

FOR RENT
RYRIE BUILDING
COR. YONGE & SHUTTER STS.

PROBS—Southwest to west winds, and for the most part cloudy and mild.

ITALIANS REPULSE FOE ASSAULTS
CIVIL WAR IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA—KERENSKY ARMY IS NEAR PETROGRAD
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CENTRAL POWERS NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH RUSSIA

OUTRAGED, BRITISH SHIPS FOUGHT WELL

Two British Destroyers Did Battle With Four Enemy Cruisers.

BRITAIN IS ANGERED

Fate of Convoy Certain to Provoke Strong Press Criticism.

New York, Dec. 18.—An Associated Press cable from London, dated Monday, Dec. 17, received here this morning, says:

The successful attack by German warships on a convoy in the North Sea, resulting in the sinking of the vessels, as announced in the house of commons today, came as an uncomfortable surprise to the British public. It is expected to cause a revival of the serious criticism of the admiralty such as that at the time of the successful German attack on a convoy of Scandinavian merchantmen in October. Added to this is the raid made off the Tyne last Wednesday by German warships. As a result of these two expeditions one British destroyer has been sunk, another seriously damaged, five trawlers and eight merchantmen have been sent to the bottom, another trawler has been damaged and a number of men have been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Four Enemy Cruisers. According to Danish accounts, the force which attacked the convoy consisted of four cruisers, in addition to destroyers. A painful aspect of the affair, from the British public's point of view, is that apparently all the attacking vessels escaped and returned to their bases. Another unpleasant feature is that the British cruiser squadron detached to protect the convoy against surface attacks, for some

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SERIOUS VIEWS TAKEN OF GERMAN EXPLOITS

London Critics Condemn Admiralty for Repetition of Previous Naval Mishaps.

DEMAND FULL ENQUIRY

Press Editorials Comment on Absence of Covering Force to Protect Convoy.

London, Dec. 18.—The serious view entertained here of the successful German double attack on shipping in the North Sea is reflected by the great prominence and space given in the morning newspapers to this incident. Not much of the editorial comment is restrained, the desire being expressed by several commentators to await the result of the official inquiry. Nevertheless some sharp criticisms find their way into the editorial columns, with pointed references to the explanations given at the time of the October raid.

The Daily News says: "The disaster will create indignation as well as deep concern." It finds it difficult to speak with necessary reserve of the affair, which it says suggests a deplorable failure in the face of the October precedent.

The occurrence of two such incidents adds the paper, "is calculated to convert disquiet into anxiety. The public has had more than enough of these things both at sea and ashore and has come to judge profoundly of the efficiency of the military and naval services as judges in affairs concerning themselves."

The Daily Chronicle says: "The serious feature is the painful reflection cast upon the administrative efficiency of the grand fleet. Such a mistake would not be repeated after an eight weeks' interval unless some screws in the machinery were very dangerously loose. The circumstances call for a court of inquiry appointed by the admiralty from the outside. It is not enough for the enquiry to be appointed by the commander-in-chief, or composed of his subordinates."

The Times says: "The attack requires a good deal more of explanation than the raid in October, concerning which the two points made by the first lord were that the wireless was smashed and that the enemy came at night. Neither of these pleas appears relevant in the attack, and the exploit and while judgment must be suspended until after the inquiry, it is impossible not to feel that the thing should never have happened."

The Daily Express says: "The public demands to know why the

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FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA

Bolsheviki Send Reinforcements From Petrograd to Their Troops in Don Region.

UKRAINIANS SEIZE ARMS

Maximalist Organ Denies Report Germans Demanded Disarmament of Russian Army.

London, Monday, Dec. 17.—Reports on the Russian internal situation tonight indicate that fighting is continuing in the Don region and that reinforcements have been sent south from Petrograd.

A Kiev despatch tonight reports that during the disarming of the Maximalist units there the Ukrainians troops seized 72 cannon, 350 machine guns and 5,000,000 cartridges. It is stated in other advices that the Russian Government commissions are drafting an ultimatum addressed to the Ukraine Rada, recognizing the independence of the Ukraine, but demanding an immediate expression of the rada's attitude toward the Bolsheviki. The rada had issued a statement declining to recognize the people's commissioners as comprising the government of all Russia, inasmuch as the Don, the Caucasus, Siberia and other parts of Russia have their own governments.

