

ALLIES' WARSHIPS BATTER DOWN GATEWAY TO DARDANELLES; ALL FIRST FORTS REDUCED

GERMANS WILL TRY TO FORCE THEIR WAY THROUGH TO WARSAW FROM THE NORTHWEST NOW

Find Russian Defences Around East Prussian Frontier Too Strong to Penetrate — Opinion in England Strongly Opposed to U. S. Proposal to Change Decision Regarding Cutting off Germany's Food Supply — Weather Conditions in East and West Make Operations More Difficult.

London, Feb. 25.—All the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles have been reduced by the allied fleets. This announcement was made officially tonight.

The announcement of the Secretary of the Admiralty follows: "The weather moderating, the bombardment of the outer forts of the Dardanelles was renewed at eight o'clock this morning (Feb. 25.) After a period of long-range firing the squadron of battleships attacked at close range. All the forts at the entrance to the Straits were successfully reduced and the operations are continuing."

London, Feb. 25.—An official statement by the Admiralty announces that all the outer forts of the Dardanelles have been reduced, and that the operations are continuing.

In the House of Commons today Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, made the important announcement, which was received with cheers, that Great Britain sympathizes with Russia's aspirations to gain access to the open sea through Turkey.

The American note, the contents of which remained a secret, but which, in general, speaks to bring about an understanding regarding the war zone prescribed by Germany and the shipment of foodstuffs designed for the civilian population of the British Isles, was considered at a meeting of the cabinet today, but thus far no intimation as to the official attitude towards it can be obtained.

The press and public, however, on the supposition that President Wilson should not carry out her threat to place an embargo on foodstuffs for Germany, and that, in return, Germany should not enforce her submarine blockade against the British Isles, have already expressed their disapproval of acceptance of such a proposition.

While eight British ships have been destroyed in the week that the blockade has been in force, it is pointed out that they are, for the most part, small vessels, and that the majority of them, instead of having food for this country, were either in ballast or carrying coal or other freight for neutral countries.

Look to See Germany Getting into Trouble with Neutrals.

It is believed here, also, that the destruction of neutral ships and cargoes will embolden Germany with neutral countries, and that, in the long run, the losses which the Allies will suffer will be more than offset by the anger aroused on the part of the neutrals and the possible refusal of countries, such as Norway, to allow goods to be shipped from their ports to Germany.

This and other diplomatic questions, the latter of its submarine warfare on merchant ships, has been submitted by England to her allies, France and Russia, for consideration.

Intimations have come to the Washington government that until the British cabinet acts, and the attitude of France and Russia is learned, no reply can be given to the American proposals.

This may require several days. In the meantime, Germany already has manifested a willingness to make concessions, which gives officials here ground for hope that a conciliatory spirit will be adopted by Great Britain.

REMOVE MINES EXCEPT WHERE NECESSARY

Suggested to Belligerents by U. S. that Mines be Used Only Where Directly Needed on Coast or Harbor.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The United States government has suggested informally to Great Britain and Germany that in the interests of humanity, and the safeguarding of legitimate commerce, all mines be removed from the high seas, except those directly necessary for the protection of coast defenses and harbors.

This suggestion, along with proposals designed to obtain Great Britain's acquiescence in a plan to permit the distribution of important foodstuffs to the civilian population of Germany, and bring about the abandonment by

PUGSLEY WOULD HAVE PUBLIC WORKS HERE CUT DOWN, AND MANY MEN IDLE

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 25.—If Hon. Wm. Pugsley has his way the public works at St. John this year would be cut in two and this would put half the men engaged on these works out of employment. This was the extraordinary position assumed by Mr. Pugsley in the course of the debate on the budget. Angus C. MacDonnell of Toronto was speaking and mentioned that the member for St. John had said the work on the Hudson Bay Railway should have been stopped during this year of depression. Mr. Pugsley interjected that he would have cut the public works estimates in two. Hon. Robert Rogers—"Do you recommend that reduction in connection with the public works at St. John for the present year?" Mr. Pugsley—"I would recommend a reduction all round."

QUEBEC PROVINCE IN GRIP OF ONE OF WORST STORMS IN YEARS

Montreal, Feb. 25.—One of the severest rain, snow, sleet and wind storms experienced in the province of Quebec in many years has raged all day today, and telegraphic and telephone communication between the city of Quebec and Montreal have been shut off since morning.

The Great Northwestern Telegraph Company was hit the hardest in the morning, and had to give up. The P. R. managed to keep a semblance of a service between this city and the ancient capital for a part of the day by relaying messages to St. John, N. B. and from there back to Quebec, but eventually this was cut off.

