

The Herald

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The War Budget.

The budget speech delivered by Hon. Mr. White Canada's Finance Minister, in the House of Commons Ottawa on Thursday last, was doubtless the most momentous in the history of our country. Since the budget speech of last year, since the last tariff revision Canada has, in unison with the other component parts of the Empire, embarked on the costly business of war. Not only does the war demand largely increased expenditures from the Federal exchequer; but it renders very difficult the raising of revenue as, compared with conditions even a year ago. The decline of trade with the enemy countries, and the interruption and increased risk in ocean-traffic have greatly decreased the customs receipts. On the other hand the cessation of Canadian borrowing abroad has had its depressing effects on the purchasing power at home. All these conditions combined to render the task of Canada's Finance Minister no bed of roses. He must turn his attention to our own country and there look for the greater part of the increased revenue to finance the trying period through which we are passing. Hon. Mr. White has grappled with the task before him in a manly and courageous manner.

He estimates the total revenue for the fiscal year, ending with March next, at a \$130,000,000, or \$33,000,000 less than for the preceding year. Expenditures on current account would be about \$140,000,000. In regard to expenditures on current account, he noted that the policy of the government was to maintain, as far as possible, the program of public works which had already been undertaken before the war, but that no new works would be undertaken until the financial outlook became clearer. The total expenditure for the present fiscal year would be \$190,000,000. As against this there would be a revenue deficit of \$10,000,000, while the entire amount of \$50,000,000 for capital and special expenditure (other than war), would also have to be provided by borrowing. Mr. White noted that in the current account expenditure for the present year there was an item of \$2,500,000 for the relief of distress in the drought-stricken districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In addition the government was making provision for about seven and a half millions, or more to be expended in the purchase of seed-grain.

Dealing with the question of war expenditures he noted that in August last the Prime Minister had estimated the cost of mobilizing, equipping, transporting and maintaining Canada's First Expeditionary Force up to the end of the present fiscal year, would be \$90,000,000. The government, however, had enlarged the programme then contemplated. The First Expeditionary Force consisted of 33,000 men, fully armed and equipped, and today there were nearly 50,000 troops in active training throughout Canada, with their members being increased daily by enlistments. Altogether the special war expenditure from August until the end of the present fiscal year, said Mr. White, would probably reach \$50,000,000, or the whole of the appropriation made at the special war session. Taking all expenditures into consideration, the increase of Canada's debt for the

Dominion Parliament.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—I am fortunate to live under the Union Jack. I am proud that I am a Canadian. With these inspiring words a German, the scion of a race that is endeavoring to destroy to the uttermost the Great British Empire, within whose realms he has made his home, rose in his place in the Commons today and moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. W. G. Weichel, the German Conservative member for North Waterloo was the young orator who made history by so doing. It was an epoch making speech. It told the Fatherland that the nation of the Kaiser had lost the sympathy of the German Canadian. Here are his own words: "German Canadians are proud of their history and their traditions, but they are not proud of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium nor of Louvain. German science is one thing; German militarism is another. This is a fight for liberty and future existence and for the eradication of militarism. "Wherever the Union Jack floats liberty and justice prevails. There is no servitude under our flag. The die is cast. The empire must win." The scene was one never to be forgotten. The galleries were crowded with a picked audience, picked because no one could get past the guards unless provided with a special ticket and the chamber itself was filled. All the ministers were in their places and General Hughes in his service uniform kept alive the reminder that war was with us.

The deep significance of Mr. Weichel's well weighed words stirred the house, and while the members were in no mood for wild cheering, yet generous applause greeted the young German from both sides. It is not often that Sir Robt. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the same time, perhaps less often still do Hon. J. D. Hazen and Hon. Wm. Pugsley exhibit the same sentiments on the same occasions, but they were all at one today when Mr. Weichel was making his historic speech. It is a fight for liberty, was his cry. "Canada and the Empire are in the right. This war was not desired by Great Britain. We are fighting in a just cause and there shall be no faltering. Once and for all we take issue with those who believed that might is right. German-Canadians are loyal to their King and Empire. I am not here to make an apology for German-Canadians. They cannot forget the land of their fathers, but they believe in British institutions. It was thrilling, this rare spectacle and men were touched to the core as they listened to his brave words.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The main estimates for the coming fiscal year, tabled in the commons last night, proved for a total appropriation of \$190,329,352, a decrease of \$17,769,320, as compared with the total amount voted in the both main and supplementary estimates still to come, this session's appropriations may equal those of last year, exclusive altogether of the \$100,000,000 voted for war. Of the main estimates tabled, \$146,287,277 are for consolidated fund account, a decrease of a little over ten millions, from last year. Capital account expenditures total \$44,092,075, a decrease of \$7,629,890. The principal increase in current account expenditure is for interest on the growing public debt. The increase on this head totals nearly \$9,000,000. On public works there is a decrease of a little over \$14,000,000. The Immigration Department has had its appropriation cut down by \$264,000; the Trade and Commerce Department by \$1,903,000; the Naval Service by \$105,000; the Fisheries by 150,000, and Militia and Defence by 5,828,000. This last decrease, however, is due mainly to the switching of the expenditures to the general war fund account. The chief items of capital expenditures on public works and railways and canals include \$8,128,250 for the inter-colonial Railway; \$1,938,925 for the Prince Edward Island Railway, and a total of \$9,459,000 to continue the works already underway at Esquimaux, Halifax, Port Arthur, Quebec, St. John, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria and other harbors.

