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## POSTAL DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES INCREASED

### Casgrain Maintains That Strict Economy is Being Exercised.

#### NEW BUILDING PLANS

Committee of Six Members of House Will Consider Awarding Contract.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, March 22.—The entire day was taken up by the consideration of the estimates of the postoffice department, in a committee of supply.

Postmaster-General Casgrain reviewed the work of the department for the past year, and accounted for an increase in expenditure by the increase of business, and the rapid extension of rural free mail delivery.

Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, announced the appointment of a committee to be chosen from each side of the house to assist him in the work of reconstructing the parliament buildings. The plans submitted by Messrs. Pearson of Toronto and Marchand of Montreal have met with general commendation.

In the committee discussion of postoffice estimates, Hon. Geo. P. Graham criticized ministers of the crown who had refused to permit the appointment of secretaries and other officials to volunteer for active service at the front. Their action, he said, had created unfavorable comment all over the province of Ontario, and had to be explained if not defended at nearly every recruiting meeting.

Mr. Proulx (Prescott) called attention to the fact that Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of customs, and Hon. J. D. Hasen, minister of marine, had spent the week-end in New York. He desired to know if they had gone there to confer with Col. J. Wesley Allison respecting his continued failure to appear before the public accounts committee.

Mr. Hazen said he had been in New York upon public business of a confidential nature and he had not seen that gentleman. Dr. Reid said he was in New York on personal and private business. Mr. Hazen, he had not seen Col. Allison.

**Hughes on Official Business.**

Mr. Laurier, the prime minister, stated that Major General Hughes had gone to England, and that he was enquiring into conditions at the Shorncliffe and Bramshott camps.

Mr. read a press despatch from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to the effect that the Canadian Government had placed an order at that point for 500,000 cans of Irish stew.

Hon. A. E. Kemp, acting minister of militia, denied the story in toto. He said that he had been purchased at any place by the Canadian militia department.

**Rebuilding Program.**

Hon. Robert Rogers then addressed the house upon the subject of the reconstruction of the parliament buildings.

"May I be permitted to bring once again to the attention of the house the very important question of the rebuilding of our house of commons? Immediately after the fire, the public works department undertook to make a general clean-up of the debris, and the house will understand was then so necessary to this purpose of recovering the bodies of the unfortunate who were lost as the result of the fire. This work has been done, and I regret to have to mention that which the honorable members of the house know—that we have not been able to discover the remains of our late fellow member, Mr. Law.

"I assumed the responsibility of selecting Mr. Pearson of Toronto and Mr. Marchand of Montreal, two very prominent architects, and asked them to come to Ottawa, first of all to make a report on the condition of the house as left standing after the fire, which has already been submitted to the house. After they had completed that report I asked them to prepare preliminary plans along the lines which were thought most suitable for the rebuilding of the structure.

"The plans so prepared were inspected. I think, by most of the honorable members of this house yesterday afternoon, and from what I have understood, they appear to meet with general acceptance.

**Committee to Consider.**

"Now, we are faced with the task of dividing the space in such a manner as will be suitable to the honorable members of the house, as well as suitable to the various offices connected with the work of the house, and now, also, comes immediately a further question or contentious point, which is the form of contract under which the work of rebuilding is to be proceeded with. Altogether, many important points are involved, which require prompt and careful consideration. In view of the fact that our house of commons is a common ground for both parties at all times, I confess I hesitate, as minister of public works, to assume the great task of undertaking to please everybody in connection with the many points incident to the carrying out of the work, and I therefore, am free to acknowledge that I feel the need of the friendly and sympathetic co-operation of both sides of the house, and in the hope of being able to secure this, I am going to ask the right honorable prime minister and the right honorable leader of the opposition to name three members from each side of the house to act with me in the making of all necessary arrangements for the rebuilding immediately of the house of commons."

It was then agreed that a committee should be appointed, to consist of three members from each side of the house.

**Leaders Like Designs.**

Both the prime minister and Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke in praise of the plans that had been prepared by Messrs. Pearson of Toronto and



## Troubled With Crippled Eyes?

In using the word Crippled we apply it to any eye not in perfect condition.

