

BRITAIN IS FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND

Sterling Exchange No Real
Index of Britain's Position

British Had to Supply
Credit Needs of Europe,
Says Bankers

NOT BANKRUPT
BY ANY MEANS

Britain is Owed Twice
as Much as She Owes
United States.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
London, Feb. 23.—Great Britain is fundamentally sound both financially and commercially, says the American Chamber of Commerce of London in a statement, referring to differences in the financial position of Great Britain and the continental European countries.

MESSAGE TO AMERICAN
BUSINESS PUBLIC

The Chamber expresses the belief that the recent unprecedented drop in sterling exchange in the United States makes it particularly desirable that the best opinions on each side of the Atlantic concerning this question should be understood on the other side. After a thorough discussion with the leaders of British finance, illuminated largely by the addresses of the chairman of five leading British banks in their stockholders' annual meetings, the Chamber of Commerce has prepared a message to the American business public. The message reads as follows:

Monetary Centre of Europe.
The collapse of the pound sterling in New York is no index to Great Britain's financial strength or weakness. London is today, as before the war, the monetary centre of Europe. With inadequate assistance from American credit in Europe, Great Britain has been forced to supply the credit needs of the continent as well as those of her own traders.

"Dollar exchange is really 'New York Europe', not 'New York-London' exchange. Great Britain is neither bankrupt nor anywhere near it, though her external debt is larger than ever before in her history. This debt was incurred mainly to supply the needs of her continental allies and she is owed approximately twice as much as she owes America. While the United States may fairly expect to collect all her British debt, Great Britain is preparing to write off fifty per cent. of her continental debt.

British Finance is Sound.
"In spite of these facts, British finance is in a fundamentally sound condition. Business men and workers are recovering from the demoralizing effects of the war. Their customary energy is reviving and British factories are increasing their output. According to estimates made public by one bank chairman the present year's exports will produce a profit of from \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,500,000,000. The expression, 'we are rounding the corner', is now heard on all sides. Neither British bankers nor the British government expect, or ask, further government or long term loans from the United States."

CLEMENCEAU HAS
LEFT FOR EGYPT

Cairo, Feb. 23.—Georges Clemenceau, former Premier of France, left yesterday for Assuan, on the Nile, where he will inspect the great dam across the river.

NEPHEW OF POPE DEAD.

Rome, Feb. 23.—Count Camillo Ippoliti, nephew of the late Pope Leo XIII, is dead. While his uncle was Pope the Count was one of the most important personages at the pontifical court.

Prohibited Dance to be Held
In Aid of Ireland's Freedom

Governor of Panama Decides that Use to Which Funds Were
to Be Put Converted the Dance from a Social into
a Political Event.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
Panama, Feb. 23.—Governor Harding last night prohibited the friends of Irish freedom from holding a dance at the Government Hotel, Tivoli, on the grounds that funds resulting from it would further the cause of the Irish Republic, thus converting a social into a political event. More than a thousand persons who were disappointed decided at a mass meeting to take legal action.

Germany Appeals to the Reparations
Commission for Return of Funds Paid
Over to Procure Essential Foodstuffs

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
BERLIN, Feb. 23.—The standing currency and exchange commission has requested the government to appeal to the reparations commission for funds out of the money Germany has already paid under the treaty order to procure absolutely essential food supplies and for economic needs. The commission argues that Germany, with the utmost restriction of citizens, is becoming so impoverished under deprivation by the treaty of her colonies, territories and all wealth producing means, that she is threatened with the same fate as Austria.

The British Women Voters
Have Changed the Complexion
Of Various Constituencies

Politicians Are Puzzling Over the Result of the Wrekin Election,
Where the Return of Charles Palmer Was a Political
Surprise—A Freak Victory.

(By Canadian Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 23.—Parliament this week will be busy with dull estimates, which, however, may produce some pronounced views concerning our permanent future military strength. Politicians are still puzzling over the result of the Wrekin election. Sir Charles Henry, former member, was wealthy and paid great attention to the constituency. He held a seat as a coalitionist and was unopposed in the last general election, which happens everywhere occasionally. Charles Palmer, the successful candidate, now brings Horatio Bottomley's independent party into the House of Commons. The total strength of these two now equals the strength of the national party, consisting of Brigadier Page Croft and Sir Richard Cooper. All four give general, though constantly critical support to the Government. Palmer, indeed, in the course of the election avowed that he was not an enemy of the Government.