After pointing out that there should be no hesitation in borrowing the full amount of the \$100,000,000 for the war, the Finance Minister introduced his new taxation proposals. These are in the form of increased customs duties and special taxes elsewhere referred to. These special taxes will come into force at a date to be fixed in the Act, with the exception of the taxes on wines and champagnes, which become effective at once.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES COLDS, ETC.

and sweeping increase in the tariff, and the levying of a special tax. In the House of commons yesterday Finance Minister White delivered what will go down in history as the most important budget since Confederation. He announced an increase of 7 1/2 per cent. ad valorem in the general and intermediate schedules, and an increase of 5 per cent. ad valorem to the British preferential. The free list is practically wiped out. Every article heretofore free or dutiable is effected with half a dozen important exceptions. The "special war revenue tax of one per cent. annually upon the note circulation of banks to be computed and paid quarterly. One per cent. on the gross income of trust and loan companies. One per cent. on premiums received in Canada by all insurance and associations except life, fraternal and marine companies, payments to be made quarterly. The above charges are made retroactive and apply to all transactions made after January 1st, 1915.

From today the following taxes will be applied. One cent on each telegraph or cable message originating in Canada to be paid by the sender. Five cents on each ticket costing over one and not more than five dollars, and five cents for each additional five dollars or fraction of five dollars on all railway and steamboat tickets to points in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States. For each sleeping car berth sold in Canada ten cents and for each part of car seat ticket, five cents. Upon steamship tickets to points other than in Canada, Newfoundland and the West Indies or the United States a tax of one dollar on each ticket costing over ten dollars, three dollars on tickets costing over thirty dollars, and five dollars on tickets costing over sixty dollars.

The following stamp taxes are applied: Two cents on each cheque, deposit receipt and bill of exchange, express order, post office order and bill of lading, and upon each postal note a stamp tax of one cent. Each letter or post card mailed in Canada must carry a war tax stamp of one cent. Upon each package of proprietary or patent medicines and perfumery a stamp of one cent up to ten cents value, and one cent for each additional ten cent charges. Non-sparking wines ten cents a quart. Champagne and sparkling wines twenty-five cents a pint. From the foregoing a revenue of \$8,000,000 a year is expected.

The increased customs charges are not to be applied to silk cambrics, velvets, ribbons, embroideries, wheat, flour, tea, anthracite coal, Newfoundland fish, salt for curing fish, lines, twines, nets and hooks, reapers, mowers, binders, harvesters binder twines, nets and hooks, chins, sugar, tobacco, news print paper, newspaper presses, typesetters and casters. Squid for bait and nicotine sulphate are added to the free list. Annual revenue of \$28,000,000 is expected from the increased duties. The draw back privilege of 99 per cent on duty paid on raw materials imported into Canada and manufactured and imported in "manufactured" form, is continued.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 11.—The political truce is ended. Hon. Wm. Pugsley took the first opportunity tonight not only to cast discredit upon the actions of the Government in strengthening the defences of the Pacific Coast by the purchase of two submarines which had been built at Seattle for Chilean Government, but he did the more dangerous and intensely unpatriotic thing of telling the enemies of Canada and the British Empire that these submarines were useless for defence purposes. This horrible invitation to the enemy, this notice that the Pacific Coast was an easy mark for hostile ships aroused the house to anger and provoked replies from Hon. J. D. Hazen and Sir Robert Borden which will live long in the memory of the members. Mr. Hazen in particular made a notable speech. It was his greatest effort since he became a member of the Government. His voice sang as he laid bare the lie that Pugsley had told. There was not a word of truth in the base story not a shadow of excuse for the trumped-up yarn that these submarines were not capable of play-

