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# The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING MARCH 1 1916

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,894

# WILSON IS DETERMINED TO FORCE A SHOWDOWN IN CONGRESS

## Turkish Army of Caucasus Decimated by Successes of the Russians

## GERMANS STOP VERDUN ATTACKS TO FIGHT IN WOEVRE

### BRITISH TARIFF REFORMS WILL AID DOMINIONS

#### Free Trade Policy Which Has Advantaged Enemy to Be Dropped.

### McKENNA QUITE FRANK

#### British Chambers of Commerce Declare Strongly for Imperial Preference.

LONDON, Feb. 29, 7.15 p.m.—Trade after the war was discussed by a notable gathering today of the representatives of all the great commercial organizations of the country forming the British Association of the Chambers of Commerce. Upwards of 1000 delegates were present, including the chief figures in all the lay industries.

The main interest of the gathering centred on a change in Great Britain's present tariff system, allowing practically free admission of foreign imports owing to the prevailing belief that Great Britain's free markets have been one of the chief sources of the building up of German industry.

Must Be Readjustment. The government's interest in the meeting was shown by the attendance of the chancellor of the exchequer, Reginald McKenna, who has charge of the framing of the tariff schedules. He addressed the executive committee, declaring that the government was not committed to adhering to the old economic policies, which the experience of the war had shown must be readjusted to the new conditions.

Representatives of Canada, Australia and other colonies, and the commercial attaché of the American embassy were present. Several important resolutions were adopted after an extended debate, two of them reflecting overwhelmingly the sentiment for an entire readjustment of the British economic and trade policy. The first resolution, unanimously adopted, was:

Internal Production Vital. "The experience of the war has shown that the strength and safety of the British nation in time of national peril lie in the possession by this nation of the power to pro-

duce the necessities of life. It is the duty of the government to secure this power by the most effective means available."

Roast Beef, 15  
Lard, 14  
Butter, 16  
Eggs, 18  
Sugar, 22  
Rice, 25  
Beans, 28  
Canned Fruit, 30  
Canned Meat, 32  
Canned Fish, 35  
Canned Vegetables, 38  
Canned Soups, 40  
Canned Stews, 42  
Canned Pickles, 45  
Canned Sauces, 48  
Canned Condensed Milk, 50  
Canned Sterilized Milk, 52  
Canned Evaporated Milk, 55  
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## WAR SUMMARY:

### Today's Events Reviewed

ALL that was left of the German infantry that swarmed up the slopes of the ridges and hills held by the French, without the French losing, but rather gaining ground since Saturday last, began to entrench where they stood yesterday, and thereby admitted defeat. The French last night reported some diminution in the storm of shells sent from the German batteries, and the absence of German infantry attacks throughout the day. But the Germans, loath to admit defeat, had stubbornly hurled waves of men against salient German infantry attacks throughout the day. The French probably inflicted casualties of forty or fifty per cent. of the attacking force of 350,000 men. The remnants of the German brigades and divisions engaged in the conflict will, therefore, have to be withdrawn from the fighting lines in order that the gaps in their ranks may be filled up by fresh drafts. It is pretty certain that these units will be out of action for two or three months, and that new troops will have to be found and employed for any fresh adventures which the kaiser may rashly undertake.

The French, it is now known, suffered comparatively few casualties till their infantry clashed with the Germans in a counter-attack to regain the position of Douaumont on Saturday. They had cleverly withdrawn their infantry from the positions which the Germans had begun to bombard a week ago Sunday, and the Germans did not discover that their birds had flown to a position which gave them nearly a mile's clear sweep for their fire, till they sent their infantry forward to the assault. When the bewildered Germans appeared in the open they were smitten as with the Black Death by the intense volume of fire which was poured from the readjusted French lines. Thence, southward, every foot of the ground was contested by an elusive force, which kept the Germans guessing all the time, and which exacted its toll of lives by rifle and machine gun bullet, while shrapnel completed the confusion of the German troops. By throwing reinforcements into the fighting lines and using up their reserves, which the French wanted them to do, German commanders thought that all was won when their troops swept into Douaumont. They committed the blunder of publishing in their official communique that

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 2 and 3.)