Another matter which this election, and also the Ashton result, brings forward is the extreme unreliability of the present day canvassing, possibly due to the inclusion of women in the electorate. The canvassing in Ashton gave a half's breadth between Liberal and Labor parties, with Coalition last, whereas the result showed the Liberals to be hopelessly outclassed. The Wrekin canvassing pointed to a Coalition success. The canvassers declare that it is the women who cause their calculations to go so wide. It is quite possible, therefore, that Palmer may hold a surprise on Wednesday, although the common prospect usually suggests of Asquith's majority as about a thousand.

WOMAN'S PART IN
RECONSTRUCTION

Largely Responsible for Bettering
of Social Conditions
Through the Dominion.

Montreal, Feb. 23.—Mrs. R. F. McWilliams, of Winnipeg, speaking Saturday night at a special meeting of the alumnae society of McGill University, held at the Royal Victoria College, said that upon the men of the Dominion will fall the burden of the reconstruction work in Canada after the ravages of war, but the part of the women would be largely responsible for the bettering of social conditions and the maintenance of public welfare. Women of the western provinces had, she claimed, brought about legislation providing for better working conditions and better wages for the factory and department store employees of the west and in Manitoba alone \$200,000 had been granted to provide mothers' pensions. She contrasted the refusal of Quebec to allow women to practice law here and the failure of women to secure the franchise in Quebec with the fact that women sat in several of the western legislatures and that a woman judge had been appointed in Manitoba.

OTHER LATE NEWS.

For other late despatches and general news see page 7.

CAKELESS DAYS
FOR FRENCH PEOPLE

Cakes May Not Be Sold or
Eaten on Tuesdays or Wed-
nesdays Now.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The prefect, in an announcement making Tuesday and Wednesday of each week days on which cakes may not be sold or eaten, points out that persons who infringe the regulation render themselves liable to fines ranging as high as 1,000 francs and prison sentences of from one week to two months. The announcement says that even bread with jam or other substance in which sugar is used is prohibited in restaurants or tea houses on "cakeless" days.

TRAIN DERAILED
BUT NO FATALITIES

Powassan, Ont., Feb. 23.—The "National" train, bound for Winnipeg, left the track four miles from this place on Saturday. Although the engine and all the cars went off the rails they all remained upright, except the baggage car, which was thrown on its side. The train was going slowly at the time and none of the passengers received serious injury. After a few hours' delay the passengers were transferred to another train and continued on their journey.

WAR MEMORIALS TO
NEAREST OF KIN

Regina, Sask., Feb. 23.—The Dominion command of the G. W. V. A. will be asked shortly to endorse a memorial to be erected to the French government here yesterday to nearest kin of 4,673 New York and Brooklyn soldiers killed in the war.

YACHTING TROPHY.

Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 23.—It was announced here last night that Sir Thos. Lipton had offered a trophy for the winner of a series of sailing races in which representatives of the four great yacht clubs are entered. The races will be held probably in July.

WILL COMPEL
HUNS TO WORK
EIGHT HOURS

Minister of Defence Declares
He Will Put Down by Force
Attempt for 6 Hour Day.

SUCH ACTION WOULD
PARALYZE RAILWAYS

Will Have No Hesitation in
Crushing Men with Hands
at State's Throat.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
Berlin, Feb. 23.—Gustav Noske, Minister of Defence, in addressing the employers' council and socialist delegates at Hamburg, reiterated his previous statement that he would put down attempts on the part of the miners to introduce a six-hour day at this time or attempt to paralyze the railways. "When thousands of railway men declare they hold the state's throat and can close it if they will, then I, as Minister of Defence, have no hesitation whatever in crushing them," he declared. The Minister said he had instructed the directors of wharves to discharge immediately all men who did not want to work eight hours a day.

New York Claims to Be
Biggest City in World

New York, Feb. 23.—The 1920 census will show New York to be the biggest city in the world, it is claimed. The results of the census, which will be available about March 16, will give the New York metropolitan district a population of 8,500,000, as against an estimated population of 7,500,000 for the metropolitan district of London. The population of New York proper will be shown as between 6,500,000 and 7,000,000, as against 4,700,000 in 1910.

