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FOURTEEN PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 18 1915—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,517

PROBS— Winds shifting to east and southeast; fair and moderately cold.

Senate Reading Room
2 jan16—17388
SENATE P O

ADVANCES Allies Commence General Offensive---Germans to Attack on 700-Mile Front---Enemy Pressing Towards the Aisne

ENGLAND WILL STOP ALL GERMANY'S COMMERCE—*Sir Ed. Grey*

BRITAIN TO SHUT OFF GERMANY'S FOOD IMPORTS

Intimation Given to President Wilson by Sir Edward Grey of New Policy.

ANSWERS U.S. PROTEST

Depression in American Industries Not Due to British Fleet.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Sir Edward Grey, in a statement issued here tonight, intimates that owing to the German submarine campaign against merchant shipping, Great Britain in reprisal will take drastic action that will eclipse any previous dealings with neutral comece directed to Germany. Owing to the breach of all previous rules of warfare, openly proclaimed in the Berlin decree concerning the torpedoing of neutral vessels in British waters, Britain will probably retaliate by cutting off all commerce from Germany. This will be done even at the risk of alienating neutral sentient, Britain determines.

Canadian Press Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which on Dec. 28 last asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, was made public tonight by mutual agreement between the state department and the British foreign office.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey, under date of Feb. 10, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests among other causes the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction by submarines mines "laid by the enemy indiscriminately" of many neutral vessels.

Britain to Retaliate.

After giving a lengthy and detailed answer to the charge that American ships and cargoes were being unduly detained, the communication contains in its concluding paragraph the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British Government points out that "in any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the gov-

(Continued on Page 11, Column 3.)

ALBANIANS ATTACKING ALL SERVIAN FRONTIER

Servians Repulse Invaders at Prisrend and Recapture Vranichte.

Canadian Press Despatch

PARIS, Feb. 17, 9.14 p.m.—A despatch to the Balkan News Agency from Nish, Servia, under date of Feb. 16, says:

"Albanian attacks upon the Servian frontier posts are developing along the entire boundary. The Servian troops at Okrida retired before an Albanian attack in force and the town has fallen into the hands of the Albanians.

"Violent engagements took place at Rovine and Levatz, and fighting was being continued when the last couriers left these places last night.

"The Albanians have been repulsed at Prisrend. The Servians also have retaken Vranichte."

WILL INVADE ALBANIA.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

ATHENS, Feb. 17.—Strong reinforcements have been sent to aid the Servians who are repelling the Albanian invaders. Servia has decided not only to drive out the invaders but to penetrate northern Albania and occupy strategical points to prevent further incursions.

WOODBRIDGE MAN HAS DIED OF PNEUMONIA

Pte. R. L. Phlis of Fifteenth Battalion in Official List of Casualties Sent From Front.

Canadian Press Despatch.

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—The following casualties among the Canadian expeditionary force were announced by the militia department tonight:

Death—Pte. R. L. Phillips, 15th Battalion; pneumonia. Next of kin, Mrs. Mary E. Phillips, Woodbridge, Ont.

Dangerously ill—Pte. C. Miller, P.P.C.L.I., at No. 12 General Hospital, Rouen, with enteric fever. Next of kin, Charles Miller, 43 Wilton road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, Eng.

The British war office announced yesterday that Second Lieut. Bass, formerly of the P.P.C.L.I., now of the Lancashire Fusiliers, is wounded and missing.

GERMANY MAY EXPEL FIVE MILLION MEN

Measure Desirable as Means of Conserving Food Supply.

Canadian Press Despatch.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 17, via London, 9.10 p.m.—The report is in circulation here that, owing to the necessity to restrict food consumption, the German Government intends ordering five million Germans, who possess independent incomes and are ineligible for military service, to leave Germany for neutral countries and remain there until the war is over.

It is planned, according to the report, that 3,000,000 of these persons shall go to Scandinavian countries, 1,000,000 to Holland and 1,000,000 to Switzerland.

FRENCH STEAMER SUNK BY BOMBS

German Submarine Allowed Crew Ten Minutes to Reach Boats.