### TODAY'S PARADE

Leaves Exhibition camp 1 o'clock.  
Route: Dufferin street to King, to Jarvis, to Wellesley, to St. Albans, to Queen's Park, to University avenue, to Queen, to Bathurst; then via Old Fort road into camp again.  
Length of route, twelve miles.  
Length of parade, six miles.  
Soldiers taking part, 18,000.  
Saluting base, Queen's Park.  
Parade will reach King and Bathurst (about) 1.25 p.m.; King and Yonge, 1.50 p.m.; King and Jarvis, 2.05 p.m.; Wellesley and Jarvis, 2.25 p.m.; Queen's Park, 2.40 p.m.; University and Queen, 3.00 p.m.  
Time to pass given point, two hours.

### SEVERELY WOUNDED

Signaler Norman Gurnett of 218 St. George street, champion bomb thrower of the First Canadian Contingent, who has been severely wounded.

### SIGNALER N. GURNETT IS SEVERELY WOUNDED

Won Gold Medal for Being Best Bomb Thrower in First Canadian Contingent.

A message received yesterday by Mrs. I. A. Gurnett, 218 St. George st., from Ottawa conveyed the information that her only son, Signaler Norman Gurnett, had been severely wounded in the back and had been admitted to No. 18 General Hospital in France.

### TURK ARMY CUT TO PIECES THRU RUSSIAN ONSET

Corps of Three Divisions in Caucasus Reduced to Brigades.

### ERZERUM VERY STRONG

Only Fortress Controlling Main Highways of Anatolia and Armenia.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. PETROGRAD, Feb. 29.—The Russian general staff has issued an official statement combating certain Turkish statements intended to minimize the importance of Erzerum which the Russians recently took by storm and giving the Russian view of the Turkish losses, while describing the value of this fortress in the Turkish scheme of defence of Asia Minor.

The Russian statement is as follows: "The Turkish communications of the 21st state that the retreat of the Turkish army from Erzerum towards positions west of the fortress was effected without loss and that the Turks abandoned in the fortress only fifty odd guns they could not remove. At the same time Turkish headquarters denies statements alleged to have been disseminated by the Russians of the capture in Erzerum of 1,000 guns and 80,000 prisoners. The same Turkish communication declares that Erzerum was really not a fortress, but merely an open town with fortifications devoid of any value.

"In view of these assertions, the Russian general staff announces that the fortress of Erzerum was the only fortified point in the interior of Asia Minor protecting western Armenia and Anatolia and commanding all the best roads of Transcaucasia and the interior of Asia Minor. For many years past great improvements have been carried out in the works by the Turks with the assistance of Germans. The fortress in front rendered it naturally strong, while it was covered on the flanks by mountain masses, most difficult of approach and with their passes protected by powerful forts.

Formidable Barrier. "Such was the formidable barrier on the path of our offensive, with enormous defensive advantages on the northeast and east.

"During the five days' assault the fortress was defended by the Turks with stubbornness, to which the enormous number of dead and frozen bodies gives testimony. The Caucasus army succeeded in surmounting

### REFLECTION ON TORONTO IS RESENTED BY MAYOR

Hon. Frank Oliver Greatly Overstated Number of Vacant Houses.

"Absolutely untrue," was the comment made by Mayor Church last night on Hon. Frank Oliver's assertion in the house of commons that there are 9000 vacant houses in Toronto.

The mayor pointed out that the latest assessment rolls show only 2501 unoccupied houses, and declared that the percentage was less than four per cent., one of the lowest in America.

When war began there were but 1000 vacant houses, and the increase was due, he said, to families of soldiers taking flats.

### ITALY REQUISITIONING GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED

LONDON, Feb. 29.—It was announced in the house of commons today that the Italian Government had requisitioned 34 of the 37 German steamers interned in Italian ports.

### CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ADOPT WILSON POLICY

President, After Subduing Insurgents, Will Tackle Submarine Negotiations.

### HOT DEBATE IN SIGHT

Full Discussion Will Be Forced—Administration Leaders Confident.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—President Wilson decided today that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while dissension in congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a show-down on the pending proposals to warn Americans of merchant ships of the European belligerents armed for defence.

Making clear that he considers the president, and not congress, charged with the conduct of foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Pugh, acting chairman of the house subcommittee, asking him to provide parliamentary means for bringing the agitation out into the open on the floor of the house for full discussion and a vote. Later he summoned Senator Stone and Representative Flood, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and Senator Kern, majority leader in the senate, for a conference at the White House tomorrow morning, at which he will request that one of the various pending resolutions be acted upon in both houses.

