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The Toronto World

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GERMAN DRIVE ON WEST FRONT IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

RUSSIA TO GIVE POSITIVE GAINS... Refusal to Sign Peace Treaty Puts Germany in Dilemma... LITTLE FOOD IN EAST Prisoners of War Released Will Be Unfit for Military Service.

THOUSAND FORD TRACTORS BOUGHT BY GOVERNMENT... Option Secured on Another Thousand, Which Will Be Sold to Canadian Farmers for Cash at Cost Plus the Freight.

VETERANS ASK FOR DISMISSAL OF ALL ALIENS... Failing Compliance by Employers With Demand, Force Will Be Used. SITUATION CRITICAL.

PREMIER CHALLENGES CRITICS TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT... WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS BEEFLESS AND PORKLESS... Food Controller's Regulations Amended and Restriction on Bacon is Extended to Pork.

Lloyd George Makes Fighting Speech in Defence of Secrecy Regarding the Supreme War Council--German Action Shows No Negotiations Possible.

Washington, Feb. 12.—With the opening of the great campaign of 1918 on the western front, apparently within sight, military men here examined today with profound interest the situation created by the signing of a peace pact between the central powers and the new Ukrainian republic and the decision of the Bolshevik Russian Government to stop fighting and demobilize the army.

One of the threats against the western front dwelt upon in public discussion is the fact that presumably 1,600,000 prisoners of war, held in Russia, would be released to strengthen the German army. The fact is said to be, however, that the great majority of the soldiers captured by the Russians are Austrians and Hungarians, and in 1917 their appropriation for this purpose amounted to \$360. So successful has the fair been since advertising was started that in 1917 the annual deficit there has been surpluses, and there is in the treasury today a balance of over \$1300.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The government has purchased a thousand Ford tractors for the British Government at cost. They will be sold to Canadian farmers also at cost plus freight. Details of freight costs have not yet been worked out, but it is estimated that the average cost to the farmer, including freight, will be about eight hundred dollars. In addition the government has secured options on another thousand of the tractors.

The Ford factories are now engaged on an order for some thousands of the new tractors for the British Government, when that order is completed—probably by the end of March—delivery in Canada will begin. Purchases were completed for Canada after tests made of the tractor by Hon. C. A. Dunning of Regina and J. D. McGregor of Winnipeg, representing the minister of agriculture. Both Mr. Dunning and Mr. McGregor expressed themselves as fully satisfied with the work of the tractor and are convinced of its practicability.

Force is to be used by the Great War Veterans to expel from munition factories, alien enemies if the owners of these plants do not take action themselves to this end. Such was the decision arrived at last night by the central branch of the Great War Veterans' Association held in Columbus Hall. This branch represents 1000 returned men.

At this meeting the following resolution was passed: "That committees be formed at once to approach any employer of labor in Toronto found employing Germans or Austrians on munitions, and to ask for the removal of same. If this is refused direct action will be taken to expel such enemy aliens by force."

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The food controller's regulations in respect to the serving of beef and bacon in public eating places have been amended, making Wednesday and Friday of each week Canada's beefless and porkless days, instead of Tuesday and Friday as heretofore. The change is effective on and after tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten period. The new regulations extend their restrictions on the use of bacon to pork of all kinds, so that tomorrow (Wednesday) will be the first beefless and porkless Wednesday through the Dominion.

Under the amended regulations beef must not be served at more than one meal on any day, while its use on Wednesdays and Fridays is absolutely prohibited. Similarly pork must not be served at more than one meal on any day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays must not be served at any time.

London, Feb. 12.—After declaring that the government will stand by the considered declaration he made early in the year to the trades union representatives, Premier David Lloyd George told the house of commons today that he had read with the most profound disappointment the replies of Count von Hertling, the Imperial German chancellor, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, to President Wilson's and his own speeches.

