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FAIR AND COLD.

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TEUTONS POUR THOUSANDS OF TROOPS ON WEST FRONT

THE AUSTRILIANS CELEBRATE THE RUSSIAN PEACE

Flags Fly in Vienna and Thanksgiving Services Held.

TEUTONS HAVE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Withdrawal of Russia from War Narrows It to Western Front.

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—Flags are flying everywhere in Austria, according to advices from Vienna, and thanksgiving services are being arranged to celebrate the news of Trotsky's declaration that the war between the Central Powers and Russia is ended.

The Vienna official news agency ascribes the reversal in the attitude of the Russian government to the fact that peace was concluded between the Central Powers and Ukraine and expresses the conviction that as a result of this peace there will be a strong reaction on the war in the west. The agency adds: The termination of the war is at last obtained by the diplomacy of the Central Powers and there is no need to be discouraged by the form chosen by Russia for the announcement of peace.

Referring to the economic agreements, the Austrian papers indicate that while exasperating hopes are not justified, it may be expected that of a two years' harvest at the least which could not be exported from Ukraine, there are still considerable stocks and that about one million tons will be available. In this connection, the papers point out the difficulties of transportation which must first be reckoned with.

Up To Western Front.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Diplomatic observers here say Germany is confronted with the most difficult and unpropitious problem she has met during the present war as a result of the declaration that Russia has abandoned hostilities without the signing of a peace treaty. The refusal of the Russians to sign any treaties alienating the Russian western provinces, the diplomats point out, will leave the Central Powers without any legal claim to their possession. German and Austrian tenure will rest entirely upon the assertion of force, without international law, and consequently must be subject to the decision of whatever form of tribunal finally determines the basis of general peace. The one clear thing in the whole situation from a military point of view, is that the struggle has narrowed down to the western front, of which the Italian theatre already has been officially recognized as a portion by the allied chiefs. The final test of arms is to come on that front.

Poles Are Mad.

Stockholm, Feb. 13.—The Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt reports that the Polish club has severed its connection with the government because the Polish province of Cielm was assigned to Ukraine in the peace treaty. The Austrian government, the despatch says, is now opposed by a united bloc of Poles, Czechs and Southern Slavs.

FIREMAN HELD BY U. S. OFFICIALS

Had Letter Addressed to Man in Minnesota.

An Atlantic Port, Feb. 13.—Accused of smuggling into the United States a letter addressed to C. Von De Mark, Ferguson Falls, Minnesota, Andris Hoogendam, a fireman on a Dutch steamship was arrested today by customs officials and was held in \$5,000 bail by a United States commissioner for alleged violation of the trading with the enemy act.

STEAMER SUNK

Lima, Peru, Feb. 13.—The British steamship Dorisbrook, 3,451 tons gross, has gone down. The crew was saved.

THE BELLIGERENTS PREPARING FOR A TERRIFIC BATTLE

Teutonic Allies Continue to Pour Their Legions to Positions Behind Lines on Western Front and Increasing Roar of Big Guns Has Reached That Volume of Drumfire Which Has Always Heralded Infantry Attack of Great Proportions.

Entente Commanders Strengthen Their Positions and Everywhere Prepare for Any Emergency British and French Both Optimistic — French Headquarters Estimates That There Are 2,340,000 Teutons Facing Allies Who Still Outnumber Huns.

Although under the good weather the terrain in France and Belgium is fast drying out and the Teutonic allies are continuing to pour thousands of troops to positions behind the battle line, there still has been no indication that the enemy is ready to begin his much advertised offensive. Bombardments and patrol encounters along the entire front are still taking place as for many days past, but the roar of the big guns now here has reached that volume of drumfire which in the past always has heralded an infantry attack of great proportions. (Continued on Page 3)

BRITAIN MUST GET SUPPLIES FROM AMERICA

"Unless We Can Get 65 Per Cent. of Our Food from Canada and United States We Shall Peter Out," Declares Sir William Goode, Liaison Officer.

London, Feb. 13.—Sir William Goode, who since the entry of the United States into the war, has occupied the important post of liaison officer between the British food ministry and the United States food administration, discussed the present food situation in an address today to the London Rotary club. "Few people," said Sir William, "have yet grasped the fundamental fact that Great Britain still relies on the United States and Canada for 65 per cent. of her essential foodstuffs. Unless we can get this food, or nearly all of it, we shall peter out. As to how we get the popular idea as to what the United States is an up-to-date combination of miracle loaves and fishes and widow's crust. "What I want you to realize is the amazing way in which the energies and sentiments of the American people have been harnessed to a great national movement of organized self-sacrifice, so that the allies can have food enough to carry on."