Wilson's Backers Confident. Administration leaders are so sure of their position that they plan to end all agitation with a vote of confidence in the president's cabinet meeting at which it was decided to bring the matter to a head.

This course was decided on after today's cabinet meeting at which it was decided to bring the matter to a head. The president's cabinet meeting at which it was decided to bring the matter to a head.

Record Collections at Port of Toronto. Returns for February More Than Double Those of Corresponding Month Last Year.

Customs collections at the port of Toronto for February, 1916, amount to \$2,323,517, an increase of \$1,146,477 over the corresponding month of 1915, which totaled \$1,177,040.

February, 1913, was the previous high record. The past three months have all been record-breakers as follows: December, 1915, \$2,128,060; January, 1916, \$2,488,086; and February, 1916, as above.

### NINE HUNDRED LIVES LOST WITH CRUISER?

La Provence, French Auxiliary Warship, Was Sunk in Mediterranean.

CAUSE IS NOT STATED. Nearly Half of Those on Board Reported to Have Been Saved.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—It is estimated that 900 persons were killed or drowned in the sinking of the "Consultation" auxiliary cruiser, formerly the trans-Atlantic passenger steamer La Provence, in mid Mediterranean Sea on Saturday. It was announced by the French ministry of marine today. Eight hundred men were on board the vessel when she went to her doom. About 870 were saved, of whom 296 have been landed at Malta, and 400 on the Greek island of Melos. About 175 others have also been rescued. Ten boats have been sent to the scene of the disaster in order to pick up, if possible, others who may be floating round on wreckage.

It is believed that she was being used as a transport for troops. It is not known whether La Provence was sunk by mine, submarine, or merely by accident. She was one of the finest French vessels that sailed the Atlantic, being 13,753 gross tonnage, and at the time she was built at St. Nazaire, in 1906, she was the fastest ship in the French mercantile marine. She was 602 feet long, 65 feet beam and 35 feet deep.

### BRITAIN HAS POSTED HER ANSWER TO U.S.

It Deals With Protest Made Against Interference With Mails.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Great Britain has replied to the American protest against interference with the mails, and the document is on its way by post. Secretary Lansing was advised of its coming today, but did not announce any indication of the nature of the British reply.

### GERMANS STOP OFFENSIVE AGAINST FRENCH AT VERDUN

### BRITISH COLUMBIA ALSO TO VOTE ON PROHIBITION

VANCOUVER, Feb. 29.—Premier Bowser came to terms today with the prohibitionists and at the end of the year this province will be almost certain to join the dry column. The premier agreed to the prohibitionists' proposal to submit a referendum to the electors at the election, which must take place before June 1. A majority of the electors will be sufficient to carry the measure, which is to become law on Jan. 1 next if carried.

### HE SPEAKS TODAY



Lieut. Col. W. H. Price, M.L.A., for Parkdale, who will move the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the Legislature today.

### NICKEL TRUST'S METHODS ONCE MORE ASSAILED

W. F. Maclean Says Government Should Insist on Refining in Canada.

### Meighen's Explanation of Nickel Situation Did Not Satisfy Critics.

OTTAWA, Ont., Wednesday, March 1.—The budget debate closed at an early hour this morning and the resolutions proposed by the finance minister respecting the tax on war profits and the tariff changes were referred to the committee on ways and means. They will not doubt be discussed for some time in committee and may be somewhat amended.

### RECORD COLLECTIONS AT PORT OF TORONTO

Returns for February More Than Double Those of Corresponding Month Last Year.

Customs collections at the port of Toronto for February, 1916, amount to \$2,323,517, an increase of \$1,146,477 over the corresponding month of 1915, which totaled \$1,177,040.

### NO ORDERS FOR SHIPS TO FIGHT SUBMARINES

Instructions to British Merchantmen Not to Take Offensive, Says Lord Hugh Cecil.

### ONLY IN SELF-DEFENCE

German Twisted Passage in Document Taken From Transport Which They Sank.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—One of the eve of the date set by Germany for the beginning of her new submarine campaign against armed merchant vessels, Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war, has issued a statement giving the British view of the status of such merchantmen. This statement, which is in answer to queries whether merchantmen have been instructed to take the offensive against submarines, says: "The British view has always been that defensively armed merchantmen must not fire on submarines, or any other warships except in self-defence. The Germans have twisted a passage in a document taken from a transport in which they sank into meaning that merchant vessels have instructions to take the offensive. This is not so. The passage in question, which lays down a maximum distance beyond which merchant ships are advised not to fire, must be read in conjunction with another passage which makes it perfectly clear that merchant vessels must not attack unless a submarine shows unmistakably hostile intentions."