In connection with the signing and publication of the terms of the armistice on the Russian front it is stated that the Russian delegation at Brest-Litovsk has been augmented to include P. Pokrovsky, president of the Moscow soldiers' and workmen's council, and others.

The Maximalist organ, Prava, takes occasion to denounce as untruthful the allegations that the Germans in the armistice negotiations demanded the evacuation of Petrograd and Finland, the disarmament of the Russian army and a grant to Germany of a monopoly in grain exports.

According to the reports of the Bolsheviki public works department and railway administration the arrival of food of all kind in the last few days have been satisfactory at Petrograd, Moscow and all the populous places in north Russia and on the north and south fronts.

MEWBURN SAYS ACT WILL BE ENFORCED

Minister of Militia and Defence Declares Promises Will Be Kept in Respect to Conscription.

Major-General S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia and defence, was in Toronto last night on his way to Ottawa. He expressed himself as immensely gratified with the result of the federal elections.

KERENSKY WITH ARMY NOW NEAR PETROGRAD

Swedish Report Says Ex-Premier is Marching on Russ Capital—Has Big Force.

Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—A report that former Premier Kerensky of Russia, supported by some thousands of troops, has appeared in the vicinity of Petrograd, is contained in a despatch from Haparanda, in Sweden, at the Finnish frontier, to The Evening Ke Tidende. The Bolsheviki are said to have sent troops against him.

All advices which have been received recently regarding conditions in Russia have tended to show that the Bolsheviki were strengthening their position and were encountering little opposition, except on the part of Cossacks in southern Russia. Under these conditions, it appears hardly probable that Kerensky could assemble a force of any size and reach the vicinity of Petrograd.

FORTY ENEMY DIPLOMATS AT PACIFIC PORT OF U. S.

Central Powers' Officials Reach America on Route Home Under Allies' Safe Conduct.

A Pacific Port, Dec. 18.—Forty German embassy and consular officials from Japan, China, Honolulu, Manila and other Pacific Ocean ports arrived here today from the Orient on a United States army transport on their way to their native country.

The party, which includes women and children, has been guaranteed safe conduct by the allied governments. The group was guarded by federal authorities.

TO OPEN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY

German and Austrian Foreign Ministers on Way to Brest-Litovsk.

ENTENTE NOTIFIED

Allies Are Asked by Russia to Share in Negotiations.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 17.—The German and Austrian foreign ministers, Dr. von Kuehlinmann and Count Czerwin have notified Leon Trotsky, the Bolsheviki foreign minister, that they will arrive at Brest-Litovsk Tuesday to begin negotiations for a general European peace.

The evening newspapers announce that Trotsky has notified the allied embassies that the armistice has reached definite results and that peace negotiations will begin and asking them to participate or to state whether they wish peace or not.

Up to this evening the embassies had not received the communication, and an informal conference of the allied diplomats is said to have reached no definite decision.

United States Won't Take Part. Washington, Dec. 18.—It is assumed at the state department that the reply of United States Ambassador Francis to the invitation of Leon Trotsky, foreign minister of the Bolsheviki government to participate in the peace negotiations would be that he has no instructions from the American Government. No instructions have been sent to Mr. Francis, and it was indicated that none authorizing him to have anything to do with peace negotiations would be sent.

The recurring suggestion in Europe for de facto recognition of the Bolsheviki has not been supported here, and it is believed that the ambassador will be expected to do nothing more in connection with the peace parleys than to observe developments and report them.

DOMINIONS PRAISED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS

Empire Parliamentary Association Conveys to Overseas Legislatures Thanks for Activities.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Lieut.-Col. Ernest J. Chambers, chief press censor for Canada, in his capacity of secretary of the Canadian branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association, has received from Mr. Howard P. Enville, secretary of the United Kingdom branch of the association, a resolution at the annual meeting of the association, on motion of the secretary of state for the colonies, seconded by the Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, ex-home secretary, supported by Mr. Adamson, M.P., leader of the Labor party, as follows:

"The members of both houses of parliament, assembled at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch, desire to convey to the members of the association in the parliaments of the Dominion, their deep admiration for the manner in which the parliaments of the overseas nations have provided men, money and material for the prosecution of the war. At the greatest crisis in the empire's history, the legislatures of the dominions overseas have risen to a full appreciation of our common responsibilities, and the members of the association in the mother of parliaments, desire to express to their Dominion colleagues their conviction that the sacrifices and sufferings endured for a common object will be the means of bringing about an even more complete, understanding and co-operation between the parliaments of the empire in the future."