ing an effective part in defending Canada's western coast. All thought of the uneasiness and fear that he might occasion was cast aside for the cold-blooded attempt to make a little political capital at the expense or loss of confidence in Canada's fighting forces. In all that he said there was not a word that had a vestige of truth. In sweet accents he offered to vote any sum necessary for the building of submarines in Canada and the hollowness of the offer was exposed by the Prime Minister who showed that when it was possible to vote money to build ships that would have been of immense service to the Empire today Pugsley and his party had said nay. There was an interruption by Dr. Clarke, and the Premier with a voice of thunder retorted that he would be guided by what the opposition members did. "If there is going to be a fight it will not be a one sided fight," was his challenge and the opposition subsided.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—That legislation to prevent cities from dumping raw sewage into navigable streams will probably be passed this session would appear from a discussion of the question by the House this afternoon. The bill introduced at two previous sessions by Mr. Geo. H. Bradbury, of Selkirk, for the prevention of the pollution of navigable waters got its second reading, with an amendment added by its framer to give the government power to exclude certain waters from its operation. It was then sent to committee but as some opposition developed to longer delay in giving it effect, it was referred with the understanding that the committee should report to the House early in the session. Mr. Bradbury's bill prohibits the placing of any sewage or decomposing or harmful matter into any navigable stream, or stream flowing into navigable water, and fixes a penalty for municipalities, corporations or individuals who so offend. Mr. Bradbury explained that he had met certain objections to his former bill by inserting an amendment, empowering the government to remove any water from the operation of the act when it so desired. Statistics and evidence given before last year's commons showed that almost seventy-five per cent of typhoid and other such water-borne diseases could be prevented by legislation to prevent the pollution of drinking water. Hon. J. D. Hazen thought the bill should be referred to a committee until the report of the International Joint Commission, which had been considering the matter of pollution of boundary waters, had been received. He pointed out that drastic legislation against depositing sewage into navigable streams would cost the city of Montreal alone seven or eight million dollars and would work hardships in other cases. Sir Wilfrid Laurier approved the object of the bill, but thought that, as present drafted, it would work a hardship in unsettled districts, where every pioneer who built a saw-mill on a navigable water would be liable to "punishment" for pollution of such stream. He thought the bill should be drafted to give the government power to proclaim certain areas where the act would take effect, such as in the larger cities and towns. After some more discussion the bill was sent back to a committee for further consideration and amendment.

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Progress of the

London, Feb. 8.—Russia expected adoption of offensive operations in Poland, from Germans apparently withdrawing some force to the north and south, the most striking feature military situation on the continent. From Germany it is insisted that the capture of Warsaw, being pushed. But the claim several minor successes various points, and the German attack near climax several days ago, huge segment of the army is continuing its advance, but it is admitted that the Austrians gained some ground. point a severe snow storm to have aided them in an which Vienna states has in heavy losses to the forces in Dukla Pass. East Prussia there is little the Germans claiming the situation well in hand as the prevention of a Russian advance, without most severe fighting is on. In France and Flanders the situation is without change, sides are alert for the indication of activity on the part of their opponents. The and French are undertaking advantage of every delay to throw in reinforcements. Army affairs came up for discussion in the British House of Commons today, and the Minister made the statement the British casualties from beginning of the war had a total of 104,000. This average of 4,000 men were killed, wounded and missing.

London, Feb. 9.—Germany threatened submarine blockade of the waters around the Isles and France, and the question of the use of neutral flag merchant ships, belong to belligerents, continued to be the public mind in England in the neutral countries. Mrs. Grace has already applied to the German government effect that she expects to be protected by regulations governing navigation on the high seas and coast effectively blockaded. Holland and the Scandinavian countries are seeking joint action. The Ad steamer Wilhelmina, with aboard for Hamburg, was at Falmouth. It was possible that she had been seized there by one of the patrol ships, as the British government had announced its intention of presenting her from going to Germany and of bringing the question of her seizure before a prize court. A despatch from Falmouth, however, says the captain of the Wilhelmina declared he had proof that part of his own fleet. Outside of these great international law, the interest lies in the fighting eastern zone, the operation the west having lapsed period of calm, with only small engagements on fronts, which can have effect on the campaign as a whole. In the east, on the other the Germans having been in their efforts to bring Russian lines before they have transferred many troops to East Prussia, the Russian offensive in this region. This offensive has been expected to be a real danger to the Germans, as it threatens to drive a wedge between Tinterburg, and so, to the fortified position in the difficult country of the Lakes.

London, Feb. 10.—Under winter conditions the Austro-German army fighting another series of for possession of the Carpathians which will decide the Russian troops will be compelled to evacuate Galicia, as they have Bukovina. The Russian issued two official reports, operations, according to they have thus far had better of the fighting right wing has at succeeded in crossing the Tains, for it has been on a battle near Bart Svidnik, which on the side of the Carpathians