While wires have snapped and poles have fallen in many places, the rail ways have maintained a fairly good service.

RUSSIANS FIGHTING STUBBORNLY IN BATTLE IN GALICIA

London, Feb. 25.—Telegrams from Budapest report fierce fighting around Stanislau, Galicia," says Reuters' Vanda correspondent.

"The Russians are said to be hurling reserves after reserves into the fighting line, and to be defending their positions with the greatest of stubbornness. The chief struggle is proceeding on the heights around the town, where the Russians have concentrated with the object of stopping the advance of the Austrian right, which threatens their whole front."

"In the Carpathians, near Wyszok, large Russian forces are making continuous attacks with fresh reserves."

STUDENTS IN ENGLAND IN KHAKI GIVEN THEIR DEGREES

Novel Spectacle at Special Convocation at University of Toronto.
Toronto, Feb. 25.—At a special convocation of the University of Toronto today forty-four soldier students, in uniform, received their degrees with honors. A number of professors discarded the regulation cap and gown and appeared in khaki.

U.S. PROPOSALS DISCUSSED BY BR. CABINET

London, Feb. 25, 11.25 p. m.—The American note bearing on the German naval zone and food supplies for the civilian population of the belligerent countries, which had already been considered by Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, and Premier Asquith, was discussed at a meeting of the cabinet this afternoon, but no indication as to the attitude of the government was disclosed to the public. It is expected, however, that the British reply will be ready within a day or two.

north of the Shetland Islands. The change in the vessel's course was decided on, it was believed, to avoid the mine fields in the North Sea.

BELIEVES HIS VESSEL WAS TORPEDOED

Captain and First Officer of Norwegian Steamer Regio Do Not Attribute Sinking of Ship to Mine.
London, Feb. 25.—A Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says: "The Norwegian Minister at London has reported to his government that the captain and first officer of the Norwegian steamer Regio, recently sunk in the English Channel, believe that their ship was struck by a torpedo, but are unable to supply any proof of this. The captain had stopped his ship in order to escape 'something black on the starboard side,' presumably a mine, when an explosion occurred under the bow."

"The look-out man says he did not see any signs of a submarine."

PLAY "GOD SAVE KING" AT PANAMA PACIFIC FAIR

Canada's Pavilion at 'Frisco Exposition Formerly Opened by Hon. Mr. Burrell in Presence of Thousands.
San Francisco, Feb. 25.—Canada's pavilion at the Panama Pacific Exposition was formally opened to the public today, after dedicatory ceremonies, which were attended by a large number of persons, including many British subjects.

The Dominion was represented by Hon. Martin Burrell, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, in his address, Mr. Burrell read the following despatch from Sir Louis Harcourt, British Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, conveying a message from King George:

"I am intrusted with a message of good will and congratulations from our august Sovereign to the Panama Pacific International Exposition, and I have a voice in questions of peace and war."

"The King feels that there is no doubt that this great undertaking will be attended with great success, and prove worthy of the vast accomplishment which it celebrates."

His Majesty rejoices to think that his Dominion of Canada is taking part in this exhibition, thus testifying to the appreciation of the British Empire at the linking of the Atlantic and Pacific, and at the happy results which may be expected from the mingling of the waters of the two oceans."

At the conclusion of Mr. Burrell's address "God Save the King" and "The Star Spangled Banner" were played.

ARGUMENT IN THE STORSTAD CASE IS BEGUN

C. P. R. Counsel Claims Storstad Was Going at Good Speed When Accident Happened.
Montreal, Feb. 25.—Argument of counsel in the C. P. R.—Storstad case, in which \$3,000,000 damages are sought for the sinking of the S. S. Empress of Ireland in the St. Lawrence river on May 29 last, and the loss of over a thousand lives, began in the Admiralty Court in Montreal today. Mr. Arthur Holden, K.C., of counsel for the plaintiff, occupied the whole day and the argument on behalf of the plaintiff will be continued by other C. P. R. counsel tomorrow.

Mr. Holden claimed that at the time of the accident the Storstad was proceeding up the river at a good clip, while the Empress, bound down stream, had come to a standstill and had her engines at the reverse for at least five or six minutes before the impact. Mr. Holden claimed that the blame for the disaster lay at the door of the defendant.

LIBERALS SUDDENLY BECOME ECONOMICAL

Would Have Half Public Works in Dominion Stopped and Thousands of Men Thrown Out of Employment — Talk Blue Ruin.
Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 25.—The Liberal party has adopted a policy of negotiation and stagnation. With an apparent lack of confidence in the resources and credit of the Dominion, they are surveying the war situation through blue ruin spectacles, and demanding that thousands of men throughout the country be deprived of employment and the means of a livelihood by stopping all public works.