GERMAN AIRPLANES IN RAID ON LONDON

Bombs Dropped on British Capital and in Counties of Kent and Essex.

London, Dec. 18.—German airplanes raided English coast towns tonight. Some of the raiders reached London, where they were met with a heavy fire. Numerous bombs were dropped.

An official announcement of the raid says: "Hostile airplanes crossed the Essex and Kent coast about 6.15 o'clock and proceeded towards London. Some of the raiders reached the London district and dropped bombs. Bombs also were dropped in Kent and Essex. Reports of casualties and damage have not yet been received. Our guns and airplanes were both in action."

RECONSTRUCT RAILWAY TERMINALS AT HALIFAX

North Street Station in Use Again, and Work of Reconstruction is Proceeding Apace.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Dr. Reid, minister of railways and canals, received information today from Halifax that all work in connection with the railway buildings is progressing very satisfactorily, that material and men are arriving quickly, and that the elevator will be operating again this week.

When he left on Saturday, the Hon. Dr. Reid says, trains were running regularly into the North street station. The minister expects to have temporary houses ready for his railway-men within a couple of weeks.



THREE HALIFAX SUFFERERS BEING GIVEN NEW CLOTHING. "Women and children first" was the motto of those in charge of the Halifax relief. These women and their children were given warm clothing from the relief station at Alexandra School.

CANADA'S DEMOCRACY TRUE TO HIGH IDEALS

Borden Cables Hughes Election Results and Wishing Australian Conscription Campaign Well.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Sir Robert Borden has sent the following cablegram to Premier Hughes of Australia, dated from Ottawa, December 18, 1917: "In yesterday's election the enforcement of compulsory military service to sustain Canada's effort in the war and to provide adequate reinforcements for the Canadian army corps was directly in issue. The government has been sustained by a majority of at least 50, which will probably be increased to 60 by the soldiers' vote. The democracy of Canada has magnificently sustained the highest test of its courage, vision and endurance. Canada has watched with admiration, and we send warmest wishes for every success in the splendid campaign now being carried on in your country to provide reinforcements for the heroic Australian forces whose wonderful achievements in the cause of liberty and civilization have brought world-wide honor and distinction to your great commonwealth."

ENEMY ATTACK UNSUCCESSFUL AND EXPENSIVE

Austro-German Offensive at Monte Solarolo Breaks Down.

OTHER FRONTS QUIET

Heavy Snow and Bad Weather Generally Hinder Troop Operations.

London, Dec. 18.—On none of the battlefronts, except that in northern Italy, are military operations of great magnitude ensuing. Heavy snow and bad weather generally has brought the fighting almost to a standstill on the western front in France and Belgium, except for small encounters by outposts and reciprocal bombardments.

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HAIG'S MEN REPULSE ENEMY RAIDING PARTY

Hostile Artillery Active at Bullecourt and in Other Western Sector's.

London, Dec. 18.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight says: "A hostile raiding party was repulsed this morning south of Fontaine-l'Évêque. The hostile artillery was active at midday east of Bullecourt, and also has shown increased activity at different points between Lens and Armentières and east and north of Ypres."

U. S. Submarines Collide And One Goes to Bottom

London, Dec. 18.—The American submarine F-1 has been sunk in a collision with her sister boat, the F-3, in American waters. Nineteen men perished in the accident. The F-3 was not damaged. Her crew was able to rescue five men belonging to the crew of her victim.

SIR WILFRID DECLARES RETURNS INCREDIBLE

Mitchell Reports No Public Man in Canada Received Ovaions Like Him in West.