CHASED BY FLOTILLA

French Torpedo Boats Sought to Avenge Ville de Lille's Loss.

Canadian Press Despatch.

PARIS, Feb. 17, 2.45 p.m.—An official communication, issued by the ministry of marine, tells of the sinking yesterday by the German submarine U16, of the French steamer Ville de Lille off the Barfleur Lighthouse, a short distance east of Cherbourg, after the submarine had ordered the crew to leave the steamer. The statment follows:

"The French steamer Ville de Lille, belonging to the Compagnie Navigation des Bateaux a Vapeur du Nord, sailing from Cherbourg to Dunkirk, sighted the German submarine U16 near the lighthouse at Barfleur at 1.30 o'clock yesterday.

Placed Bombs in Interior.

"The Ville de Lille endeavored to escape, but was outspeeded by the submarine, men from which boarded her and gave the crew ten minutes to leave the ship's boats. They then sank the Ville de Lille by bombs placed in her interior.

"The U16 headed for a Norwegian steamer, but sank out of sight when a division of French torpedo boats from Cherbourg appeared on the horizon."

The Ville de Lille was a small steamer of 997 tons.

GRADUATE OF KINGSTON MENTIONED BY FRENCH

Lieut.-Col. J. E. Duffus, a Native of Halifax, Praised for Distinguished Conduct.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Among those mentioned in Sir John French's despatches for gallant, distinguished conduct in the field is Lt.-Col. J. E. Duffus of the Eighth Brigade Royal Field Artillery. He is a native of Halifax and a graduate of Kingston.

An Advance Spring Shipment of Stetson's Hats is Here.

Hats by this famous American maker need little introduction, but that does not prevent the arrival of first shipment each season causing considerable interest among the smartest men in Toronto and vicinity. Dineen's—140 Yonge street—have just opened up the first shipment—soft and stiff—and there will be hundreds of eager men in to inspect today. A glance and "try on" will suffice to bring them to a prompt purchase, for the shapes are particularly becoming and the smart lines sure to appeal to the stylish dresser. This make is undoubtedly great value at the price, $4 and $5. Decide to see them early.

GERMAN REPLY TO U.S. PROTEST NOT SATISFYING

Stronger Note to Britain Regarding Use of Flag Suggested.

CONVOYS PROPOSED

Proposal of Daylight Travel in War Zone Alone Favored.

Special to The Toronto World.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The state department learned today that Germany's reply to the American note of protest against the enforcement of the war zone decree of Feb. 4 had been delivered to Ambassador Gerard for transmission to this government.

It was ascertained today from an official source that Germany will make three suggestions to the United States looking to the safety of American merchantmen traversing the war zone.

1. It will be urged that American merchant ships approaching the war zone designated by the German proclamation shall do so only in the hours of daylight and with sufficient time left them after their entrance within its prescribed limits to make port before darkness overtakes them.

Suggest Stronger Protest.

The suggestion will be conveyed to the United States that further and more positive representations should be made at once to the belligerent allies, most particularly to Great Britain, against the misuse of the American ensign, and in a tone which will brook no further temporizing on the part of Great Britain and her allies on this subject but which will end the menace to ships legitimately exercising the privilege of bearing American colors.

Convoy of American merchant ships by American destroyers or minor cruisers, with a view to the entire assurance of their safety from attack and as a guarantee of their legitimacy, will be suggested as an accompaniment to the first and second intimations.

Partial Compliance.

There are no discernible indications that the United States government has any idea of complying with either the second or third condition for the insurance of safety. As to the first, compliance will probably follow, but not by reason of Germany's suggestion, but as a precautionary measure which finds its inception in the common sense and regard for the safety in the crew, passengers and cargo in the minds of the owners and masters of the vessels themselves.

MORE THAN A MILLION TROOPS SENT TO RHINE

District is Strongly Entrenched and Even Villages Are Prepared for Defence.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

BERNE, Feb. 17.—That portion of Alsace-Lorraine still in the hands of the Germans is now hermetically sealed. All Dutchmen, Swiss and Spaniards were hustled out on very short notice. Nineteen Spaniards who have just arrived in Switzerland, state that more than a million troops were sent to the Rhine district. Entrenchments are very strong and even villages are prepared for defence.