"It is perfectly true, as far as the tone is concerned," he said, "that there is a great difference in the Austrian and German speeches, but I wish I could believe there is a difference in substance. I cannot altogether regret it, accept the interpretation of the Czernin speech. It was civil in tone, and friendly, but when you come to the real substance of the replies put forward by the allies, it was adamant. It puts Mesopotamia and Palestine and Arabia in exactly the same category as Belgium. It says that we are to be restored to the Turks on the same conditions, presumably, as those on which Germany was to restore Belgium."

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There is doubt here, also, as to the extent which the food resources of the Ukraine or of Russia can be brought to the aid of the German people in the near future. Failure of the Russian transportation system worked in Germany's interest in undermining the fighting power of the Russian armies.

The same agency, now necessarily, works against the central powers in its desire to get out food supplies. Moreover, the best wheat regions which may be opened to the west, as in a remote section of the Ukraine and in such poor condition that the agricultural system may have to be made over, a difficult process through the confusion that prevails there throughout the region.

Must Keep Men in East. Demobilization of the Russian army will not mean that the frontiers German-Belgian forces on the frontiers can be wholly withdrawn. There will be a constant threat of renewed hostilities, and the Teutonic power is always at hand.

In fact diplomatic observers say Germany is confronted with a most difficult and unprecedented problem she has met during the present war as a result of the declaration of Russia's abandonment of the peace treaty without the signing of a peace treaty. The refusal of the Russians to sign any treaties alienating the Russian provinces, the diplomats point out, will leave the central powers without any legal claim to their possession. German and Austrian tenure will rest entirely upon the military force, without recognition of international law, and consequently must be subject to the decision of whatever form of tribunal finally determines the basis of general peace.

Should Germany and Austria resolve to refuse to recognize the Bolshevik decree as terminating the war, without the confirmation of that action by a treaty in the usual form, their armies would be in the position of killing an unresisting and unarmed people, a proceeding regarded here as certain to cause trouble for the Teutonic governments with their people at home. An appeal from the Russian peasants to the working classes of Germany and Austria, it is believed here, would not fall to a sympathetic response embarrassing to the military parties.

ADVERTISING CHANGES DEFICIT TO SURPLUS... Speaking at the eighteenth annual convention of the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions held yesterday in Foresters Hall, W. J. Bushell, managing director of the Kingston Fair, said that before that fair started advertising there was annually a deficit. Four or five years ago they had started advertising, and in 1917 their appropriation for this purpose amounted to \$360. So successful has the fair been since advertising was started that in 1917 the annual deficit there has been surpluses, and there is in the treasury today a balance of over \$1300.

BRAZEN PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE WAR FLOODS CANADA... German-Financed Issues of Books is Stopped by Press Censor. ATTACKS CHURCHES... Publications Are Issued by the International Bible Students' Association.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Feb. 12.—What appears to have been a brazen, German-financed attempt to launch, under the cloak of religion, a gigantic anti-war propaganda in the Dominion has just been nipped in the bud by Col. Ernest Chambers, chief press censor for Canada.

Some time ago Col. Chambers became aware that articles appearing in The Bible Students' Monthly, a newspaper published by the International Bible Students' Association in the City of Brooklyn, and largely circulated in Canada, took a decidedly war attitude, and it was decided that the publication would be watched. This vigilance was speedily rewarded. The vigilance afterwards The Bible Students' Monthly launched upon a violent anti-church, anti-government and anti-war propaganda. The publication fairly bristled with articles containing a sudden effort to fairly flood Canada with copies of nearly every issue.

Suspicion was heightened by the fact that the publication was distributed free from door to door, Ottawa and practically every other city in the Dominion being fairly deluged with copies and each succeeding issue surpassed the last in its efforts to condemn participation in the war. The churches were violently condemned as being in the pay of the capitalist class supporting the war; readers were urged to refuse to take up arms, even under penalty of death; other Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and other religious sects were denounced, while thru all this there ran a sort of mystical prophecy of the Bible as interpretation of the forward.