Sudbury, Dec. 18.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier and party passed thru Sudbury at 7 o'clock tonight. When asked in his private car if he had anything to say thru the press to the people of Ontario, he replied: "I have nothing to say," and immediately inquired the latest election returns. When informed that the opposition had only one seat west of the great lakes, Sir Wilfrid exclaimed: "Incredible, what report is that?"

BRITISH GAIN GROUND ON PALESTINE FRONT

Capture Ground Southeast of Jerusalem and Made 117 Turk Soldiers Prisoner.

London, Dec. 18.—A British official communication dealing with the operations in Palestine reports the capture of territory southeast of Jerusalem and 117 Turkish prisoners.

AWAIT COMING WINTER WITH DREAD AND FEAR

German Food Outlook Worst for War—Absolute Necessities Not Assured People.

Stockholm, Dec. 18.—The Berlin Tageblatt, severely criticizing the war provisions, says: "City dwellers await the coming winter with anxious concern and serious fear. The foodstuff prospects are more unfavorable than at any time during the war. To the high cost of necessities, which already has become a terrible burden to the masses, is added the danger that not even the most absolutely necessary foodstuffs can be considered as being assured."

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FOR SALE
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FORTY-THREE, PRESENT LEAD OF UNIONISTS

Two Constituencies in Alberta Are Still in the Doubtful Column.

NIPISSING IS LOST

Election of One More Laurier Candidate in Ontario is Conceded.

Indications last night were that the Unionist government will have a majority of 48 in the constituencies already voting, with a possibility of more when the soldiers' vote is counted and the votes of the overseas soldiers who did not designate a candidate have been allotted. Later reports from Alberta indicate that there are two constituencies in which Laurier candidates are leading, but it is pretty clear that the soldier vote will place them both on the government side.

This would mean the province solid for Union government and put it in line with Saskatchewan. Prince Edward Island stands alone as unambiguously in favor of the opposition, all four seats going to the Laurier candidates. The election of one more Laurier supporter in Ontario has been conceded since last night, being LePrier, of Nipissing. Altogether returns are not complete it is expected that it will not be possible for the government candidates to overcome the lead he already holds.

Of the eleven Ontario members classified as Laurier supporters Truax, South Bruce, McCole, Kent, and Rose, West Middlesex, all supported the compulsory military service measure. The summary by province up to midnight was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province and Oppos. Ontario 71, Quebec 62, Nova Scotia 5, New Brunswick 4, Manitoba 13, Prince Edward Island 1, British Columbia 12, Saskatchewan 16, Alberta 9, Yukon deferred. Two deferred in.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 6).

SAYS MONT BLANC FOLK SEEMED TO BE NERVOUS

Captain of Halifax Tug Declares Munition Ship Gave Imo Cross Signals.

SPEED WAS FOUR KNOTS

Eyewitnesses of Collision Remark Rate of French Ship Just Prior to Disaster.

Halifax, Dec. 18.—That the French munition steamer Mont Blanc was traveling at the rate of four miles an hour at the time of her collision with the Belgian relief steamer Imo in Halifax harbor, on Dec. 6, was the opinion expressed by John J. Bourke, chief engineer of the tug, by H. Thomas, at today's session of the court of inquiry investigating the fatal collision between the two vessels. Both were put on the stand today by W. H. Hart, counsel for the government.

McLaine remarked to Bourke, the engineer told Hart, that the French steamer had given a cross-signal to the Imo, and that there was danger of a collision, and Bourke himself commented that "they appeared to be very nervous on board the Mont Blanc."

Captain McLaine told the court that he believed the Imo was traveling at not more than two knots when she and the French craft collided.

On two occasions, while watching the steamers, witnesses had remarked to the engineer on the speed of the French steamer.

Other Witnesses. The other witnesses today were Andrew Johansen, chief steward of the Imo, and Joseph LeVivier, second lieutenant of the Mont Blanc, who was signaling on the bridge at the time of the collision.

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FURS NOW A BARGAIN.

There has been little advance in the price of furs compared with the very heavy increase in woollens. A fur garment is now a bargain in first cost, as well as giving more comfort and longer wear. This is particularly the case with fur coats for children. Our stock is all new and in complete assortment. Do your shopping, early. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.