REFUGEES FROM SYRIA ON CRUISER TENNESSEE

More Than Six Hundred Reach Alexandria on Final Trip.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 17, 9.50 p.m.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Co. from Alexandria, Egypt, says:

"The United States cruiser Tennessee brought here today 660 additional refugees from Syria, but this trip probably will be her last, as the authorities at Jaffa are now raising obstacles to the removal of the people."

"At first they declined to allow any of the 1,400 persons awaiting transportation to Alexandria to embark on the Tennessee, but ultimately consented to the departure of the 660."

ALLIES BLOCKADING PORT IN BULGARIA?

Berlin Says Importation of Foodstuffs is Being Prevented.

Canadian Press Despatch.

BERLIN, Feb. 17.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—British and French warships are blockading the Bulgarian port of Dedeagatch, to prevent the importation thru it of foodstuffs destined for Germany and Austria, according to a Constantinople despatch, made public by the Overseas News Agency today.

ALLIES ATTACK TO LIFT WEIGHT FROM RUSSIANS

General Joffre Begins Vigorous Offensive in Champagne, Argonne, Alsace.

MANY POINTS OCCUPIED

More Trenches Captured in Wine Producing Country and North of Arras.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—Taking advantage of the weakening of the German lines in France to form new armies to attack the Russians in East Prussia and Bukowina, the allies have begun a vigorous advance and are playing havoc with the German posts or trenches at important strategical points in the lines. Not deceived by the German stories of adding reinforcements to their armies in Belgium and their taking the offensive at certain points to cover the withdrawal of large forces to the east, Gen. Joffre has massed fresh forces of troops at commanding points and is taking the Germans by surprise.

The strength and striking force of the artillery of the allies, which is now becoming an important factor in their grand tactics and outranges the best of the German guns by a mile, enables the making of rapid preparation of the ground for sudden attacks and of this feature of warfare the allied generals are beginning to take full advantage.

Further Gains in Champagne.

The revived activity of the allies was signalized today by the following up of their gains in the Champagne region northwest of Perthes, by capturing a half mile more of trenches over the two miles taken the preceding day, and the repulse of German attacks north of Meenil-les-Hurlus and Beausejour, delivered with a view to counteracting the French progress elsewhere. A large bomb thrower with several small ones and 200 German prisoners were captured.

North of Arras is another point of great importance. Here the French troops were active, carrying two lines of trenches, making some prisoners, inflicting heavy losses, and killing a number of German officers who were standing in the rear to urge their men on to the attack. Violent counter-attacks by the enemy were smashed to pieces.

In the Argonne, where the French have been barely holding their own for some weeks, they suddenly assumed the offensive in force in the forest of La Grurie, and occupied considerable

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

BRITAIN IS FACING BLOCKADE COOLLY

"Der Tag Fatal" Arrives Without Causing Any Noticeable Flurry.

SHIPPING TO GO ON

Insurance Rates Not Raised—German Threats Regarded as Empty.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—"Today is 'Der Tag Fatal,' the Feb. 18 upon which the German blockade of British ports is supposed to begin. This 'Dies Irae' finds not merely British opinion, but that of most neutral countries trading with Britain cool and unmoved. How little perturbed are British shipping circles is shown by the fact that war insurance rates have not been increased either by the government or by any private association. The threat is taken, first as merely an expression of German exasperation; second, as an excuse for deliberate atrocities at sea, and, third, and perhaps mainly, as an attempt to use the United States as a lever to release the grip of British sea supremacy."

Business As Usual.

The Daily Chronicle, from which the foregoing is quoted, after making inquiries at the principal British ports, found everywhere an intention to carry on business as usual, despite German threats, and no alteration in shipping arrangements. Ship owners are confident that the German blockade will be almost ineffective.

