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VOL. XXXVII.-No. 13,239

# FORTY PENDELE DROWNED OFF THE CALIFORNIA Important British Gainson Two Fronts

The Toronto World

ENEMY LOSES GROUND AND MANY PRISONERS ON SOMME AND ANCRE

Highest Point of Sailly-Saillisel Hill, Baillescourt Farm and Another German Trench Are Captured, in Vigorous Follow-Up of Former Successes.

London, Feb. 8.—The British made important progress in the fighting on the Somme and Ancre fronts in France today when they captured an important German position on the highest point of Sailly-Saillisel Hill, on the Somme front; Baillescourt farm on the Beaucourt-Miraumont front, north of the Ancre, and another German trench between Grandcourt and their old front line.

The British took 160 prisoners in all these operations.

Since the new year the British have gained on the Ancre, ground of an average depth of nearly three-quarters of a mile on a front of over

three miles.

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Take Over the Railways and

How much longer is the Canadian Government to delay taking over the railways of Canada and putting them under one management so as to secure the greatest efficiency and the best possible service under the war conditions which now obtain? And especially in view of the absolute falldown of the railways in Ontario to keep Toronto and towns of the province supplied with coal, not to mention the other services in which there have been more or less of a collapse! Everyone knows that the United States may be at war with Germany within a week; and when that happens who dare foretell what is in store for us, not only in the matter of railway service but getting supplies necessary to keep things going in Ontario?

And there is another question that concerns the government of Ontario. What does this government propose to do to secure an immediate and further development of hydro power for public use in this province? Why are the plans of the Hydro-Electric Commission for a power canal along the Canadian bank of the Niagara River, from Chippawa Creek to Queenston Heights, not already under way? And why are not all the other rivers being surveyed with a view to the production of power? We may not be able to get coal from the United States for months, perhaps for years, if America is to be plunged into war in any way like Europe has been plunged into it!

And for nearly three years now we have been sitting inactive in this matter of railways and power! In Eugland they took over the railways on the first day of the war, and they took control of the coal supplies, and, most of all, prohibited export thereof. We have been allowing power to go out of the country and have not been taking steps to increase the production of it; and if we cannot get coal how are we going to drive our railways? Many of our water powers are already alienated to private corporations and interests; and when we have to get them back it will only be by paying enormously for them!

Why not issue today an order by the government here and the government at Ottawa that not another water power is to be alienated by anybody, inasmuch as they may all be required to drive our railways and factories? They may be needed to heat our houses yet!

It is not wise for a newspaper in the present state of affairs to say too much about these questions, but certainly the people of Canada are surprised that no action of a really national character has yet been undertaken by the authorities, either here or at Ottawa. That is why The World calls for national government in these war times and in a truly national sense.

## he Railways and Power Flants Forthwith FORTY PERSONS ARE DROWNED; **CALIFORNIA SANK IN 9 MINUTES**

### Deliberate Insult Given U.S. In Ambassador's Detention

#### "Has Germany Gone Utterly Mad?" is Question Being Asked by Washington Officials.

Washington, Feb. 8 .- The amazing story of how Ambassador Gerard and Americans in Germany have literally been held as hostages for the safety of Count Von Bernstorff and other Germans in the United States has bewildered and angered official Washington. The pertinent question is, "Has Germany, gone utterly mad?" The insult is particularly keen in that the United States has made the most vigorous efforts to get safe conduct for the former German ambassador and succeeded only today.

What action will be taken in the Gerard case is difficult to say. Some observers here believe that the administration is deliberately postponing any warlike moves until all Americans are safely out of Germany. There are several hundred American citizens in Austria, from whom no word has come in several days, and fears are entertained for the safety of those in Syria and other parts of Asiatic Turkey.



Special Cable to The Terents World. Paris, Feb. 8.—In the region north of Salonics the French outposts have occupied Ojani and they are now before Vesteni. The Germans and Bulgarians have shown a certain amount of activity along the whole front. The British forces have repulsed Bulgarian recon-along the whole front. The British forces have repulsed Bulgarian recon-ship was able to send out "S. O. S."

No Time Given for Passengers to Take to Lifeboats, and Escape Was Impossible Owing to Presence of Two Submarines.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Feb. 8 .- Nearly fifty Dassengers or members of the crew of the Anchor liner California, which was torpedoed yesterday off the west coast of Ireland, are still missing. Twentyeight of these are believed to be members of the crew.

