

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Generally fair.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 22, 1916

OPERA HOUSE

TODAY—2.30 and 8.15 FELDMAN AND CHRISTIE Musical Comedy Co. in "THE GIRL QUESTION"

PRICE TWO CENTS

GERMANS BOMBARD ESNE AND HILL 304 THEIR ATTEMPT TO FLANK VERDUN

Destructive Fire of French Guns, However, Barrier to Further Advance Eastward—British Lose Trench but Soon Recover It—Germans Debouch from Malancourt Wood, but Attempted Infantry Charge Broken Up by French Counter-Offensive.

RUSSIANS HAVE THROWN THEIR LINE SEVERAL MILES NEARER TOWN OF TREBIZOND

In their attempts to flank Verdun on the west the Germans, having succeeded in working their way through the Malancourt wood and the Avocourt wood, have begun a heavy bombardment of the village of Esnes, about eight miles northwest of Verdun and a half north of Esnes.

To the north and east of Verdun the cannonading has been only intermittent. In the Argonne forest, in Lorraine and in Upper Alsace, the French guns have been active against German positions and marching columns.

There has been lively fighting between the Russians and the Germans west of Jacobstadt along the Dvina river, and in the Lake region between Dvinsk and Vilna, with the Russians generally on the offensive.

While Berlin reports these attacks as having been repelled with heavy losses, the admission is made that a German salient near Lake Narocz was withdrawn in order to escape the encircling fire of the Russians.

Near Batschisch, midway between Dvinsk and Vilna, the Russians have captured advanced German trenches, and just south of Dvinsk, in the region of Novo Alexandrovsk, have repulsed a German counter-attack on positions taken at Velikofes.

Petrograd says that in the capture of the Austrian bridgehead near the village of Mikhalitche, in Galicia, most of its defenders were killed in hand-to-hand fighting.

The Russians in the Caucasus have thrown their line several miles nearer Trebizond, on the Black Sea coast, after further fighting with the Turks. Ispahan, Persia, is reported to have been taken by the Russians.

Heavy fighting continues between the Austrians and Italians along the greater part of the Austro-Italian line, especially on the front from Rovereto to the Gorizia heights. No important changes in positions have taken place, however.

A successful night attack by Austro-Hungarian aviators has been carried out against the port and barracks of Avlona, Albania, according to Vienna.

DALTON SANITORIUM IN P.E.I. WILL BE USED AS CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

Charlottetown, March 21.—The Dalton sanatorium at Northwiltshire, just completed at a cost of \$55,000, has been accepted by the militia department of Canada as a convalescent hospital for soldiers, including tubercular patients.

WILL PREVENT COMPANIES DODGING TAX

Boosting Salaries of Directors and Officials Will Not Help Them.

MORE INFORMATION ON BUSINESS TAXES

Sir Thomas White Successful in Meets Criticism and Shows How Evasion of Payment is to be Prevented

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, March 21.—From a spectacular point of view there was nothing in the House today, but nevertheless it was an exceedingly busy sitting and the chief discussion, involving, as it did, the war tax on business profits was very technical.

Sir Thomas White revelled in the intricacies of his radical measure and met point after point of the criticism of the opposition with complete success, and it was noted, to the satisfaction of his critics.

There was further elucidation of the features of the bill, and explanations of the way in which the Minister of Finance proposes to see that there is no evasion of payment.

The other day Sir Thomas admitted that he had acquired a good deal of the information he possessed regarding phases of the question from the discussions which had taken place in the House upon it.

Amongst the new points brought out is that the companies will be prevented from evading the tax by largely increasing the salaries of directors and officials. Unless steps had been taken to prevent it there would be the temptation to increase the salaries of directors to such an extent that the profits in excess of seven per cent. would be swallowed up.

Sir Thomas will see that this is not done. The minister is a trifle worried about the middleman. The difficulty about these is that they can disappear over the border, or they can even now reside in another country, in which case there does not seem to be a way of making them deliver their quotas.

Yet another way of avoiding the tax has been observed by the minister and provided against. He has noted that some firms might endeavor to write off large amounts for depreciation or renewals. This will not be allowed. Nor will subsidiary companies be allowed to transfer their profits. And no matter in what the profits of a business are invested these profits will be taxed. They may be put into war loans—that will not matter. Also the profits on export as well as domestic business will come under the taxation.

The proposals and the methods Sir

LT.-COL. BLACK WELCOWED IN LEGISLATURE

Hearty Cheers Given in Legislative Hall in Honor of Returned Hero.

PREMIER CLARKE NOT AT SESSION.

Conscription Resolution Next Tuesday—Time for Private Bills Extended to Friday Next.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Mar. 21.—The legislature this evening welcomed another member of the house back from the front.