### No Infantry Attacks Launched by Teutons Who Begin to Entrench—Hun Artillery Fire Lessens—Local Fighting in Woevre.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, Feb. 29.—The German infantry which was hurled for several days against the slopes and heights north of Verdun on the eastern bank of the Meuse did not venture today to attack the French, who are now firmly established in front of them and even the terrific bombardments of the heavy German guns began to slacken, although it was still maintained with some show of spirit. Information from every source, neutral as well as belligerent, received today, tends to confirm the previous reports that German losses were sustained by the Germans in undertaking a great offensive when the French were well prepared to receive them. It is believed that the second phase and perhaps concluding phase of the battle is over.

Seeing that without heavy reinforcements they could not hope to attack the French positions with success today, the survivors of the German infantry that was thrown into the inferno, entrenched themselves on the slopes north of Côte du Poivre (Pepper Hill), leaving the first edge of this hill in the possession of the French. Samogneux, which was occupied by a German battalion, was shelled by French batteries.

The onsets of the Germans against the French positions did not cease till this morning, for during the night they were still able to launch violent local attacks, especially in the vicinity of Douaumont Village, where hand to hand combats raged, in which the French drove back their enemies.

Stormed Small Redoubt. The Germans in their official statement today only claimed that the region of the Verdun fighting, they stormed a small armored work west of the village of Douaumont. They assert that they captured 228 officers and 16,575 men from the French, but military observers here impugn the accuracy of these figures. They believe that the French losses in the Verdun region up to the end of last week did not equal that figure.

Some persons believe that the Germans now intend to abandon all projects of a big offensive in France at least for some time and point as a justification for this view to the reports from Russia of the great activity noted among the German troops on this front in the past few days.

Heavy Fighting in Woevre. Fighting in the Woevre, which local in its object, developed into considerable intensity during the first week of the month today claiming that they had passed Dieppe, Abaucourt and Bionasse, that they were about to enter the French region northeast of Watrinvillers and Handouville, and that they have taken Manheulles and Champligny. The fighting here is on a plain about seven miles south of Verdun. The French reported that the Germans had succeeded by an intense artillery fire in taking Manheulles Village, but a counter-attack immediately delivered brought them back to the western boundary of this village, which they held under their fire all day. Further attacks on this front were prevented by French artillery fire during the day. The French immediately opening a bombardment of the German positions whenever they perceived preparations under way for an onset by the enemy. The other places which the Germans claimed that they occupied and cleared of French troops were in the zone abandoned Saturday when they perceived that the Germans were preparing to make a big attack by opening a heavy bombardment.

Minor German Successes. The Germans also report the taking of a projecting portion of a French position near the foresters' house of the German north-west of Badonviller. The French say in reference to this action that in Loraine the enemy succeeded in penetrating several small sections of his advanced trenches, but he was driven out of these positions almost immediately. The Germans made no further attacks

### NEW MODEL FURS AT DINEEN'S

Unapproachable values in Dineen's furs during the closing days of the season's business. All the 1916 stock is offered at reduced prices, and new models in fur garments are introduced into the general selling. Special for today. New model Hudson seal coats, plain or trimmed. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

### MARKET

RAIDED 6100. SUGAR, 22.00. RICE, 25.00. BEANS, 28.00. CANNED FRUIT, 30.00. CANNED MEAT, 32.00. CANNED FISH, 35.00. CANNED VEGETABLES, 38.00. CANNED SOUPS, 40.00. CANNED STEWS, 42.00. CANNED PICKLES, 45.00. CANNED SAUCES, 48.00. CANNED CONDENSED MILK, 50.00. CANNED STERILIZED MILK, 52.00. CANNED EVAPORATED MILK, 55.00. CANNED SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK, 58.00. CANNED STERILIZED SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK, 60.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 62.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 65.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 68.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 70.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 72.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 75.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 78.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 80.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 82.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 85.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 88.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 90.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 92.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 95.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 98.00. CANNED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED STERILIZED CONDENSED MILK, 100.00.