sazanoff Reviews War Situation.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

PETROGRAD, via London, Feb. 22—The speech of Emperor Nicholas before the Duma was devoted principally to the victory of the Russians at Erzerum.

"I rejoice that I am able to join you in thanksgiving for the brilliant victory of our army of the Caucasus," the Emperor said. "I am happy to be among the representatives of my faithful people. I pray for God's blessing on your labors in this time of trial, and am convinced you will use all your experience and knowledge and be guided by love of your country in the work for which you are responsible to the country and to me. I wish you fruitful labor and complete success."

SAZONOFF'S ADDRESS

Petrograd, Feb. 22.—Via London, Feb. 23.—Addressing the duma today, Foreign Minister Sazonoff reviewed the war situation in a most optimistic way, although he declared it was more difficult now than ever before to foresee the end of the world struggle.

"The Imperial Government remains unshaken in its determination to continue the struggle to conquer the enemy," he said. "This war is the greatest crime, of high treason against humanity. Those who provoked it bear a heavy responsibility and to-day stand entirely unmasked.

GERMANY THE CAUSE

"We know who it was that let loose the misfortunes without number with which Europe is oppressed. Even German public opinion is beginning to realize that the German people have been the dupes of those who thought the hour had come to realize the dreams of plunder and rapine they had cherished so long.

When dealing with an enemy like Germany we must take thought in good time how best to prevent the repetition of events which occurred so rapidly eighteen months ago. The instinct of self-preservation demands putting an end to the ruthless egoism and passion for plunder which are the distinctive characteristics of Prussianism, and must be crushed once for all. Otherwise the sacrifices of the allies would be in vain.

ALLIES, NOT VASSALS.

"The allies have brought about a complete union without the sacrifice by anyone of them of a particle of independence or personality. With the enemy it is different. Germany's allies have become vassals. It is hard to speak any longer of Austro-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria as independent states. The clutching grasp of Germany has seized the power in their armies and all branches of administration.

The signature by the five allied powers to the treaty to conclude peace in common, proves the falsity of absurd rumors of a separate peace."

THE POLISH QUESTION.

M. Sazonoff also dealt with the Polish problem in his address:

"From the beginning of the war" he said, "Russia has had inscribed on her banner the re-union of dismembered Poland and never has this ceased to be our aim. Germany has granted a few minor concessions to Poland, and in return it is said she contemplates raising hundreds of thousands of Polish troops, to be used in the attempt to bring about the triumph of Germanism."

FRIENDSHIP FOR SWEDEN

In regard to Russia's relations with Sweden the foreign minister said:

"Our only sentiment towards the Swedish is one of sincere friendship. Any pretext of conflicting interests could only be artificial. Russia's history does not impel her towards the coast of Scandinavia. She must obtain an outlet in a free sea in quite another direction."

M. Sazonoff then turned to Roumania, saying:

"Roumania will not betray her own interests and when the hour strikes she will know how to realize her national unity at the cost of her own blood. She may be certain that in defending herself against the attempts of a common enemy to interfere with the independence of her decisions she will find real support."

AMERICAN RELATIONS.

Toward the end of his address M. Sazonoff took up the subject of Russian-American relations:

"The interest which American industry has in our markets," he said, "permits of the hope that in addition to the friendly political relations now existing between the two countries, an economic reapproachment may be brought about, which would be of the greatest benefit to both nations.

"In any case the Russian Government will put forth all its efforts to this end."

The foreign minister also referred to the maladroit and importunate propaganda of German agents in America, which, he said, "not only failed in its object, but provoked a certain irritation and appreciably chilled American sympathies for Germany."

730,000 SQUARE MILES OF HUN HOLDINGS TAKEN

Andrew Bonar Law Gives Statistics of African Conquests.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Feb. 23.—Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, announced in the House of Commons to-day that 730,000 square miles of German territory in Africa had been captured.

Between 1884 and 1890 Germany acquired four colonies in Africa, with a total area of 931,460 square miles and a population (estimated in 1913) of 22,405 whites and 11,406,000 natives. Togoland surrendered to the British in August 1914. German Southwest Africa was captured by the British under Gen. Botha in July of last year. The capture of the Kamerun by French and British forces was completed last week. In the remaining German colony. German East Africa, fighting is still in progress.

German East Africa is the largest of the four colonies, with an area of 384,180 square miles. From Mr. Bonar Law's statement it would appear that a considerable part of German East Africa is now in possession of the Entente allies, as the combined area of the other three colonies is more than 104,000 square miles less than the total of captured territory indicated by the secretary.

Germany has built up a considerable trade with her colonies in Africa. Her imports from these colonies in 1912 amounted to $13,225,000. Her exports to the colonies in that year were $14,325,000.