Had Large Supply. "Early last month we received from Mr. Hoover a cablegram saying he found that as a result of the American conservation campaign he had 150,000,000 pounds of bacon and 25,000,000 pounds of frozen meat more than the British representatives in the United States had estimated as likely to be available. His offer was so unexpected that we had to hustle to get the finance and the shipping for this windfall. Later it turned out that the amount of frozen meat available was thousands of tons above the Hoover estimate. Except for the hold-up of shipping in American ports due to congestion on the railways and blizzards, our bacon and meat shortage would long since have been eased by these shipments, which represent only a small percentage of the total sacrifices of the American people.

"It is lucky for us that a man like Hoover is at the helm of the allied food supply and that behind him is a people willing to deny themselves so we may live to fight."

NEW BRUNSWICK MEN BACK ON NATIVE SOIL

Score of St. John Men, Including Sergeant H. C. James of Instructors' Staff, Arrive in Halifax from Overseas.

Halifax, Feb. 13.—The following soldiers returned here today from England:

Sergt. P. Walker of the original Nova Scotia Battalion; Sergt. H. C. James, St. John, N. B.; Ptes. A. Allen, Chipman; J. Barhart, Campbellton; J. L. Bennett, W. A. Blair, St. John; H. E. Russell, St. Stephen; H. Cairns, St. John; W. Carr, Moncton; H. Davies, St. John; H. Dempsey, Jacques River; Gun. N. A. Dolin, St. John; Pte. T. R. Dochow, St. John; Gun. W. C. Dodgson, Woodstock; Company Sergeant Major G. C. Foley, St. John; Ptes. H. Franks, St. Stephen; C. S. Friars, E. Griffins, St. John; A. Lozier, Tracadie; H. Lynn, Fredericton; A. Mahra, St. Stephen; T. Mashon, Chipman; W. Mathieson, M. Michaud, Grand Falls; J. Moore, St. John; G. Murphy, Campbellton; V. MacDonald, St. John; W. J. MacDonald, Moncton; H. McMillan, Campbellton; N. Neilson, Newcastle; P. O'Connell, St. John; J. Paradis, Grand Falls; W. D. Steven, Moncton; E. L. Peterson, Campbellton; J. M. Reed, F. Ross, G. C. Sherwood, R. M. Skinner, St. John; A. W. Smith, Kings County; C. A. Snyder, St. John; J. Thornton, Milltown; C. J. Upham, W. Vibert, St. John; F. Walker, Moncton; J. Walker, Campbellton; S. Whitney, Newcastle; Edward Hayward, Hartland; Gun. E. J. Gray, St. John; Sergt. W. Parkinson, Fredericton; Gun. A. Power, St. John; Sapper P. D. Wood, Fredericton; Gun. W. H. Rowe, Woodstock; Sergt. M. Scarlett, Norton.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

London, Feb. 13.—Lord Robert Cecil giving notice in the House of Commons today that the British government is giving great attention to a "League of Nations." He added that he himself had prepared a scheme for it.

COST \$1,000,000.

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—According to the Evening Citizen, the enforcement of a Military Service Act, up to the present time, has cost upwards of one million dollars.

TWO THOUSAND MEN ARRIVE AT HALIFAX

Halifax, Feb. 13.—About 2,000 returned Canadian soldiers arrived here today by transport from England, via an American Atlantic port. Two hundred are on furlough, and left by special train for their respective homes.

Major M. H. Morrison, paymaster of the 85th Battalion, was a passenger.

Other passengers on the liner included officers' wives and families, nursing sisters on furlough and some civilians.

The steamer, which had a rough voyage across, picked up, when about five hundred miles past the danger zone, an "S. O. S." call. Owing to the heavy weather it was impossible for the steamer to go to the assistance of the distressed craft, which is supposed to have been the ill-fated Tuscania.

A large number of the officers and some of the men landed at an American port.

STEEL MERGER CONFERENCE

President Mark Workman of Dominion Steel Corp., and N. B. McKelvie of Scotia, Talk Things Over.

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Feb. 13.—Mark Workman, president of the Dominion Steel Corporation, and N. B. McKelvie of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Board were in conference here throughout the afternoon and while nothing was given out, it is presumed that further progress was made in the discussion of the merger question. Mr. McKelvie left in the evening for New York and will be back in a few days, when some further facts for the consideration of Dominion Steel interests will be submitted.

The indefinite character of the negotiations thus far was indicated at a board meeting of the Dominion Steel Corporation today. Although the meeting lasted over two hours it was only when the directors were putting on their coats that the merger question was broached. The president is understood to have explained that Scotia interests had suggested the attractiveness of a merger but that no definite proposals had been made and consequently there was nothing for the board to consider as yet.

