

FOR RENT ON RAILWAY SIDING CARLAW AVE., north of Queen street to building occupied by Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. Each floor 22 x 25. Lowest insurance rate. Apply H. WILLIAMS & CO. 28 King Street East Main 5490

FOR RENT 1700 square feet, including large vault. Well lighted offices. Elevator. Will partition to suit tenant. Immediate possession. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 28 King Street East Main 5450

PROBS—Fair today; not much change in temperature, then becoming unsettled.

Senate Reading Room SENATE POTAWA

FRENCH SMASH GERMAN LINES NEAR MAISON DE CHAMPAGNE

British Improve Positions by Raids About Bouchavesnes on the Somme

INDIAN TARIFF QUESTION MAY CREATE CRISIS PROTECTION DUTY ON COTTON GOODS THREATENS A SERIOUS DIVISION. MAY FORCE ELECTION COMBINATION OF FREE TRADERS AND NATIONALISTS RECOGNIZED AS FORMIDABLE.

French Advance Line In Champagne Drive

Allied Troops Capture German Positions on Front of Nearly One Mile, Penetrating Fortified Work of Enemy.

Paris, March 12.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "Between the Oise and the Aisne effective artillery fires were directed against the enemy organizations north-west of Vingres. "In Champagne we delivered in the course of the afternoon a new attack against the German positions west of Maisons de Champagne on a front of 1500 metres. Our troops captured all the trenches the enemy had taken on ridge 185, and penetrated a fortified work on the slopes north of Mamefont.

In the course of this action we took about 100 prisoners. "On both banks of the Meuse there was lively artillery action in the sectors of Aycovert, Douaumont and St. Mihiel. "About 4 o'clock this afternoon the Germans bombarded with incendiary shells the open town of Soissons, causing several fires." Belgian communication: "Great artillery activity occurred, particularly against Duxmude and Steenstraet. The bombardments on both sides were accompanied by spirited grenade fighting during the afternoon."

British Improve Lines Before Bouchavesnes

Germans Suffer Extensive Damage From Raid on Their Positions South of Arras in Much Air Fighting.

London, March 12.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "We improved our position slightly during the night northeast of Bouchavesnes. Enemy trenches in the same neighborhood were entered by our patrols at other places and a few prisoners secured. This morning we raided German trenches south of Arras, in spite of strong resistance by the garrison, bombed dugouts and inflicted many casualties. "The artillery activity on both sides was most marked in the Ancre area, the neighborhood of the Neuville, St. Vaast and the Ypres sector. "There was considerable aerial activity yesterday. Much successful bombing and reconnaissance work was carried out by our aeroplanes. Air fighting is continuous. Nine enemy machines were brought down or driven down damaged, four of which are known to have been destroyed. Five of our machines are missing."

U. S. NOTIFIES WORLD OF ARMING VESSELS

No Light Given Concerning Probable Date of First Ship's Leaving.

Washington, March 12.—The U. S. Government today took the only formal step that will precede the sailing for the war zone of American merchantships armed to resist attacks by German submarines. Notice to the world of the intention to place an armed guard on merchantmen was given in a communication sent by the state department to all embassies and legations in Washington. Officials continued to be reticent today about the arming of ships and the probable date the first would be ready to sail. All such details are regarded as military secrets. In fact, there is a general disposition to avoid discussing any phase of the situation pending the outcome of the defiance of the submarine menace by American vessels with naval guns and gunners on board.

GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE IS FEARED

Conferences at Washington May Precede Action by Trainmen.

Washington, March 12.—Talk of a railroad strike was general among local labor union officials from the southeast, gathered here tonight, but national officers of the four big brotherhoods declined to confirm or deny that definite strike plans actually were under consideration. The local leaders came for a conference tomorrow preliminary to the meeting of brotherhood and railway officials to be held in New York, Thursday. Sectional conferences will be held in other cities and the brotherhood heads insist that they cannot forecast their course until the locals from all parts of the country have reported the result of their deliberations. May Strike on Saturday There were distinct indications, however, that there might be more truth in strike reports than appeared on the surface. The impression prevails among some of the local officials that a general walkout probably would follow quickly if the roads refused to accede to the union demands at Thursday's conference. Saturday was the day most persistently mentioned as likely to see a climax of the long controversy between the roads and their men. The present controversy, like that of which it is the outgrowth, revolves around the eight-hour day, and more than one of the local leaders here tonight declared the brotherhoods had waited too long already while the constitutionality of the shorter basic day. They argued that if the roads decline to accede to the union demands, an eight-hour day into effect forthwith the unions would have full justification for a strike. The union men were unanimous in declaring that in case of a strike care would be exercised to embarrass the government as little as possible in the international crisis. The government is watching developments closely.