How about it—are your eyes among the list of cripples?

DO YOU KNOW?

Let us examine them. As Graduate Opticians we can tell you and furnish—at fair prices—the glasses or spectacles they may need.

OPTICAL DEPARTMENT

### H. W. TISDALL

JEWELRY STORE

150 Yonge St., Toronto

G. SAVORITO, Optometrist.

Marriage Licenses Issued

## CHAOS AT ZEEBRUGGE IS OUTCOME OF RAID

### As Air and Naval Base Port, It is Now of Small Value.

LONDON, March 22.—A despatch from the Rotterdam correspondent of The Daily Chronicle says: "As an air and naval base Zeebrugge is now of little value. The combined naval and aerial bombardment by the allies has reduced it to a chaos of crumbling masonry. The majority of the air bombs fell upon the Solway works, which caught fire, and the harbor, where several mine-layers were badly damaged."

"Practically the only things which were not damaged were two submarines, which promptly submerged in the dock when the attack began. Three torpedo boats were driven into the open sea to escape the falling bombs. They manoeuvred within the mine field, but were continuously harassed by the allied airmen and forced seawards, only to be chased by British destroyers."

## HAND GRENADE FIGHTING IN VERMELLES CRATERS

### German Positions Successfully Bombed by British Guns and Mortars.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, March 22.—Little news of importance was reported from the British front today, hand grenades fighting proceeding in the mine craters at Vermelles without changing the situation any, and the British successfully bombarding the German positions to the southwest of Wez-Murquart with guns and trench mortars. Two German mine explosions failed to inflict losses on the British troops.

## FOUR NOVA SCOTIANS LOST WITH STEAMER

### Capt. Butler and Three Sailors Among Victims of Port Dalhousie.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 22.—Four maritime province men, members of the crew of the Canadian steamer Port Dalhousie, sunk in English waters, lost their lives when the ship went down.

This morning a cablegram was received from England reading as follows: "Steamer Dalhousie sunk while anchored Saturday night. Exceedingly regret having to advise you (that among the lost were) Capt. Cutler, Halifax; J. J. Davis, Charlottetown; John McLean, Sydney, and J. G. Farrow, Pictou."

The Port Dalhousie sailed from Pictou early in January with a cargo of lumber for England, and has since been engaged in carrying freight between France and England.

## HOSPITAL SUPPLIES IN MESOPOTAMIA LACKING

### Chamberlain Says He Feared There Has Been Lamentable Breakdown.

LONDON, March 22.—In making a general defence of the conduct of the Mesopotamian campaign against attacks in the house of commons today, J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, said he regretted he was compelled to admit that in his opinion there had been a lamentable breakdown of hospital arrangements.

He did not seek palliation of some things which had taken place, but begged the house to remember the circumstances of very great difficulties. Mr. Chamberlain feared there had been an inexcusable shortage of medical supplies, owing largely to the difficulty of assembling suitable transport shops shallow enough for river use.

The Indian Government, he said, already had sent officers to investigate and remedy defects, and he hoped that measures taken by the home government also would result in speedy improvement.

## WANTED

Ransmen, Stenographers, Clerks, Shoemakers, Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Wheelwrights. Apply

### 216th Battalion C.E.F.

16 Adelaide West

## MANY ENGLISH HOMES SOLD TO CUT OUTLAYS

### Pinch of War Forces Thousands of Well-to-Do to Economize.

LONDON, March 22.—Thousands of stately homes of England are now changing hands, according to the real estate authorities. The old owners have in many instances been forced by increased taxes to seek more moderate places, and some of these estates are being purchased by people who have profited by the war thru contracts.

There is talk of wholesale migration and predictions that country life will undergo a revolution such as the Norman Conquest. Many of the estates may be cut up and parcelled out among disbanded soldiers.