Despite the indefiniteness of the present stage of the merger the street believes that some quiet progress is being made towards a basis of terms that would appeal to shareholders of the two companies.

WOMAN EXPIRES PHONING FOR AID

Special to The Standard.

Amherst, N. S., Feb. 13.—Death came with great suddenness to the home of Mr. A. C. Casey this evening when without a moment's warning his wife passed away. At 7:30 p. m. Mr. Casey left home at which time his wife was in her usual health and very cheerful. At nine o'clock he was called to the telephone when the operator said something awful had happened. Mrs. Casey had called but the phone was left open at the other end. Mr. Casey could then hear his wife groaning. He hurried home arriving in less than ten minutes only to find that life was extinct. Mrs. Casey was alone in the house at the time. Deceased, who was 58 years of age, was one of Amherst's most highly respected citizens, was a daughter of the late W. B. Huestis. Besides her husband she is survived by two step-daughters, Mrs. Roy T. Buckley and Miss Amy B. Casey, of Calgary. F. W. Huestis of Wentworth, N. S., and Harry F., of Providence, R. I., are brothers. Mrs. Clarence E. Casey, Amherst, is a sister.

CLAN-NA-GAEL RAID

Dublin, Feb. 13.—The headquarters of the Clan-na-Gael were raided last night. Twenty-eight persons were detained. No arms were found, but maps and drawings were seized. The premises have been closed for more than a year by military order.

NINETEEN VESSELS LOST BY BRITISH IN SEVEN DAYS

Of Number Thirteen Were Ships of More Than Sixteen Hundred Tons and Six Were Under That Tonnage—Three Fishing Craft Also Sunk—Total is Considerably Greater Than in Previous Week When Fifteen Were Sunk.

Spanish Steamer Ceferin Sunk by Submarine

Four Italian Steamers Sent to Bottom—Norway Has Lost 714 Vessels Since War Began—Belgian Relief Ship Tunisie Strands in Holland.

London, Feb. 13.—Nineteen British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine in the past week, according to the admiralty statement tonight. Of these thirteen were vessels of 1,600 tons or more and six were under that tonnage. Three fishing craft also were sunk.

The loss to British shipping in the past week shows a considerable increase over that of the previous week, which totalled fifteen vessels, ten of them over 1,600 tons. In the preceding two weeks the losses were eight, and fifteen respectively.

Spanish Vessel Sunk.

Madrid, Feb. 13.—The Spanish steamer Ceferin has been sunk by a submarine near Ferro Island, one of the Canary group. All the members of the crew were saved. They were towed by the submarine to the port of La Estica in the Canaries.

The Ceferin is the third Spanish steamer sunk by submarines in less than three weeks. The others were the Girada and the Sebastian. Protests have been made by the Spanish government against the sinking of those two vessels. The Ceferin was a steamer of 3,646 tons. She was built in England in 1899 and her home port was Aviles.

Four Italian Sunk.

Rome, Feb. 13.—Four Italian steamers of more than 1,600 tons were sunk by mine or submarine during the week ending February 9, according to an official announcement today.

During the week ending February 2 but one Italian steamer of less than 1,600 tons was lost.

Norwegian Losses.

London, Feb. 13.—The Norwegian legation in London announces that from the outbreak of the war to the end of January, 1918, Norway has lost 714 vessels of 1,050,583 gross tons. Seamen to the number of 833 lost their lives through the sinking of these vessels.

During the same period fifty-three Norwegian vessels, with more than 700 crew, were posted as missing. About two-thirds of these are war losses.

Relief Ship Stranded.

The Hague, Feb. 13.—The Belgian relief ship Tunisie of 3,467 tons gross, while bound from New York to Rotterdam, stranded Tuesday evening near Scheveringen. The accident presumably was due to fog. Attempts will be made to float the vessel at high tide.

H. A. BYFIELD, WELL KNOWN HERE, DEAD

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 13.—H. A. Hayfield, engineer-in-charge of the building of the government's big assembling plant at Ogden Point, where all the Imperial munitions board's ships are to be outfitted, died today. He was formerly superintendent of dredges for British Columbia under the federal government and before that was in charge of extensive wharf construction at St. John, N. B. and other eastern seaports. He was well known on both coasts as a wharf builder and was recognized to be an engineer in his special field with few superior in the Dominion.

POISON PLOT

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—Federal officials and San Francisco health authorities have united in investigating the death, under mysterious circumstances, of 325 sheep and lambs in a stock yard corral here in which approximately 7,000 head of stock were quartered. All indications, according to those making the investigations, tended to show that the animals were killed by poison placed in the watering troughs.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SUSTAINED

Pacifist Member's Amendment Voted Down by 159 to 20.