BAGDAD'S FALL CAUSES ENEMY BIG SURPRISE

News Brings Great Shock to People of Berlin and Vienna.

Geneva, via Paris, March 12.—The fall of Bagdad caused the greatest surprise in Berlin and Vienna, according to news received here from those capitals. Quite recently the Austrian and German papers announced that owing to the large Turkish reinforcements sent from Aleppo and Smyrna, Bagdad could hold out indefinitely. It is expected here that one of the early results of the occupation of Bagdad by the British troops will be the recall of all Turkish contingents fighting at the various fronts. Colonel Feiler, the military critic, writes in The Journal de Geneve: "Unless a new Ottoman army is constituted for a new campaign against the forces of Gen. Maude, the town will definitely remain in the hands of the English." Fiftat Fasha, the former Turkish ambassador at Paris, left here today for Constantinople. He says he considers the situation serious.

AFRICAN CONQUESTS MUST BE RETAINED

Gen. Smuts Says African Colonies Would Stand Aghast at Surrender

London, March 12.—Lieut.-Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, former commander of the expedition against the German forces in East Africa, and who recently was made a privy councillor, arrived in England today. Speaking of the situation on the East African battlefield, Lieut. Gen. Smuts said: "The campaign in East Africa is virtually ended. After the rainy season in March and April the Germans will be obliged either to surrender or go into Portuguese territory, where the Portuguese are ready to deal with them. "The operations against the mere remnants of Germans will be undertaken by native troops I have trained, because for any length of time to spend the climate. The natives make splendid fighting infantry, and at the close of these operations will be available elsewhere. "East Africa is enormously valuable and productive. The Germans spent millions in developing it. The mere suggestion that any part of it should be returned to Germany is preposterous. The native population has stood magnificently by us, and I shudder to think what would happen if any part of the territory were given back to Germany. All the African colonies would be aghast at the mere idea, and moreover our prestige would suffer materially."

THE METROPOLITAN ON YONGE STREET

Sir William Mackenzie is a Believer in Joint Use With Radicals.

Sir William Mackenzie wrote a letter to Hamilton City Council a week ago in favor of joint use of radials and railroads. It is said that Sir William is willing to co-operate not only at Hamilton, but in Toronto and in the other cities of the Metropolitan and the city, and that he and the other Sir William—Heard by name—will come to Toronto at the private bill committee today. At any rate this is what Sir William said to Mayor Booker of Hamilton: Toronto Ont., March 5, 1917. To the Mayor of the City of Hamilton, Ont. Dear Sir: It has been stated that the Northern Railway is antagonistic to the proposed municipal hydro radial, and especially its plans affecting Hamilton. I wish to say that I am strongly in favor of your desire to state that on more than one occasion we have offered to co-operate in every way possible with Sir Adam's scheme, but at the same time have always kept the position that it is necessary that the Canadian Northern should have its own radial system, and that the Niagara frontier, where connections are made with important railway systems of the United States. It seems to me that there has been much misrepresentation as to the relation between the Canadian Northern and the hydro radials. After all, it is a matter of the extension of a transcontinental railway, with ten thousand miles of main and branch lines, to a manufacturing center of the importance of Hamilton could harm or affect the construction of local electric railways in and around Hamilton. It is quite possible that in the right-of-way which we have purchased some years ago, and which we believe is as good as if not the best, route thru Hamilton, provision can be made for joint use with such lines. I am told that some such suggestion has been made in Hamilton, and have instructed our engineers to co-operate with the city staff, if such be your desire. William Mackenzie, President.