RUSSIANS READY TO DESTROY ADVANCING HORDE OF GERMANS

Their Retirement Leaves the Enemy, Who Are Preparing a General Advance Along the Whole 700-mile Front, With Impassable Roads Behind Them, and in a Trap From Which They Will Be Unable to Escape.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 17.—I now have received information which tends to clear up a situation hitherto rather difficult to understand. The Germans are preparing a general attack along the whole Russian strategic front more than seven hundred miles in extent. The enormous power developed by Germany in this attempt is eloquent of long years of preparation. After a mad attempt to break thru the Russian defence at a salient point of the line at Borzimoff, the Germans advanced in East Prusian in overwhelming strength. I am informed they were ten to one against the Russian force, which for months past quietly pushed forward to this region. The Russians were fully aware of this movement and made no serious attempt to check it. On the contrary, they moved forward a strong cavalry screen thru the region on right bank of the lower Vistula which at one time penetrated into German territory, and at the same time developed a sudden activity in the region of the Mazurian Lakes, with the object of fixing the Germans in their determination to attack in this direction. Apparently the Germans originally estimated the force necessary for their purpose here at four new army corps, in addition to the men already holding positions in East Prussia at Cadres, for these four corps were quietly withdrawn from the armies on the western front and the numbers filled up from new levies in the interior of Germany.

When, however, the Russians began making a show of renewed activity over the wide front, extending from the Lower Vistula to Tilsit, the Germans doubled this original estimate.

From eight to ten German army corps now are believed to have been concentrated in East Prussia and launched upon the region north of the Vistula and eastward towards Niemen. They came on like an avalanche, a veritable German lightning stroke. But the Russians foresaw the entire manoeuvre. They retired betimes, leaving adequate forces of admirable light horse to carry on a running fight along the line of the advance of the Germans.

Siege Was Abandoned.

The siege of Boyren fortress has been abandoned, and all the Russian forces, after laying waste the entire region, retired upon fortified positions toward Niemen.

The position at the present moment is that the eGrmans are already advancing upon Osowiec fortress once more, and fighting already has taken place around Augustowo, while the German line north of the lower Vistula has reached Plock and Racionz, about a couple of marches from the forress of Novo Georgievsk.

Northwest of Warsaw between the lower and upper reaches of the Vistula, the front remains where it was three months ago, and the situation here is briefly: The Germans cannot and the Russians will not advance to the main battlefield.

The Present Campaign.

The present campaign, however, is now in the Carpathians, where matters appear entirely in Russia's hands. Her right is steadily advancing there while the centre and left continue to crush every German attack. In Bukowina, the enemies' forces have occupied Nadvorna and crossed the River Sereth. Germanic armies are thus attempting to turn both flanks of the Russians' seven-hundred mile front, which now almost in the shape of a parabola, with Borzimoff, indicating the apex. Its sides extend to infinity, while all points on its line are equidistant from certain points. The inexhaustible supply of Russia's splendid fighting material presents an infinity for all practical purposes, while the convenience for a front for those inside the curve is obvious. Germanic armies are outside. Certainly they have at their command a net work of strategic railways, which to some extent neutralizes the disvantage of the external line, but here come in those insuperable forces of nature that now are firm allies of Russia.

Winter Was Mild.

Winter generally over the whole theatre of war on the Russian front in Europe has been rather mild, but with unusual abundance of snow. The worst weather was due not to severe frost, but blizzards, which were especially frequent lately in the Carpathians. Ice already has broken in the upper reaches of the Vistula, on the East

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

"The Candy Shop."

The sensational musical comedy, "The Candy Shop," with those famous entertainers, William Rock and Maude Fulton, at the head of a big company of seventy-five people, including a beauty chorus of singers and dancers, will be at the Princess Theatre next week. Seats for the engagement are now on sale.

Washington Realizes Gravity of Situation

Officials Decline To Discuss Action To Be Taken Should American Vessels or Lives Be Lost in War Zone.

Canadian Press Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—While officials at the White House and state department did not discuss what might be done if any American vessels or lives should be lost in the war zones, it was admitted on all sides that the situation was fraught with many grave possibilities.

Ambassador Gerard's despatches continue to give the text of anti-American editorials being printed in semi-official papers in Germany. Officials of the Washington Government, however, are confident of the rights of the Washington Government, and point out that a position similar to that of the United States had been adopted by practically all the other neutrals of the world.

Austria Masses Troops Along Italian Frontier

Canadian Press Despatch.