BONAR LAW REPLIES TO GOVT CRITICS

In 1917 Total of 820,645 Additional Men Placed in Army.

London, Feb. 13.—An amendment proposed by Richard Holt, Radical, Hexham, expressing regret that "in accordance with the decisions of the supreme war council at Versailles, prosecution of the military effort is to be the only immediate task of the government," was rejected by a vote of 159 to 20, in the House of Commons tonight. The majority was composed mainly of pacifists.

Lord Hugh Cecil had declared that the adoption of the amendment would involve the resignation of the government.

Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, and government leader in the House, replying to criticisms of the government with respect to its home policy, said that in 1917 the national service department had put into the army 820,645 additional men and placed in employment at home 731,000 and 804,000 women.

Food Production.

Referring to the food production, he said that the cereals produced in England in 1917 amounted to 850,000 tons, and in addition the country had produced an extra 3,000,000 tons of potatoes.

England, said the chancellor, was the only country in the war where there had not been a diminution in food production. A million additional acres were being put under the plough. This year 800,000 acres more had been cultivated in England and 400,000 more in Scotland and Ireland. The total stocks of wheat in Great Britain at the end of December 1917, exceeded those at the end of December, 1916, by one million quarters.

In 1917 there was built in Great Britain 1,163,474 tons of shipping, and 170,000 tons were obtained from abroad. The chancellor explained that the premier's estimate of ship construction was not realized because the government had arranged to have a large quantity of tonnage built in America, but when America came into the war she preferred, as the British would have preferred, to take the tonnage herself. But the tonnage was there.

Shipping Controller.

Emphasizing the value of the shipping controller's work, Mr. Bonar Law said that in spite of the diminution of ships and in spite of the fact that Great Britain had lent 1,500,000 gross tons for the use of her allies, in September, October and November, the nation had actually imported the same amount as had been imported from February to April.

It had been suggested, said the chancellor, that because America had entered the war, Great Britain ought to have to spend less. America had given great help not only to Great Britain's allies, but to Britain herself, for which Britain could not be too grateful. But the pressure on the allies, owing to the long continuance of the war had made the burden very great and he was glad to say that this country had been able to give not less assistance to some of her allies because of the assistance of America.

Defends Govt.

Mr. Bonar Law defended the present government, pointing out that his war cabinet idea had been adopted by all the belligerents. He repeated Premier Lloyd-George's challenge that if the House of Commons did not have confidence in the government it ought to get a government which would carry on the work better than the present government. But until the House did this it was the duty of the members to avoid any criticism which would only be damaging.

"I have no more interest in this prime minister than I had in the last," declared Mr. Bonar Law "and I wish to see fair play for both. But I would rather see at the head of the government who makes the mistake of being over-zealous and over-zealous than a man who suffers from pessimism."

WOMEN WILL JOIN C. M. B. A.

New Policy Meets with Approval of Archbishops Gauthier and Bruchesi.

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Feb. 13.—Organization of Women's Branches of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, with their own officials and exclusively under their management, is now being undertaken by Mr. James I. Brady, executive agent of the society here.

Provision for women to be taken into the order was made recently by an amendment to the constitution, and the new policy meets with the approval of all the higher clergy, Archbishop Bruchesi and Mr. Gauthier, Archbishop of Ottawa, the grand spiritual adviser of the association. The enormous increase in women workers and women in business brought about as a result of the war, was one of the principal reasons which led to this amendment.

The women will not be members of the same chapters as men, however, but will have entirely separate organizations, subject only to the authority of the Central Association. It is stated that the C. M. B. A. will thus be the only entirely Canadian Catholic order of the kind though there are a number of international organizations having branches here with women members.

CANADIANS MAY BE IN FIGHTING

Paris, Feb. 13.—A big raid was carried out today by the French south-west of Butte Meunil. The German positions were entered up to the third line and many defenses and shelters were destroyed. This announcement was made by the war office in its regular communication tonight.

Fighting at Lens.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 13.—(British Admiralty, per Wireless Press)—Heavy hand-to-hand fighting has occurred north of Lens and around Peronne, according to the official statement from general headquarters today, the British undertaking strong reconnoitering expeditions, which headquarters reports were repulsed.

ROBERTSON TO QUIT?

London, Feb. 13.—The Central News says that although Sir William E. Robertson, chief of the Imperial staff army headquarters, has neither been dismissed nor has resigned, he may vacate his post at an early date and take a position of high influence, if he cares to do so.