Other Books Followed. "The Bible Students' Monthly" was followed by the free distribution of an expensive book entitled "Studies in the Scriptures—the Finished Mystery," published also by the International Bible Students' Association, Brooklyn, and which, under a camouflage of scriptural interpretation, constituted a most brazen piece of anti-church, anti-government and anti-war propaganda. Next in order came distribution of a book with the imposing title of "Nature Suffrage." This publication, alleged to have been published by the "American Association for the Taxation of Church Property," proved to be an extreme anarchistic anti-British and anti-war publication.

Col. Chambers, once satisfied of the undoubted character of these leaflets and books, took prompt action to stifle the propaganda in its inception, and acting under his advice, Hon. Martin Burrell, secretary of state, issued warrants and the press censorship regulations forbidding the possession in Canada, under heavy penalty, of any of the publications concerned. At the same time steps were taken to prohibit the sale or possession in Canada of a number of other books alleged to deal with conditions in India and so forth. The tone of the so-called Bible literature barred by Col. Chambers was strictly in line with much of the pacifist and anti-war propaganda which the Germans have systematically endeavored to carry on in other allied countries for the purpose of undermining war effort—the kind of campaign that Bolo, now on trial in Paris, is alleged to have received millions of German money for.

Police Gather in Copenhagen Riot Leaders, Including Editor. COPENHAGEN, Feb. 12.—The police today arrested the leaders of the syndicalists who escaped yesterday during the riots which between sixty and seventy thousand persons attempted to storm the treasury, plunder shops, and enter the royal palace.

ASQUITH DEFENDS BRITISH COMMAND... No Interference With Generals Haig and Robertson Demanded by Liberal Leader. OWES THEM SUPPORT... British Nation Should Place Unstinted Trust in These Military Heads.

London, Feb. 12.—Addressing the house of commons, Mr. Asquith said: "We are all desirous that, while the war lasts and the purposes for which we entered it are still unachieved, it should be prosecuted with the best resources at our disposal. Among these, in the first place, we must be given leadership. There have been many criticisms, just and unjust, upon the conduct of the war during the past year, but in the military field there has been nothing which has been done or left undone that has in the least shaken the confidence of the empire in those two great soldiers, Haig and Robertson."

Mr. Asquith continued, "unshaken confidence, and there are no two men whose judgment in military matters I would more unhesitatingly accept."

"I wish to know, and I am sure the public wishes to know," Mr. Asquith continued, "whether any change has been made in the status of the personnel or the functions of the commander-in-chief or in those of the general staff."

"I feel that the house would not be discharging its duty until it asked the government to define unauthoritatively, with a view to quieting suspicions and removing doubt, that the strategy of the war will be conducted on sound lines. We should have complete confidence in the system on which we are carrying on the war and on perfect harmony of opinion as well as of effort, between the government and those who are its servants."

Common Right of Humanity Faces Divine Right of Kings... Springfield, Ill., Feb. 12.—Thomas Power O'Connor, Irish Nationalist leader in parliament, speaking at a Lincoln Day celebration here tonight said there was no difference in essentials between the enslavement of the negro and "such enslavement as Germany today preaches in her gospel of world domination and practices while her sinister mastery lasts in Belgium, France and Serbia."

WHEAT PROHIBITED AS CATTLE FOOD... No Grain or Meal When Not for Animals Intended for Immediate Slaughter. EXCHANGES APPROVED... Conferences Between Representatives of Live Stock Bodies and Department.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The question of conserving feed at stock yards was considered at today's conference of the representatives of union stock yards, live stock exchanges and provincial departments of agriculture. After full discussion it was resolved that "on suggestion of the food controller and as a war measure only the use of wheat be forbidden as a feed in all stock yards. That use of grain or meal of any kind be forbidden for feed for cattle and sheep for feeding purposes or when cattle are not intended for immediate slaughter. That an appeal be made to live stock exchanges and drovers regarding the conservation of feed in yards. That the matter of feeding whole grain or ground chop be left to the decision of each market."