In discussing the effects of the war upon the landed gentry, Frank Hirst, an economist, said that it was only a natural result and that these people would feel the pinch more than the poorer classes for many years to come. "It is impossible," he said, "to arrive at anything better than an approximate estimate of the economic cost of the war, even if we assume that it ends tomorrow. The mere economic effect of the loss of hundreds of thousands of young men in the prime of life and vigor is almost incalculable. We may safely assume that by November we had lost thru the war about one-third of all the wealth we possessed before."

## 127 GERMAN SUBS TAKEN

WASHINGTON, March 22.—One hundred and twenty-seven submarines have been captured by the British navy since the outbreak of the war, according to information from the British admiralty which has reached the United States coast guard officers.

## EMPRESS' CLAIMS REDUCED.

MONTREAL, March 22.—By agreement between counsel representing the claims in the Empress of Ireland steamship Stordard case, the total liabilities so far filed of \$3,375,429.31 have been reduced to \$2,888,238.01.

# Last Days

RED LETTER DAYS FOR THOUSANDS OF NEWSPAPER READERS WHO HAVE ENRICHED THEIR HOMES WITH THE PRICELESS POSSESSION OF

## Larned's Seventy Centuries of Mankind

On Final Distribution by

# The Toronto World

Toronto . . . . . Hamilton

## ENDING SATURDAY NEXT

This paper is one of a great syndicate of newspapers, distributing thousands of Larned's History at less than original cost to produce. Our readers have the exclusive privilege in this city. You can get it in no other way.

## TO DECREASE ACREAGE OF MANITOBA WHEAT

### Help Scarce and Wages High, and Growers Are Worried.

WINNIPEG, March 22.—Many of the farmers of Manitoba who cannot secure sufficient help have decided to put in a smaller acreage.

Wages will be beyond the reach of a large percentage of the farmers. The help to be expected from the soldiers will not be as extensive as anticipated.

Quite a number of men have been drifting into the city from the camps and other places, but the seething will start, have been unwilling to secure these men at once, and the result is that they are being snapped up by contractors.

## LIBERALS WILL NOT FIGHT DOHERTY BILL

### Caucus at Ottawa Yesterday Reported to Have Reached Agreement.

An Ottawa despatch to The Star says: "The Liberals were in caucus for a while this morning considering the remaining business of the session. Mr. Thos. MacNutt, of Saskatchewan, presented a formal statement was given out. It is understood that no opposition will be offered to the government's proposed temporary legislation. Liberal members will be allowed to talk and vote as they please. It is also understood that there will not likely be any statement by the finance minister's tariff and taxation proposals in their final stages of consideration.

## MORE STEAMERS DETAINED.

LONDON, March 24 6.10 a.m.—(Delayed).—The following steamers have been taken into Kirkwall: Harnmersford, Norwegian, and Narvik, Swedish, from Narvik for Philadelphia, with cargoes of iron ore; Oscar II, Danish, from Christiania for New York, with a general cargo and mails; tanker, from New York for Stockholm with petroleum, and Stenstad, Norwegian, from Baltimore for Aalborg with a cargo of maize.

## DESERTER GETS STIFF SENTENCE.

CALGARY, Alta., March 22.—William Jennings Morris, a private in the 56th Battalion, who deserted today to prison for a night at hard labor. This is the stiffest sentence yet given a deserter in military district No. 13.

## "MOONSHINER" IN MONTREAL?

MONTREAL, March 22.—In connection with the illicit whiskey still which was discovered by firemen at 321 Craig street on the night of March 15, when a fire broke out in rear of the barber's college at that address, Joseph N. Boyer, was arrested today. The charge against him is that he had in his possession liquor in fermentation.

## 170th BATTALION, C. E. F.

Want You as Their Guest

To See  
MR. PALMER vs. BILLY CRAWFORD  
& Other Bouts and Big Bill at

LABOR TEMPLE

Get tickets from men of the 170th, or at their headquarters, 53 Adelaide W.

FRIDAY, AT 8 p.m.

To Hear  
WILLARD vs. MORAN  
Returns Called Off at

GAYETY THEATRE, and TELE-GRAM OFFICE

By the boys of the 170th, who have doffed their trunks and put on khaki.

SATURDAY, AT 10 p.m.

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