SIR THOS. WHITE TELLS HIS VIEW-POINT OF FIRE

Blaze Reddish in Color, Like Flame From Pine Stump, He Says.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 23—"The fire was a very fierce blaze, rather reddish in color like the flame from a pine stump," said Sir Thomas White at the parliamentary fire inquiry this morning in describing his experiences on the night of the disaster. Sir Thomas, who said he had heard no explosion, had gone into the reading room at 8.45 to look over the Toronto papers. He had seen W. B. Northrup, M.P., in the room, but neither of them was smoking. A few minutes later he went to Hon. Dr. Reid's Office and on coming out about ten minutes later heard bells ringing and saw the fire. He escaped in the Senate after a vain attempt to get into the Commons chamber to warn the members. He likened the corridor at the main entrance of the Commons to a horizontal chimney.

MR. WEICHEL.

W. G. Weichel, M.P. for North Waterloo, testified that on the Tuesday preceding the destruction of the parliament buildings he had had as his guest at luncheon in the parliamentary restaurant, Lieut.-Col. Lochead of the 118th battalion of Berlin. Buying two cigars they went to room 116, lit them there and went to the reading room to see the Berlin papers. They still held their cigars in their hands as they stood at the newspaper rack. Mr. Weichel said he felt a slight heat near the level of his knee and looking down, noticed a flame about the size of his two hands in the papers on one of the lower shelves, about two feet from the floor. The burning papers were immediately pulled out and thrown to the floor and the flame stamped out.

MR. FISHER ON STAND

Col. Lochead corroborated Mr. Weichel, and Mr. John Fisher, M.P., Brant, said he also noticed the commotion, but had not seen the fire.

Commissioner Pringle interposed the remark that immediately after his appointment, Mr. Weichel had come to him and volunteered his evidence regarding the incident.

E. M. Macdonald of Pitcou, who was in the Commons gallery with some friends when the alarm was given at one minute to nine, said he heard two noises as of explosions or something of the kind and noticed a tremendous volume of smoke of a peculiar color. Mr. Macdonald told the commission that on entering the lobby he had seen a rather peculiar man near the left door of the lobby. The stranger had been very restless and had regarded the witness intently. Just before going up into the gallary he had again seen this man gazing down the east corridor. His appearance was so unusual that the member had thought of calling a policeman's attention to him, but had decided to postpone it until he came

Commissioner Pringle told witness of W. B. Northrup's evidence as to seeing a man in a check suit in an altercation with the reading room doorkeeper, but Mr. Macdonald said the man he saw was attired in a long black overcoat and wore a heavy moustache. Witness declared the fire had spread with marvellous rapidity and that in his opinion and that of others, who had seen it, the origin could not have been a natural one.

ARCHITECT EWART.

Consulting Architect Ewart was examined as to what precautions were being taken to prevent loss of life in other government buildings, where there were a number of employees. He said eight patent fire escapes were now being put on the east block, but admitted that nothing was being done on the Woods' building, which houses the Militia Department. Commissioner Pringle observed that it was time such precautions were considered.

NO TRACE OF EXPLOSION.

Mr. Ewart said examination of the ruins showed no trace of an explosion.

Commissioner Sherwood of the Dominion police, described the extra guards put on the senate and commons. They were more numerous than asked for by the officials of the two Houses. He said there was no possibility of explosives getting in through air ducts as those not in use had been bricked up and the others doubly protected with gratings. He had recommended use of only one

(Continued on Page 4)

CHOICE OF CECIL SEEMS TO PLEASE LONDON PAPERS

Liberal Papers Give Him Praise and Credit For Real Ability.

THE TIMES ALSO APPROVES

Ministry of Commerce Will be Next Office Created.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Feb. 23.—While no official intimation has yet been issued, all the London morning newspapers take it for granted that Lord Robert Cecil will be the new blockade minister and be given a seat in the cabinet. It is understood that he will be given an admiral and commercial adviser to strengthen his hands.

GENERAL APPROVAL

The probable appointment of Lord Robert Cecil meets with general approval by the press, even by the Liberal papers, which, before the war, were not highly eulogistic of him. The Daily Chronicle says:

"Lord Robert Cecil has proved himself an administrator and ruler of real courage and sagacity. Like his father before him, he always shows character and knows his own mind. Naturally the appointment of the new minister, who presumably will, judging from the tone of the Marquis of Lansdowne's defence of the government's policy, continue to carry out that policy, does not altogether please that section of the press which calls continuously for the proclamation of a stricter blockade. The Times editorially expresses the confident opinion that though for the present the government may continue its old policy, it will eventually find itself compelled to proclaim an actual blockade."

ON WAR FOOTING.

The Times gives hearty approval to the choice of Lord Robert Cecil as head of the new ministry, and welcomes the new step on two grounds. First, on account of the advantage it will bring in the administration of the maritime policy and, second; "As a significant advance in the re-organization of our peace government upon a war footing."

