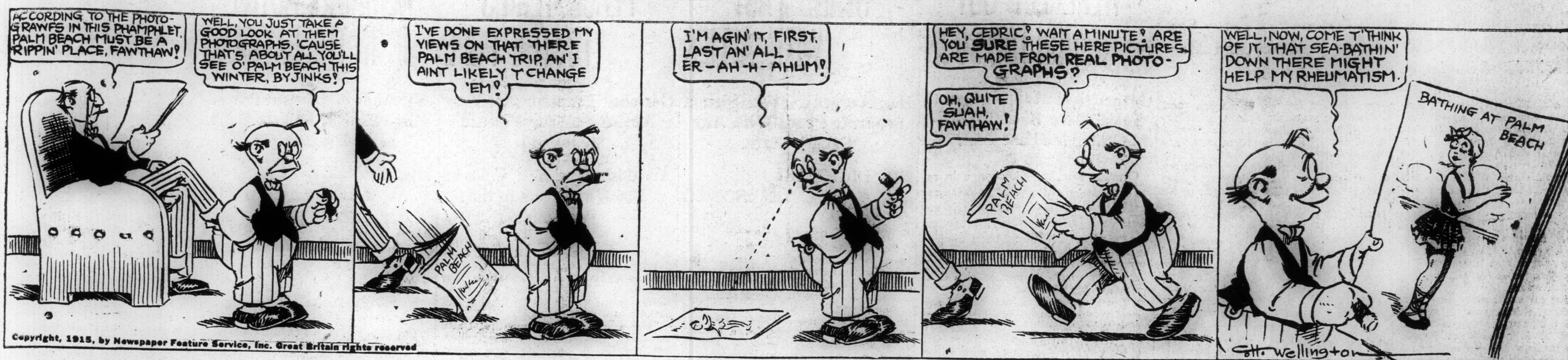


That Son-in-Law of Pa's



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF LONDON

Lord Lansdowne Holds That It is Not of International Validity and Does Not Require Creation of International Tribunal.

London, Dec. 2.—"The Declaration of London has no international validity, and adoption of the Declaration by an order-in-Council does not involve the creation of an international tribunal," said the Marquis of Lansdowne, Minister without portfolio in the British Cabinet, in answer to a series of questions put by the Earl of Portsmouth in the House of Lords yesterday. "We have adopted the Declaration only with very considerable and important modifications, and we adopted it only par-

tially and for the guidance of our own courts." The Earl of Portsmouth's questions were submitted with a view to eliciting the exact position of Great Britain with regard to the Declaration of London and to setting at rest or confirming the reports that Lord Reading had made an arrangement with the United States Government for the reference of claims to an international tribunal after the war.

On the latter point the Marquis of Lansdowne referred to the communication of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, on July 31 last, stating that it was open to Washington to claim that disputes in regard to the decisions of prize courts should be submitted for review by an international tribunal, and remarked that Sir Edward Grey's statement only committed Great Britain to a resort to arbitration as a proper means for the liquidation of disputes, as provided in the arbitration treaty concluded with the United States last year.

The Earl of Portsmouth had previously asked: "If the Declaration of London is not in force, why, in heaven's name, could we not fall back on the old sea laws of our ancestors, which gave them victory?" And had added: "The country wants to get rid of all this rubbish—the Declaration of London and The Hague Convention. We want to sweep away all judicial niceties and win this war by placing British interests and the interests of our allies as the only interests, first and supreme."

Lord Lansdowne was followed by Lord Bryce, former British Ambassador at Washington, who pointed out that England had already agreed with the United States to submit questions such as those raised to arbitration, and it was therefore superfluous to enquire whether any recent assurances of this nature had been given.

"We come forward as the champions of international rights and the defenders of international law," said Lord Bryce, "and it would be a misfortune if we were to depart from that position."

The Marquess of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, said that the paramount object was not that goods should be confiscated, but that they should be prevented from reaching the enemy. It was a hopeless task to pursue an attempt to frame a code which would be at once universal and lasting.

He thought the country entitled to ask neutrals to consider it impossible, simply in order to save their trade from loss, to allow goods to pass to the enemy, the possession of which must prolong the war. He

ACTIVITY SEEN IN JAPANESE PORT OF KOBE

Nearly 200,000 Tons in the Hands of Shipbuilders for Construction.

FREIGHT BLOCKADE ALL OVER EAST

Kobe, Japan, Dec. 2.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—No visitor who enters Kobe by sea can fail to observe the great activity in shipbuilding at this port. The most heavily capitalized shipyard in Japan is located here, and all its docks are filled with work. Three large ships and many smaller ones are in course of construction. Electrical steel riveters keep up a constant din which can be heard far out at sea.

In June there were forty-four ships aggregating 188,000 tons in the hands of Japanese builders and the tonnage has increased considerably since that time, although the exact figures are not available. All Japanese shipyards have orders which will keep them at high pressure for over a year. The scarcity of cargo space which the entire world is feeling, has thrown much business into the Japanese shipyards.

The shipyard at Osaka is reported to have nearly 100,000 tons of steel ships in course of construction. It is estimated that there is a tonnage of 75,000 in course of construction here in Kobe and small yards in various parts probably have a tonnage of 25,000 under way.