When Lt.-Col. Frank B. Black appeared in the assembly chamber shortly after the house resumed business tonight following the weekend recess, he was greeted with prolonged applause.

Acting Premier Murray arose and briefly expressed his pleasure and that of the house to welcome another member back from the firing line where he had been serving his King and country. The Acting Premier then suggested that the house once more depart from its usual rules and he proposed three cheers which were most heartily given by the whole house.

Lt.-Col. Black then spoke briefly in acknowledgment of the plaudits of his fellow members. He still limps slightly from the effects of his wounds, but says that he is about feeling himself once more and expects to soon return to the front. Col. Black will probably remain in Fredericton for only a few days.

Premier Clarke returned to Fredericton this evening accompanied by Mrs. Clarke, but was not in the house tonight. He will probably visit the legislature tomorrow, but plans to soon return to Clifton Springs to further recuperate, having been advised by his physicians not to take up active work of any kind.

Formal notice was given by Acting Premier Murray tonight that a double fee would be charged on all bills introduced after Friday next.

A conscription resolution is to be introduced next Tuesday, according to notice given tonight by Lt.-Col. Guthrie and seconded by Capt. Tilley. The resolution of Mr. White of Victoria whereby he is to propose a plan for taxation on unimproved lands for education purposes is on the order paper for tomorrow.

Thomas White has taken to carrying them into effect seem to be without a flaw. Ottawa, March 21.—At the opening of the House Hon. A. E. Kemp, acting minister of militia, replying to a question asked a few days ago, said that it was not true that Col. McBain had been appointed transportation officer in the Militia Department.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley enquired if the government had been consulted in regard to the requisitioning of ships by the Admiralty. He said that he had been in St. John and had learned that there was a serious shortage of coal there, owing to the fact that coal vessels had been commandeered for war service.

Sir Robert Borden pointed out that the British Empire had to furnish ships for its Allies as well as for its own use. He felt that the Canadian government ought to be consulted in regard to the commandeering of vessels engaged in the local trade of Canada but this had not always been the case. He realized that the interests of the Empire might be so para-

THE BAND FUND IS COMING ALONG

Up to yesterday morning The Standard acknowledged receipt of \$215.50 towards the fund for the purchase of instruments for the 140th New Brunswick Battalion Band. There have been received by The Standard in addition to the above the following:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes C. Percy Humphrey (\$5.00), Geo. Dawes (\$5.00), J. G. Harrison (\$5.00), Total (\$230.50).

Here is a chance now for somebody to present this Battalion with a real nice clarinet or cornet. Who will subscribe the cost of one of these instruments? Who will give the big bass drum? Who will present a side drum or two side drums? Don't all speak at once. Send along your contributions either to The Standard or to Mrs. J. B. Travers, Regent of The Brunswick Chapter, I.O.D.E. Two hundred dollars buys the highest priced instrument and forty dollars will buy one of the least expensive.

U BOAT FIRED ON MEN LEAVING SINKING SHIP

Captain of British Steamer Coquette Says His Vessel Torpedoed Without Warning by Austrian Submarine

Syracuse, Italy, March 21, via Paris.—Arnold Groom, commander of the British steamer Coquette, declares that his vessel was sunk without warning by a submarine flying the Austrian flag, the captain and crew having barely time to save themselves in two boats. As they were leaving the steamer, the captain asserts, the submarine continued to bombard the survivors.

After eight days the boats reached the Libyan coast, where seven of the sailors, who occupied one of the boats, were taken prisoners by Bedouins. The other boat escaped and two days later reached a Libyan port, where the mariners were taken care of by Italian carabinieri.

The British steamer Coquette referred to is probably the steamer Coquette, reported on January 15 as sunk. Shipping records last located her in Mediterranean waters. She was a vessel of 4,396 tons, built in 1904, and owned by the Mercantile Steamship Company Limited, of London.

GIVEN NO WARNING BY SUBMARINE

London, March 21.—The Danish steamer Skodsborg, from Norfolk for Heligoland, which was sunk yesterday, was torpedoed without warning, according to a statement made by the captain of the steamer. This information is contained in a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Three of the crew were lost.

Lecture on Belgium

The Rev. J. A. MacKeigan lectured on Belgium before members of the Natural History Society last night in their rooms. Mr. MacKeigan spoke on the early history of these people and carried the audience back to the Roman period. The reverend gentleman explained the origin of the people and the everyday life of the masses. He also described their customs, work, religion, education and houses. Mrs. E. A. Smith kindly loaned the society a number of lantern slides, which greatly assisted the eminent lecturer, Mr. MacKeigan spoke on points of historical interest.

WASHINGTON REPORTS FORESHADOW EARLY MOVE IN DIRECTION OF PEACE

N. Y. EVENING POST SAYS GERMANY HAS INTIMATED TO U. S. TIME IS RIPE FOR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO START PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT AMBASSADOR GERARD HAS BEEN INFORMED OF BERLIN'S TERMS.