HONORS GAINED BY CANADIAN OFFICERS

Acting-Major Foster Wins D.S.O. by Gallantry During Attack

London, March 12.—The following decorations are officially gazetted: Distinguished Service Order: Acting Major Harold William Alexander Foster, infantry, when in command of one of the assaulting companies, also wounded during the advance, continued to direct his men through the whole operation, displaying great coolness and resource, and when attacked by a party, personally accounted for two and took a third prisoner. Major Foster already holds the Military Cross. Military Cross: Acting Major Geo. Scott, Station Boverbank, displayed great courage in leading his men against superior numbers, and set a fine example, succeeding in capturing a number of prisoners. Lieut. Reginald Percy Cattell, organized and led a most successful raid, and was wounded during the attack. Lieut. Arthur Mortimer, Patricias, also severely wounded, rushed an enemy post with great gallantry and attacked one of the sentries, killing him with his revolver. Lieut. William Edward Nutter displayed a raid first reconnoitered a gap in the enemy's wire, to which he laid a direction tape, by which he and another officer then led over a raiding party, entered the trench, capturing prisoners. Capt. Harold Parke led a party to the enemy's support line, where he successfully held them back whilst the demolition of dugouts was in progress, and also twice wounded, refused to leave the command until the operation was complete. Acting Major Frederick Douglas Raymond, single-handed, killed and wounded the crew of a machine gun opposing the advance of his men, and also destroyed a trench mortar. Lieut. Gilbert Smithson Reid led a successful daylight raid and personally shot one of the enemy, and set a splendid example of courage and determination.

MANY FINE EXPLOITS

Several Officers Awarded Military Cross for Valorous Deeds.

London, March 12.—The following decorations are officially gazetted: Distinguished Service Order: Acting Major Harold William Alexander Foster, infantry, when in command of one of the assaulting companies, also wounded during the advance, continued to direct his men through the whole operation, displaying great coolness and resource, and when attacked by a party, personally accounted for two and took a third prisoner. Major Foster already holds the Military Cross. Military Cross: Acting Major Geo. Scott, Station Boverbank, displayed great courage in leading his men against superior numbers, and set a fine example, succeeding in capturing a number of prisoners. Lieut. Reginald Percy Cattell, organized and led a most successful raid, and was wounded during the attack. Lieut. Arthur Mortimer, Patricias, also severely wounded, rushed an enemy post with great gallantry and attacked one of the sentries, killing him with his revolver. Lieut. William Edward Nutter displayed a raid first reconnoitered a gap in the enemy's wire, to which he laid a direction tape, by which he and another officer then led over a raiding party, entered the trench, capturing prisoners. Capt. Harold Parke led a party to the enemy's support line, where he successfully held them back whilst the demolition of dugouts was in progress, and also twice wounded, refused to leave the command until the operation was complete. Acting Major Frederick Douglas Raymond, single-handed, killed and wounded the crew of a machine gun opposing the advance of his men, and also destroyed a trench mortar. Lieut. Gilbert Smithson Reid led a successful daylight raid and personally shot one of the enemy, and set a splendid example of courage and determination.

FACES ANOTHER CHARGE OF STEALING AUTOMOBILE

Pte. Harold Baker of the 208th Battalion, who formerly lived at 107 Lansdowne avenue, and Earl Fog, 74 Dovercourt road, were arrested last night by Acting Detective Nicholls, on a charge of stealing a motor car belonging to John McGregor.

The car was stolen on Sunday night from outside St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Simcoe and King streets. The boys then induced two girls to ride with them. While in the car one of the girls dropped a purse containing some money and a refund ticket on the Toronto Railway Co. Equipped with this information, Detective Nicholls visited the home of the girl and prevailed upon her to tell her story. She admitted having been with Baker and Fog in the car on the night in question, and stated that the ticket had been given her by a street car conductor. Later, he arrested Fog at his home. McGregor, who is charged with stealing a car belonging to E. C. Philps, and allowed out on suspended sentence, with the advice that he try to enlist.

PRINCED EDWARD ISLAND SEEKS AIR SERVICE WITH MAINLAND

Charlotte town, P. E. I., March 12.—A branch of the Canadian Division of the aerial league of the British Empire was organized here today, with J. W. Hindman as president. A committee was appointed to promote the organization of an aerplane company and conduct an aerial service between the island and the mainland. It is contended that this is the only way of solving the problem of continuous communication, winter and summer.

ONE MAN INJURED WHEN CARS ARE DERAILED AT HAWKESTONE

A derailment of six box cars near Hawkestone, on the northern line of the Grand Trunk, at about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, caused injuries to Brakeman W. Eburn, and a tie-up of traffic for several hours. The cause of the accident was a burnt journal on one of the derailed cars. The injured man was brought to hospital at 8 o'clock, for three hours and a quarter.

FAMOUS PAINTER DEAD.

New York, March 12.—Walter Clark, American landscape painter and winner of many art medals here and abroad, died at his home in this city today. He was born in Brooklyn, March 9, 1848.

TWO KHAKI MEMBERS OF HOUSE IN ALBERTA

Act Providing for Representation is Distributed in Legislature.