Prices for ships have risen at amazing rates. Freight is congested at practically every important port in the Far East. In giving orders, the shipping concerns inquire about the speed with which a commission can be executed rather than the charge. It is rumored that the right of placing orders is now being sold at a high premium by those interested in shipbuilding transactions.

GREATEST MONTH IN THE HISTORY OF DOMINION

Revenue for November Highest Yet, and Almost Double Last November.

OVER HUNDRED MILLION ALREADY

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The war budget is giving results exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the Minister of Finance. The total revenue for the month of November is \$17,072,456.75 an increase of \$7,576,920.46 over that of November of last year, and the largest for any month in the history of the Dominion.

For the eight months of the present fiscal year ended November 30th the total revenue aggregates \$104,750,000, as against \$90,400,000 for the last fiscal year, when, owing to the effect of the war, trade was badly demoralized during August, September, October and November of the eight months in question. The estimate of the Minister of Finance that his budget of February last would realize thirty millions of additional revenue is now certain to be substantially exceeded.

The policy adopted by the Government at the outbreak of the war of proceeding only with works actually under contract is now bearing its full fruit. For the first eight months of the current fiscal year the ordinary expenditures show a reduction of over ten million dollars, and the capital expenditures of about three millions, between increased revenue and decreased expenditure the financial position this year as compared with the previous year shows a favorable balance of twenty seven million dollars.

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING 3 CENT STAMP

May Solve Problem by Surcharging Value of Two-Cent.

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Postmaster-General, stated last night that he had under consideration the question of issuing a 3-cent stamp, or its equivalent, to remedy an inconvenience which arises through the necessity of affixing separate war stamps in addition to the regular postage to each letter.

It has been represented to the department that the issue of a three-cent stamp would simplify present postage conditions and probably lead to an increase in letter writing, which is always more or less affected by even such slight inconvenience as caused by the war stamp. The issue of stamps of the denomination of three cents is said to be open to certain objections, and it is likely that if the letter postage, and war tax are to be covered with a single stamp, the method adopted will be that of "surcharging" ordinary two-cent stamps. That is to say, a number of these stamps may be issued bearing a special mark signifying a three-cent value, with such a system as this, it will be much easier to revert to the old two-cent rate when the war is over. The matter is still under consideration.

33,000 British are Prisoners

London, Dec. 2.—The number of British prisoners of war in Germany is now approximately 33,000. These figures were given in response to a question in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr. Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War.

Dummy Machine Guns the Latest Touch in Artillery

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Petrograd, Dec. 1.—Dummy machine guns which make a noise like the real thing and thereby scare off the attacking enemy, are reported to be one of the latest innovations tried by the Austrians on the Southern Front.

It is a well known fact that infantry, once loosed on a charge upon the trenches defended with rapid-fire guns, are apt to swerve instinctively from points where the Maxims seem to be the thickest. However dense the roar of heavy artillery during attacks, the short sharp barking of these little guns is still distinctly audible. In order to increase the psychological effect of machine gun fire, the Austrians therefore hit upon the plan of mounting in their trenches, alternately with real Maxims, a large proportion of dummies. These produce a rattle identical in sound with that of the real gun, and are operated by rapidly turning a handle.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

"The Light Beer in the Light Bottle"
—clear as crystal
—sparkles like diamonds
—mild, yet full flavored
—costs about half as much as the imported beers

O'Keefe's Pilsener Lager

MAY BE ORDERED AT 25 COLBORNE ST., BRANTFORD, ONT.

GRAFTONS'

THE HOME OF THE OVERCOAT

WE'VE always told you this was the "Home of the Overcoat" and now we're proving it—and proving it conclusively. Whatever the general style of overcoat you want, a Grafton coat in your size is waiting for you. Try it on. Compare its price and its worth and learn why we are getting the overcoat business. Come now, during the great overcoat display. You will be just as enthusiastic over the new models as we are.

MEN'S OVERCOATS

\$8.50, \$10, \$12, \$14, \$16, \$18 and \$20

Every One of Them Top Notch Value!

Little Fellow's Overcoats in all the new colors \$5.50 and designs, priced at \$2.50, \$2.95, \$3.50, \$3.95, \$4.95,

Mothers, bring the little fellows here; we have the Overcoats and priced 25 per cent. lower than any other store. Come!

The Store for Men, Young Men and Women Who Shop for Men!

GRAFTON & COMPANY, LIMITED
7 STORES IN CANADA



LOOKED ON THE FLOOD; GAZES NOW ON WAR

Russian and Turkish Forces Battling Under Shadow of Ararat.

London, Dec. 2.—The Russian official communique yesterday reports an important victory in the Caucasus. South of Lake Van the Turks, after two days of fighting near the village of Varkounis, were dislodged from two fortified positions, and retired precipitately in a westerly direction pursued by the Russians.

The scene of the fighting is on the ancient caravan road, or "street," as the natives have it, that once served as a communication with the distant parts of Bagdad, and in times more remote, with Babylon. A hundred kilometres away, lofty and calm, Mt. Ararat looks down over the Euphrates valley, while the smoke of battle sullies its eternal snow. The march of armed hosts and the roar of conflict has broken the hush of ages.

COOK'S Cotton Root Compound.
A safe, reliable regulating medicine. Sold in three degrees of strength—No. 1, \$1; No. 2, \$2; No. 3, \$3 per box. Sold by all druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price. For a pamphlet, Address: THE COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor).