The California, which was armed, was attacked so quickly according to stories told by the survivors, that her gunners were unable to use their guns. The liner sank nine minutes after the torpedo struck her.

The only life boats which were accessible, because of the list of the steamer when she was struck. were those on the port side. Despite this fact, however, there was no panic. A few persons fell overboard when a heavy wave struck a life boat, but all the occupants of the boat, it is believed, were rescued from the water.

A number of persons were injured His body was brought to land by the steamer which picked up the life boats. The Anchor Line has made arrangements to have the wounded cared for until they are well and then taken to their homes.

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## Baby

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f soft white tape bound ursday .49

SUBMARINES TO SHELL AMERICAN COAST TOWNS equipment now possessed by them is to consolidate them under one man-agement, to cut out all competitive services, to co-ordinate and to consoli-

use of thousands of small power Special to The Toronto World. New York, Feb. 8.-In the opinion | craft with rapid fire guns and also the of several of the highest officers con- use of nets to protect channels and nected with the United States army

"As to Germany's ability to starve and navy, seen at the Army and Navy and navy, seen at the Army and Navy Club tonight, there will be spasmodic rines, she has utterly failed thus far, cases of German submarine attacks and cannot succeed now. Germany all along the coast of the United ficet. I dare say her submarine losses States if hostilities are declared be- since the beginning of the war will tween this country and Germany. run as high as 200.

"Such a thing is to be expected." "Germany from what we know of maid one of the highest naval authori-ties. "It would be in accordance with submorines. Her concerting the seas with a vast fleet of submarines. Her capacity has a lim-it, and you can gamble that it has Germany's policy of doing the spectacular. There is no reason why been worked to the limit from the Germany could not slip a few sub- day war began.

"The present outbreak of activity is marines across the Atlantic as soon as summer weather settles down, throw probably due to the fact that a new summer weather settles down, throw submarine fleet has been sent to sea a few shells into America sea coast and is actively operating. England cannot prevent them from reaching British waters, but she can proceed to towns and perhaps sink a few ships. Germany might even send over a zep pelin just to try to obtain some moral destroy them after they are there.

They will do some damage. Germany "Such acts, however, would be sen- will fail to establish a blockade of sational, but not at all important. The England. She cannot build subma-German navy is not coming over. No rines enough to do it. Putting a sub-wholesale submarine attack would be marine fence around England is all possible, for the United States can right in the theory, but what good is readily organize a defence similar to it when the pickets in the fence are that employed in British waters by the 100 miles or so apart?"

And as for the railways the only way to get enciency with the limited equipment now possessed by them is to consolidate them under one man-

And if it is true that the railway companies have allowed their equipment to fall down because they have not seen their way to paying sufficient wages to get men to keep locomotives and the right of way up to full efficiency then the state must intervene, must secure labor, must pay whatever the price is in order to protect the people from the dangers that threaten! Where would we be if anything should happen in a night, as it may happen, to our supply of power from the Niagara River? We haven't even enough ferry boats to take cars across the lakes if we had to bring coal in that way. And of course we never know when our supply of coal iron the States will be cut off, even if we had cars and railways; and if we have

to bring coal from the west or from the maritime provinces, where is the railway equipment for the increased duty?

Is it not criminal to allow the railways to dissipate their energies in competition when co-ordination and co-operation will improve the service 200 per cent. and at the same time secure a better system of repairs, of construction, of new engines and things of that kind?

The World does not say that Sir Robert Borden should not go to the imperial conference that has been summoned to meet in London; but we do say that the prime minister should not leave Canada without taking over the railways first. A bill is now going thru congress whereby the president of the United States can take over all the railways without a moment's notice, and we should have done the same thing the first day we were in war. We have gone backward in all that time. How much longer?

There never will be such an opportunity to nationalize the railways of Canada as at this moment, and there never will be such another opportunity to have public ownership of the railway lines in Ontario as at this moment, and at the same time to get control of all the power-generating

OVER GERARD AND SUBS

Technicality, But is Ready for

Any Emergency.

Additional cause for uneasiness was

plants in this province, now owned by private companies! What is the policy of the two governments in this most serious situa-

tion? The welfare of the nation ought to be supreme.