New York, March 21.—A special despatch to the Evening Post from Washington says Germany is seeking to make peace with her enemies and bring the great war in Europe to an early end. The imperial government has gone so far as to intimate to the United States government that the time may be ripe for the services of the largest neutral nation in the beginning of peace negotiations.

Some general idea even of the terms under which the Teutonic Empire would be willing to make peace have been given within the last four days to the American ambassador, James W. Gerard, by Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the imperial chancellor at Berlin, and spokesman of Emperor William.

The Evening Post's correspondent learned the above today in connection with the hitherto unpublished fact that Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg four days ago sent for Ambassador Gerard, and not only discussed with him for nearly an hour the possibilities of peace in Europe, but also frankly advised the ambassador, who had contemplated a vacation, that it would be inopportune for him to leave Germany at this time. Mr. Gerard promptly changed his plans and notified the Washington government that he would remain at his post indefinitely.

The American ambassador had on three occasions been given leave of absence, but only a week ago did he accept the privilege. On learning that the ambassador was preparing to leave Germany, the imperial chancellor, who had previously conferred with Emperor William, summoned Mr. Gerard to the German foreign office.

Her Terms. The discussion was of the most friendly and intimate nature, not only as affecting the relations of Germany with the United States, but with respect to peace in Europe. What not referring directly to the resignation of Admiral Von Tirpitz as a factor in the situation, the chancellor spoke of the desire of Germany to remain at peace with neutral countries, and emphasized a hopefulness that there would be an early termination of the terrible struggle devastating Europe.

The chancellor's remarks on peace terms were most general in character, but indicative of a desire to speak more fully on a later occasion. There was no intention to lay down hard and fast terms, but merely to give general ideas. Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg said, for example, that Germany was willing to help rehabilitate Belgium, would withdraw from that territory and would not seek indemnity from the little country. But he did seem to think it was essential to German public opinion that an indemnity be paid before German troops were withdrawn from northern France.

Restoration of Belgium, implying that Germany is ready to succor the wounded nation, is, in itself, the most significant advance toward the viewpoint of the Allies noticed since the outbreak of the war. The chancellor also made it clear that in exchange for the withdrawal from Belgium, Germany would want England to return the German African colonies she had occupied. Generally speaking, the chancellor suggested a return to the territorial status as it existed before the beginning of hostilities in July, 1914, as the best basis for negotiations.

Another—and Unlikely Varn. New York, March 22.—A Washington special to the Tribune says: "Modification of the terms of peace indicated in information reaching Washington. Germany's desire to end the war while she is still victorious, and before the Allies reach their full strength in the coming summer, has not been known, and fresh evidence of it has reached Washington within the last few days. "But the striking new factor is that the Allies, according to high authority here, are no longer determined to insist on the complete humiliation of Germany, and are willing to grant better terms than any previously sus-

gested from Allied sources. "In diplomatic circles representing both sides of the war, as well as in administration quarters, statements were made to the Tribune today indicating that both Germany and the Allies are ready to make substantial concessions from their published terms. "Germany, it is declared, is willing to return to the status quo ante, with certain modifications. Most striking of these is her willingness not only to relinquish Belgium, but to help in its restoration, presumably through the payment of an indemnity or the remission of war taxes collected there. "In return for this she will demand certain colonial concessions from Great Britain.

Received Another Request. Yesterday—Will Likely be Able to Leave About First of June. Special to The Standard. Ottawa, March 21.—Another request for the presence of Sir Robert Borden in England as soon as he can possibly get away arrived today. The Premier had not intended to go to Europe this summer, but the call for his presence especially since the arrival of Premier Hughes, of Australia, has been insistent, and he will cross the Atlantic as soon as he can make arrangements. The expectation is that the House will prorogue at Eastport, and it will take Sir Robert a month to get through the post-session business. He will likely get away at the beginning of June.

Belgium Will Have Voice in Peace Terms. Entente Allies Will Also Lend Their Aid to Help Her Financially Sir Edw. Grey Tells Commons. London, Mar. 21.—The Entente Allies have promised Belgium she will be invited to participate in the peace negotiations. The announcement regarding Belgium was made by Sir Edward Grey, minister of foreign affairs, who informed the House of Commons today that Great Britain, France and Russia had made the declaration to Belgium that when the time came she would be invited to participate in the peace negotiations. A guarantee was given to Belgium, Sir Edward Grey said, that the Powers would not cease hostilities until she had been reinstated in her political and economic independence, and largely indemnified "for the wrongs she had suffered." The Entente Allies, the foreign secretary added, would also lend their aid to help her financially.

PREMIER BORDEN IS GOING TO ENGLAND

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