There was a discussion on the question of the insurance charge of one-half of one per cent. on the value of live stock to insure the packers against loss from tuberculosis. It has never been possible to arrive at the actual loss of packers, as sometimes the whole and sometimes only portions of an animal are condemned. It was agreed that the packers would supply this information to Dr. Torrance, veterinary general, for analysis and tabulation. The health and live stock departments will then endeavor to solve the problem.

The establishment of live stock exchanges as provided by the new act was endorsed. The exchanges will guarantee the integrity and financial standing of their members. A bond of \$10,000 in favor of the government must be given before a license can be obtained. Bylaws of exchanges must receive the approval of the minister of agriculture, and all books and papers will be open for inspection.

CONDITIONS STILL BAD... The More Fuel is Arriving at U. S. Tidewater Terminals. New York, Feb. 12.—Increased supplies of fuel are arriving at tidewater terminals and larger quantities are being distributed in the city as a result of more favorable weather, but the shipments are still far from normal, according to statements of fuel administrators tonight. Conditions in the north of Harlow River all the way to the Canadian border and west to Buffalo were described as "still very bad."

BURNED AT STAKE... East Springs, Tenn., Feb. 12.—Jim McIlhenny, a negro who shot and killed two white men here last Friday, was burned at the stake here tonight, after a confession had been forced from him by application of red-hot irons.

ENEMY TO ATTACK BRITISH IN MARCH, PRISONER CLAIMS... One Offensive Timed for Next Month—Nature Unknown. TO RUSH UP TROOPS... Abnormal Train Movements Observed Behind German Front.

British Army Headquarters in France, Feb. 12.—Some time in March has been set by the Germans for at least one offensive operation on the British front, according to a German prisoner who has just been taken. This captive did not know whether general offensive operations were intended at that time.

The statement of the prisoner is not surprising in view of the intensive preparations that are being made by the enemy all along the front and the remarkably fine drying weather which now has continued for many days. Abnormal train movements have been observed for some time back of the German line, and new troops and guns keep making their appearance at various points.

Great numbers of German soldiers constantly are being drilled in making attacks, and the artillerymen are also being given special training. Trench raids and aerial scouting for the purpose of obtaining information continue to be the order of the day by both armies, who know that big events will happen in the near future.

TORONTO BEST PLACE FOR LIVE STOCK FAIR... Exhibition Directors Will Discuss Project of Winter Shows When Next They Meet. With reference to the proposed Canadian International Livestock Show, John G. Kent, honorary acting manager of the Canadian National Exhibition, states that Toronto is the logical centre of the livestock industry, while in point of accessibility, hotel accommodation, and other facilities, this city has advantages over other places which might be selected.

The city passed a resolution endorsing the project and the C. N. E. directors will thoroughly discuss the subject at the annual meeting. The havoc wrought by the war to the herds and flocks of Europe has placed an opportunity in Canada's grasp and the resultant need for greater production has pointed also to the need of a livestock exhibition of international proportions. Mr. Kent points out that with the addition of an indoor arena for judging purposes the C. N. E. would be inferior to no other place on the continent.

THREATENED STRIKE... Onus of Shipyard Troubles is Now Transferred to Ottawa. Victoria, Feb. 12.—The onus of the threatened shipyard strike has now been transferred to Ottawa. The case as it now stands was yesterday forwarded to the directors of the imperial munitions board by R. J. Buchart, director of wooden shipbuilding on this coast, after a conference with a joint delegation presenting the metal trade councils of Victoria and Vancouver.

The premier's refusal to explain the Versailles council caused considerable commotion in the house. He insisted on the impossibility of explaining executive functions without at the same time divulging the decisions of the council. If he had had an opportunity, he said, he would have told Mr. Asquith privately, and Mr. Asquith would