The creation of a ministry of munitions, says the Times, was the first step, and now has come blockade minister, and probably soon there will be an air minister.

"Once mandarinism is on the slippery slope of reform," says the Times, "it often rolls along with amazing rapidity."

THE CONTRABAND QUESTION.

The Daily Telegraph thinks that one of the first acts of the new regime will be to jettison the declaration of London, which it says already, to all intents and purposes, is dead. The newspaper welcomes the Marquis of Lansdowne's suggestion that it may become advisable to cease to make any distinction between conditional and absolute contraband. The Times also gathers from the Marquis of Lansdowne's speech that the government will not hesitate to extend the list of absolute contraband to any articles useful to the Teutonic allies.

NEW OFFICE COMING

The Daily News expects an official announcement of new ministerial appointments will be made to-day—Lord Robert Cecil as blockade minister, and the Earl of Derby as head of a joint committee to co-ordinate the air defences. The newspaper says that though the Earl of Derby will not be in the cabinet, and not actually a minister, he will, to all intents and purposes, act as a minister, answering questions when necessary in the House of Lords.

The Daily News expresses the belief that the appointment of Lord Robert Cecil will eventually lead to the creation of a ministry of commerce.

Change in High Command of German Battle Fleet

By Special Wire to the Courier.

BERLIN, Feb. 22, via London, Feb. 23.—It is announced that Vice-Admrial Reinhard Scheer has been appointed commander of the German battle fleet in succession to Admiral Von Pohl, who, after holding the position for a year, is retiring on account of ill-health.

Admiral Scheer is considered one of the most capable tacticians in the German navy, and is regarded as a man, not only of forcefulness, but also of ideas. He was for a long time employed as director of the general marine department at the admiralty and he also held command in the active service as chief of staff of the high sea fleet and as commander of a battle squadron. To his active direction is attributed the recent increased activity of the German navy.

Remains of Mr. Law Found.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 23.—The remains of the late B. B. Law, M.P., were found in the Commons ruins today. Only a few bones were found. The location of the discovery makes it evident that Mr. Law had gone back to his locker to secure his coat when overcome.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON

"That's poor old Professor Shakey. Spent fifty years in perfecting himself in ten different languages. Now he's married he's lucky to get a word in edgeways."—*Passing Show.*

HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE WEST

Official Reports From Both Sides Show Big Struggle.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Berlin, Feb. 23—Via London—Announcement of another important gain in the offensive on the western front was made by the war office today. The statement says that in Upper Alsace the Germans captured a position 700 yards wide and 400 yards deep.

The war office also announced that German forces had penetrated the opposing lines for a distance of three kilometres (two miles) in the northern sector of the Woevre. It is said the allies lost more than 3,000 prisoners and great quantities of material.

THE PARIS VIEW

Paris, Feb. 23.—Fighting of great violence is in progress from the right bank of the Meuse to a point southeast of Herbe forest, the war office announced to-day. North of Verdun there were infantry actions on a front of 15 kilometres (ten miles). East of Seppois, the French were enabled by a counter attack to re-take a great portion of the forest of Causes, north of Beaumont.

LORD ROBERT IS APPOINTED

By Special Wire to the Courier.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—In the House of Commons today Premier Asquith officially announced the appointment of Lord Robert Cecil, parliamentary under secretary for foreign affairs, as war trade minister.

The British steamer Dingle was sunk with some loss of life.

Armand Lavergne Breaks Out Again in an Amazing Speech in Quebec House

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Quebec, Feb. 23.—Suggesting that all goods from Ontario be boycotted in Quebec until the alleged rights of French-Canadians have been attended to, Armand Lavergne again discussed bi-lingualism in the legislature last night when he moved that power be allowed Montreal to allot a portion of $300,000 grant for the patriotic fund to help in the school fight. Mr. Lavergne made his motion as the city had been authorized to grant the French-Canadians in Ontario $1000.

NO MONEY FROM QUEBEC

Mr. Lavergne said: "It would be criminal from a French-Canadian standpoint to allow a single cent to leave this province for any patriotic or other fund until the Ontario school question is settled. When we have cleared the shame away from our own country it will be time to give lessons to other countries.

"The patriotic fund is the greatest farce that ever existed, and serves to assist the families of men who come over from England and enlist in this country to get better pay, and better conditions for their wives and families."

FREEDOM HERE BEFORE THERE.

Mr Lavergne, discussing Ireland, said that no conscription had been put in force there, that magazines of arms had been found there, newspapers were being suppressed for sedition, secret societies were never more active, yet the French-Canadians doing their duty, and loyal to the empire, and responsible for the presetvation of British traditions here, were being persecuted. The fight for freedom must be first in Canada before Flanders, Seriba, Egypt and elsewhere. The outposts of freedom were in Ontario, though some of the sentinels had fallen.

"In Ontario they are allowed to

(Continued on Page 4)

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