Edmonton, Alb., March 12.—The act to provide for representation in the legislative assembly of Alberta's soldiers and nurses in the present war, which stands for second reading in the name of the premier, was distributed in the legislature this afternoon. It provides for election of two members at large, and that the writs for the same date as the writs for a general election in the province. Any ten electors of the military or naval forces of Great Britain and her allies from the Province of Alberta in England, France or Belgium, may nominate a candidate, who, if it is provided by the act, will be eligible to serve in England, France or Belgium, and must, at the time of enlistment, have been a resident in the province for six months.

TO DECIDE ON PRICE FOR CROP OF CANADA

Canadian Council of Agriculture Will Meet in Regina Today.

Regina, March 12.—The Canadian council of agriculture will meet in Regina tomorrow. At this meeting, a report on the election of officers for the ensuing year, the question of a price which should be set for Canadian grain to be taken over by the mother country during 1917 will be considered. Among the organizations to be represented at the meeting of the council of agriculture will be the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, the Manitoba Co-operative Elevator Co., the Manitoba Grain Elevator Co., the United Farmers of Ontario and the United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario.

ORGANIZED LABOR WILL BACK PRESIDENT IN WAR

Delegates Representing Three Million Workers Pass Resolution Unanimously.

Washington, March 12.—Organized labor in America, thru its representatives in conference here tonight, offered its services to the country in every field of activity if, despite all endeavors and hopes, the United States should be drawn into war. The action was taken by unanimous vote of more than 150 delegates from national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and unaffiliated organizations, including the great railroad brotherhoods. In all about three million workers were represented in the conference called to determine and announce the part to be claimed by labor in national preparedness plans.

Duchess of Connaught is In a Critical Condition

London, March 12.—The condition of the Duchess of Connaught remains critical. A bulletin issued yesterday afternoon said the duchess had passed a restless night, the attack of broncho-pneumonia persisting and heart action becoming weaker.

IRON DUKE'S GREAT GRANDSON MARRIES WIDOW OF BROTHER

New York, March 12.—Lord George Wellesley, great-grandson of the first Duke of Wellington, was married here today to Lady Louise, the widow of his brother, Lord Richard Wellesley, and daughter of Sir Maurice Fitzgibbon. He and his bride intend to make their home at their home at the war. Lord George said the wedding was celebrated here because of the English law against a widow marrying her deceased husband's brother.

TURKEY GIVES UP FIGHT U. S. CONSULS ACCEPTED

Washington Asks Berlin to Allow Consuls to Leave for Turkey. Washington, March 12.—Turkey has abandoned her attempt to draw from the United States recognition of her abrogation of the capitulations under which American citizens in the Ottoman Empire are subject to the laws of their own country. Ambassador Elkins at Constantinople, it became known tonight, has called that the Turkish Government will accept "temporarily" the four American consuls recently transferred to that country from Germany, under the old form of exequatur empowering the consuls to act as extra-territorial judges in cases involving citizens of the United States and their property. With this question cleared up, the state department now has forwarded another request to Germany, that the four consuls who have been delayed at Munich be permitted to depart for their new posts in Turkey immediately.

CHARGED WITH STABBING MAN IN AN EARLY MORNING FIGHT

During a fight over the removal of some boxes in the Simpson Knitting Mills early this morning, Alphonse Pringo, 64 Edward street, is alleged to have plunged a knife into the back of John Ingley, 102 Parliament street, causing a serious wound. Pringo was arrested by Police Constable 877 and taken to Court street police station. He is charged with wounding. Ingley was removed to St. Michael's Hospital in the police ambulance.

PERSONNE CHURCH BELLS SAVED BY INTERVENTION OF POPE

Paris, March 12.—The Temps says it learns from repaired citizens of Personne that German troops dismantled and sent away the bells from all the churches of that city and neighborhood, supposedly with the intention of melting them. The newspaper adds that the Personne bells subsequently were brought back to the town and deposited in a corner of the public square, after Pope Benedict had intervened.

SHACKLETON, NOW AT SYDNEY, SAYS HE WILL GO TO FRONT

London, March 13.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, who is now at Sydney, Australia, says he is going into active war service, according to a Reuter despatch from that place. He declares that this is the only course for any man who is free and able to fight.

CHINESE SENATE VOTES TO CUT ALL RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

Peking, Sunday, March 11.—The senate today approved the severance of relations with Germany by a vote of 152 to 27. It is expected that the government will take action to this end tomorrow (Monday).