GENEVA, Feb. 17, via Paris, Feb. 17, 6.10 p.m.—Austria has been concentrating troops for the last ten days on her Italian frontier. The men are chiefly artillery men and their guns have been emplaced at favorable positions dominating the Tyrolese passes.

Swiss, Italian and Austrian soldiers are close on one another on the lonely three-cornered frontier of the Alps at a height of from 5000 to 8000 feet, and frequently fraternize in the deep snow.

The Swiss soldiers usually act as the interpreters between the Austrians and Italians.

EXTENSIVE TRANSFER OF GERMAN TROOPS

Preparations Indicate Determination to Attempt to Break the Allies' Lines Near Ypres.

BY PERCIVAL PHILLIPS.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

BELGIAN FRONTIER, Feb. 16.—Another extensive transfer of German troops from East Prussia to the western front is about to begin. Towns behind the war zone in Belgium have been ordered to prepare accommodations for a large number of soldiers. Idle factories and other buildings are being fitted up for the purpose in Ghent, Mons and Courtrai. The extent of these preparations indicates a determination to fill central Belgium with many fresh divisions, preparatory to the next effort to break the allies' lines between Ypres and the Aisne.

COLONEL HERCHMEIER DEAD AT VANCOUVER

Mounted Police Commissioner Had Served n South African War.

VANCOUVER, B.C., Feb. 17.—Col. Herchmeier died this evening, after an illness of some months. He was in command of the Canadian Dragoons at the time of the South African war and was afterwards appointed to the commissionership of the R.N.W.M.P. The funeral will be of a military character.

HIGHLAND BRAE SUNK IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

Crew and Passengers Were Landed at Buenos Ayres.

Canadian Press Despatch.

BUENOS AYRES, Argentine, Feb. 17.—The German steamer Holger, with the crews and passengers of British steamers sunk in the Atlantic by German warships, arrived here today. Among those on board were the crew of the British steamer Highland Brae, which sailed from London Jan. 3 for Buenos Ayres. She was a vessel of 1634 tons and belonged to the Nelson Steam Navigation Company of London.

KAISER TO DIRECT?

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—07 a.m.—Telegraphing from Copenhagen, The Daily Mail's correspondent says, he learns from Hamburg, that the belief prevails there that Emperor William is going to Heligoland personally to direct Germany's submarine blockade.

Neither Great Britain nor Germany, as far as is known, has yet replied to the Dutch notes of protest, respectively against the use of neutral flags and the sea war zone.

SEEK TO DROP MINES INTO PORT ENTRANCES

Berlin's Threats Designed to Create Alarm Among Neutral Shipping.

Canadian Press Despatch.

BASEL, Switzerland, Feb. 17, via Paris, 2.50 p.m.—The Cologne Gazette, in its issue of Feb. 15, a copy of which has been received here, published a telegram from Berlin saying:

"Three days only separate us from the date fixed for war on British commerce. The two weeks' notice given on Feb. 4 of the intention to begin operations on Feb. 18, has been utilized by the enemy. Nevertheless we have placed ourselves in a correct attitude toward neutrals.

"What menace them above all are the mines placed by Great Britain against our submarines, and also, one must say, the mines which our submarines will carry into the entrances of English ports."

COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR MERCHANT MARINE

Indemnity Promised Seamen Who Receive Injuries Owing to War.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 17, 9.30 p.m.—Arrangements have been completed by the board of trade, under which compensation will be paid to all persons employed aboard British merchant ships who may be injured owing to the hostilities. The board of trade also has arranged to continue, at reduced rates, the insurance of fishing vessels against war risks.

The original plan, adopted in August, proved successful in enabling fishing vessels to ply their industry and thus maintain the supply of fish and keep fishermen employed.

GEN VON FALKENHAYN HONORED BY KAISER

Services in Connection With East Prussian "Victory" Recognized.

Canadian Press Despatch.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 17, 8.03 p.m.—A despatch from Berlin says that the emperor has conferred the order "Pour le Merite" on the chief of the general staff, Gen. Von Falkenhayn, "in recognition of his services in connection with the victory of the Mazurian Lakes."