This was the outstanding feature of the debate on the budget today, when the Liberal speakers were George W. Kite of Richmond and Hon. William Pugsley. Prefacing their speeches by professing a desire to support the government in any expenditure it deems necessary to carry the war to a successful conclusion, they then proceeded to place their party in the position of a man who dishonors his own cheque by withholding the payment of taxes to pay the cost of the war.

Forgetting the violations of all axioms of national economy which made their record of fifteen years notorious in political annals, the Liberals are now shouting "wolf" and decrying expenditure of any kind.

Mr. Pugsley wanted half the public works in the country stopped, including the harbor improvements at St. John's, and the railway improvements for war conditions the dismissal of public servants all over Canada.

The day before yesterday Hon. Frank Oliver denounced the government for being tied up to the professionalists and vagaries of the tariff. Today Mr. Kite called savagely at Mr. White for cutting the duty on cement, and declared that the manufacturers had no confidence in the government.

The government speakers, Mr. Wright of Muskoka and Dr. Edwards of Frontenac wrought havoc with the Liberal arguments and made the opposition front benches squirm in their seats as they went over the tariff vagaries of Liberalism for the past twenty years. The debate has been adjourned until next Tuesday.

In the House of Commons today: Hon. Chas. Marcell asked if the report were true that General Hughes had contemplated resigning and going in command of the troops to England.

"I hope the hon. gentlemen will not load me with all the rumors that are going," replied the minister.

"I have it in my heart to go, but there are other duties to be looked after."

Hon. Chas. Murphy called attention to the press quoting Sir George Perley as stating that the time had come for Canada to have a voice in questions of peace and war.

Mr. Murphy asked if this talk was made on authority of the government.

Hon. Robert Rogers, who was leading the House in the absence of the Premier, said the government had taken no notice of the report referred to. The statement of the Premier some days ago, said Mr. Rogers, still stood. In the Premier's statement referred to, Sir Robert Borden told the House that he had never gone any further than Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reported utterance: "If you want our aid, call us to your council."

In the final stages of the bill to provide for members of parliament who go to the front, Hon. Mr. Graham directed attention to its provisions. All were, he said, professedly anxious that there should be no election till the war was over. In case, however, that the government should change or make up its mind, he wanted to know if the law would enable a person who was absent from the country to be a candidate.

Hon. Mr. Doherty said there was nothing to prevent it.

Cheers for Hon. Dr. Beland.
Mention of the name of Hon. Dr. Beland by the minister occasioned a round of cheers, in which both sides joined.

"Dr. Beland's patriotic services in Belgium, declared Hon. Mr. Doherty, would in no sense interfere with his holding his seat in parliament. It might interfere with his receiving his indemnity, but he thought that should be dealt with by special vote in the estimates. (Applause.)

Hon. Charles Marcell stated that the latest news was that Dr. Beland, after a period of heroic service to the cause, was a prisoner of war in the hands of the Germans, while Mr. MacDonnell pointed out that he had served since the outbreak of the war and was attached to the Red Cross organization. The Minister of Militia had appointed him a major in the Army Service Corps of the Canadian contingent but he had never been able to join them.

Mr. MacLean, South York, asked as to the status of individual voters who had gone, or were going, to the front, in event of a general election. Hon. Mr. Doherty replied that an special committee were considering the matter. He was also having the Justice Department consider different methods by which men could register their votes, and would probably submit a tentative measure.

The patent for the 25,000 combination

LEGACIES LEFT BY GRITS

Dr. Edwards of Frontenac, followed. He took issue with the Liberals that the present was the proper time to stop public works. He claimed that when men were out of work was no time to stop public expenditures.

They were charged with extravagance during the past few years, but he would like to point out that the Finance Minister had had to find \$56,000,000 for the N. T. R.; \$10,000,000 for the Quebec bridge; \$30,000,000 for implementing the Grand Trunk bonds, and \$15,000,000 to loan the Grand Trunk—all expenditures for which Liberals were responsible for, and amounting to some \$120,000,000.

He argued that the various departments were being administered as cheaply, or more cheaply than under the Liberal administration. From 1896 to 1911, the revenue increased two and a half times, while the cost of collecting in the time increased 162 per cent.

From 1911 to 1914, the revenue increased fifty-seven per cent, and the cost of collecting, forty-seven per cent.

The cost of collection for the last ten years of the Liberal regime averaged 3.37 per cent.

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