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

\* WAR SUMMARY \*

WASHINGTON IS UNEASY S UCCESS attended the British operations on the Somme and the Ancre at Sailly-Saillisel Hill, Baillescourt farm, and court, yesterday. In the morning they attacked an important German position on the summit of the Sailly-Saillisel Hill, and they captured it, so that they now dominate the Wilson Will Not Plunge Country Into War on a German positions in the wood between Sailly-Saillisel Village and the ravine of the Tortille River, a tributary of the Somme. The next move will probably bring them into a position to dominate the Tortille and in front of it, Mont St. Quentin. The German batteries numbering two or three thousand guns, all told, behind Mont St. Quentin, have enjoyed comparative security from allied bombardments, but once the allies estab-Washington, Feb. 8 .- The American | senger liner California with an Amerilish their observation posts along the Tortille ravine, they will make the present positions untenable for the German artfliery. When it begins to Government still is without the official can on board, makes out a clear cut retreat, the moment will arrive for a successful forward thrust on a large scale.

\* \* \* \* \*

considered necessary to justify Presi- rights of the U.S. On the Ancre the British followed up their capture of Grandcourt with dent Wilson in going before congress for authority to use necessary means presented as determined not to plunge good results. They vigorously attacked the enemy on both banks. They to protect American seaman and the country into war on a technicality. captured the Baillescourt farm on the Beaucourt-Miraumont road, north of the Ancre, and they carried another German trench lying between Grandcourt and their old front line. In all they took 160 prisoners, 78 at people. There no longer is any doubt that Sailly-Saillisel Hill, and 82 on the Ancre. The British official communithe ruthless submarine campaign is cation says that since the new year the aggregate ground gained on the Ancre represents an advance to a depth of nearly three-quarters of a mile on a front of more than three miles. The fact that they made this great progress by slow and continuous pressure and local advances bears further witness to the failure of the German organization to devise a tactical system capable of checking the British troops.

instead of plying their usual trade; if no American life has been lost it is as soon as reports are received. Greater activity than for some time marks the situation on the front Greater activity than for some time marks the situation on the front north of Salonica, in the past day or so, both the allies and the enemy sharpening their operations. The French advanced posts in the Lake Presba region have occupied Ojani, and they now stand before Vesteni. due entirely to chance. Presba region have occupied Ojani, and they now stand before Vesteni. The British have repulsed Bulgarian reconnaissances at Kalendra, six and the basis of preliminary reports, the information regarded as confirming retorpedoing without warning of the pas- (Concluded on Page 10, Column 1);

(Centinued on page 2 cole. 1 and2.)

along the whole front. The British forces have repulsed Bulgarian recon-naissances at Kalendra, about six miles southwest of Seres. A French official communication on the campaign in the Salonica theatre of the war, issued tonight, says: "Eastern theatre: For several days artillery fighting was particularly pronounced on the Vardar, on the Franco-Italian front in the direction of Bailing and at Monestin. The anomy has shown a certain activity slowed in the launching of the life-

**DUTCH READY TO** 

Holland.

Bojilla and at Monastir. The enemy has shown a certain activity along The news of the sinking of the Calithe whole front. Bulgarian reconnaissances have been repulsed at Kalendra, 10 kilometres southwest of Seres. Several patrols have been operating south of Lake Presba. Our advanced posts have occupied Ojani and are before Vesteni."

**REPLY TO WILSON** Country Will Continue to Go But German Piracy Will Not effort to accelerate, the sinking, but Affect Policy of on "Maintaining Strictest Neutrality." FIRM IN NEUTRALITY

**SWEDEN CURT IN** 

NO REASON TO CHANGE

Premier's Speech Clearly In-Wilson's Method Absolutely dicates Wilson's Sugges-Contrary to Principles Guidtion is Not Acceptable. ing Sweden.

London, Feb. 8.-A Reuter despatch

Stockholm, via London, Feb. 8.—The Swedish government rejects President Wilson's suggestion that other neutral countries join with the United States in severing diplomatic relations with nead ca statement on the submarine situation. He said the government had no reason to change the attitude termany, and declares its intention to it had observed previously during the Germany, and declares its intention to it had observed previously during the follow the strictest neutrality so long war thru Germany's threat of intensi-as it is possible. Sweden's reply was delivered to the American minister to-delivered to the American minister to-day.

"The government of the United ion that law remains law, even when States has chosen as a means of arriv-ing at the realization of peace a method absolutely contrary to the principles upheld the principle Holland, the premier said, especially upheld the principle of freedom of the seas. Accordingly, while maintaining

ing at the realization of precedence of the principles of the principles of the principle of freedom of the seas. Accordingly, while maintaining an impartial standpoint in the var, she had energetically protested to Germany, both against obstruction to free navigation and against the deliberate employment of submarines as not being in accordance with international law. "There is now," said the premier, "no more reason for the government of the seas. Accordingly, while maintaining an impartial standpoint in the var, she had energetically protested to Germany, both against obstruction to free navigation and against the deliberate employment of submarines as not being in accordance with international law. "There is now," said the premier, "no more reason for the government of the seas. Accordingly, while maintaining an impartial standpoint in the var, she had energetically protested to Germany, both against obstruction to free navigation and against the deliberate employment of submarines as not being in accordance with international law.