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

PERSISTING with their offensive action in the Champagne, the French made another advance west of Maisons de Champagne on a front of nearly a mile yesterday afternoon. Their attack carried all the trenches which the Germans had taken on ridge 185, and they penetrated a fortified work on the slopes north of Mamefont. One hundred German soldiers laid down their arms. Operations elsewhere on the French front comprised heavy artillery firing between the Oise and the Aisne and on both banks of the Meuse. In order to give their troops a rest, another fine attack by the Germans began the bombardment of the open town of Soissons with incendiary shells yesterday afternoon.

Altho proceeding on a narrow front, this Champagne action has grown into an affair of great local importance. The French set great store by the maintaining intact of the salient driven in September, 1915, showing that they regard its possession as of great future military value. All the salients which the French created with infinite labor in the spring and summer of 1915 have a definite relation to the future plans of the allies to crush Germany. Each offensive, that many persons then commonly regarded as another failure to break the German front, in reality accomplished what the allied staffs planned it should accomplish. The Anglo-French forces are now proceeding to make good use of their previous gains.

Washington, March 12.—Turkey has abandoned her attempt to draw from the United States recognition of her abrogation of the capitulations under which American citizens in the Ottoman Empire are subject to the laws of their own country. Ambassador Elkins at Constantinople, it became known tonight, has called that the Turkish Government will accept "temporarily" the four American consuls recently transferred to that country from Germany, under the old form of exequatur empowering the consuls to act as extra-territorial judges in cases involving citizens of the United States and their property. With this question cleared up, the state department now has forwarded another request to Germany, that the four consuls who have been delayed at Munich be permitted to depart for their new posts in Turkey immediately.

London, March 12.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "We improved our position slightly during the night northeast of Bouchavesnes. Enemy trenches in the same neighborhood were entered by our patrols at other places and a few prisoners secured. This morning we raided German trenches south of Arras, in spite of strong resistance by the garrison, bombed dugouts and inflicted many casualties. "The artillery activity on both sides was most marked in the Ancre area, the neighborhood of the Neuville, St. Vaast and the Ypres sector. "There was considerable aerial activity yesterday. Much successful bombing and reconnaissance work was carried out by our aeroplanes. Air fighting is continuous. Nine enemy machines were brought down or driven down damaged, four of which are known to have been destroyed. Five of our machines are missing."

Washington, March 12.—The U. S. Government today took the only formal step that will precede the sailing for the war zone of American merchantships armed to resist attacks by German submarines. Notice to the world of the intention to place an armed guard on merchantmen was given in a communication sent by the state department to all embassies and legations in Washington. Officials continued to be reticent today about the arming of ships and the probable date the first would be ready to sail. All such details are regarded as military secrets. In fact, there is a general disposition to avoid discussing any phase of the situation pending the outcome of the defiance of the submarine menace by American vessels with naval guns and gunners on board.

Washington, March 12.—Talk of a railroad strike was general among local labor union officials from the southeast, gathered here tonight, but national officers of the four big brotherhoods declined to confirm or deny that definite strike plans actually were under consideration. The local leaders came for a conference tomorrow preliminary to the meeting of brotherhood and railway officials to be held in New York, Thursday. Sectional conferences will be held in other cities and the brotherhood heads insist that they cannot forecast their course until the locals from all parts of the country have reported the result of their deliberations. May Strike on Saturday There were distinct indications, however, that there might be more truth in strike reports than appeared on the surface. The impression prevails among some of the local officials that a general walkout probably would follow quickly if the roads refused to accede to the union demands at Thursday's conference. Saturday was the day most persistently mentioned as likely to see a climax of the long controversy between the roads and their men. The present controversy, like that of which it is the outgrowth, revolves around the eight-hour day, and more than one of the local leaders here tonight declared the brotherhoods had waited too long already while the constitutionality of the shorter basic day. They argued that if the roads decline to accede to the union demands, an eight-hour day into effect forthwith the unions would have full justification for a strike. The union men were unanimous in declaring that in case of a strike care would be exercised to embarrass the government as little as possible in the international crisis. The government is watching developments closely.

Regina, March 12.—The Canadian council of agriculture will meet in Regina tomorrow. At this meeting, a report on the election of officers for the ensuing year, the question of a price which should be set for Canadian grain to be taken over by the mother country during 1917 will be considered. Among the organizations to be represented at the meeting of the council of agriculture will be the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, the Manitoba Co-operative Elevator Co., the Manitoba Grain Elevator Co., the United Farmers of Ontario and the United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1 and 2)