Swedish government on Monday. The to change its international policy than

text of the note follows: Previous Efforts. "The policy followed by the royal government during the war has been one of strictly impartial neutrality. The policy of strict impartiality, and policy of strict impartiality, and

evidence of an overt act by Germany case of technical violation of the one of strictly impartial neutrality. The paint and its resolve to offer armed royal government has done everything maintains its resolve to offer armed royal government faithfull all the resistance to any violation of our terin its power faithfully to fulfil all the President Wilson, however, is reduties it and at the same time it has renit and at the same time it has refi-dered effective as far as possible the rights derived therefrom. With a view to obtaining a practical result in up-holding the principles of international When he moves it will be on complete evidence of an outrage about which there can be no question. Then he ex-

law the royal government has several times addressed itself to neutral pects to have the American people and in full swing in defiance of the warn-ing of the U. S. Everywhere it is be-Unofficial despatches today told of powers in order to effect co-operation, with the aforesaid object in Above all, the royal government has not failed to submit to the government lieved that if no American ship has the killing of an American negro sailor been destroyed it is because American named George Washington in the sinkof the United States a proposal to this been destroyed it is because American ships are lying idle in their harbors details were given and the state depart-

fornia reached London yesterday after-noon, before the survivors had yet arrived on land, but publication was not permitted till more than 24 hours later. The California was an armed liner. carrying a single 4.7 gun mounted on the stern. The gunner was just train-ing the weapon on the spot where oil bubbles had revealed the presence of the underwater enemy when a torpedo struck the port side with an explosion RESIST INVASION struck the port side with an explosion so violent that most of the people were thrown off their feet, five being killed and a score injured. The submarine fired a second torpedo in an apparent the second shot missed, altho both tor-pedces were fired from a distance of

less than 300 yards. There was only one American aboard the California, and he is among the

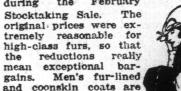
survivors. Couldn't Wait for Boats. Capt. Henderson, commander of the California, declares that the conduct of the passangers and crew was ex-emplary. There had been careful drills on the ship on the way across and every person aboard had been assigned a place in a lifeboat and provided with a life belt. But, de-spite the coolness of the passengers and the seamanship of the crew, the successful launching of the boats was made impossible by the shortness of the time between the torpedoing of the vessel and her disappearance be-neath the waves, which did not perneath the waves, which did not per-mit witing until the ship had lost

while the boats were being lowered from the sloping decks the California continued to move forward, lurching lake a drunken man, and the roar of the water rushing thru the gaping hole in her side could be heard above the shouts of officers and men. In a number of cases it was necessary for the passengers to jump into the boats after they were in the water, and in one case a boat with its apportioned load, was swamped and sunk, many of the occupants being swept under the ship before the other boats could give help.

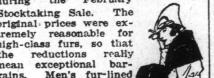
Some of the lifeboats in the after part of the ship were actually in the water when released from the davits, so rapidly did the ship settle by the stern. A considerable number of the crew jumped from their stations into the sea and swam to the boats. It was extremely fortunate that the weather was calm and the sea glassy, otherwise it would probably have been impossible to launch a single boat.

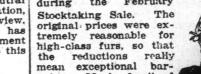
Caring for Wounded. The townspeople (name of port. omitted), who crowded the quays, car-ried blankets, clothing and food, and ried blankets, clotning and food, and were eager to be of some assistance to the survivo s when they were brought ashore. Aside from those in-jured, few of the survivors needed much help, but some were thinly clad and gladly accepted gifts of clothing. Naval and military Red Cross contingents were present to care for the injured, who were removed to hos-

According to the reports received by the American embassy from some of the survivors, there was only one sub-Alice Davies, 716 Eathurst street, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detec-tive Taylor, on a charge of stealing un-derclothing and cther articles from the Robert Sington store.



view.





effect."

which this policy imposes upon ritory or sovereign rights by any power whatsoever. DINEEN'S STOCKTAKING SALE. Reductions of 25 to 50 per cent. ap-

ply on all Dineen's regular stock offers during the February

pitals.