OFFER \$100,000 FOR
SEAPLANE CONTEST

An International Contest to Be
Held at Antwerp Next July
for All-Corners.

New York, Feb. 23.—Albert, King of the Belgians, has offered a challenge cup and \$100,000 in prizes for winners of an international seaplane contest to be held in Antwerp next July. The Aero Club of America announced here Saturday.

The contest, which will include endurance trials, speed and tests for security in flight and on the water, will be open to two divisions of seaplanes, classes according to speed and power specifications.

FIRE FIGHTERS HAD
NARROW ESCAPE

Montreal, Feb. 23.—What would have been the worst disaster in the history of the Montreal Fire Department was narrowly averted yesterday in a fire which totally destroyed a four-story factory on Delorimier avenue. The two top stories of the front wall fell into the street, carrying telegraph poles, transformers, wires and debris with them, and only their own nimbleness saved the lives of about fifty firemen who were fighting the flames.

WANT MONUMENT
OVER EVERY GRAVE

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Bolshevik Have
Seized Murmansk

Former Base of Allied
Forces in White Sea
Taken by the Reds

TAKE SHIPPING
IN THE HARBOR

Only Vessel to Escape
Was Riddled With
Machine Gun Fire.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
London, Feb. 23.—Bolshevik forces have seized Murmansk and shipping in the harbor there, following a revolution which broke out at that port Saturday afternoon, according to a Lloyd's despatch from Vardo, Norway. News of the capture was brought to Vardo by a Russian steamer from Murmansk in charge of two British and four Belgian officers. It was the only vessel to escape seizure, but was riddled with machine gun fire and the captain was wounded.

Murmansk is situated on the Murman or Kola peninsula, jutting eastward from Finland and north of the White Sea. It is northwest of Archangel and across the White Sea from the district which was taken over by the Bolshevik last week. Last year Murmansk was the base of operations for Allied forces fighting the Bolsheviks along the western shore of the White Sea.

ONLY INTENDED TO
WOUND ERZBERGER

Man Who Shot German Minister
Said to Be Suffering
from Hallucination.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—"I was convinced that Erzberger was working for English money for private gain only," Ensign Von Hirschfeld told the court at his trial Saturday. He asked the motive which actuated his alleged attempt at murder upon the Minister of Finance. The young officer admitted that Dr. Karl Helfferich's pamphlet, "Away with Erzberger," served as one source of his information, while other acts such as Herr Erzberger's change of front on the question of annexation heightened his antipathy. He described the method of his attack, repeatedly asserting that he had intended only to wound Erzberger so as to confine him to his bed for several weeks. Aliens who examined Ensign Von Hirschfeld pronounced his act "the deed of a fanatic suffering from hallucinations." He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

FOR THREATENING
VISCOUNT FRENCH

Sinn Fein Member of Parlia-
ment Sentenced to Three
Years' Penal Servitude.

Dublin, Feb. 23.—Robert Barton, Sinn Fein member of parliament for East Wicklow, who was convicted February 12 on a charge that he shot last year he made threats against Viscount French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Frank Brooke, a member of the Lord Lieutenant's advisory council, has been sentenced to three years' penal servitude.

WEIGHTED WITH
ROCKS IN RIVER

Sensation at Budapest Over
Murder of Jewish Editor
and Two Employees.

Budapest, Feb. 23.—The murder of the Jewish editor Somorfy, of the newspaper Nepszava, and two of his employees, a sub-editor and a postman, named Adelbert Vanko, has created a sensation here. The bodies were found in the Danube river, weighted with rocks. No clue to the murderers has yet been obtained. Regret at the murders has been expressed by the national assembly. Socialistic organizations are disbanding, fearing that a similar fate will be dealt out to their leaders by secret terrorist societies.

Destitute Russians

Arrive at Cairo
Cairo, Feb. 23.—Two thousand five hundred refugees from Russia have arrived here completely destitute. Aid has been extended to them by military authorities and the British Red Cross.

FIERCE FIGHTING
IN DON REGION

Anti-Bolshevik Forces Start an
Advance Against Enemy
Around Rostoff.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
London, Feb. 23.—A Bolshevik communication received here by wireless says: "There is fierce fighting six miles east of Letchef and also near Rostoff (Don region), where the enemy has started an advance."

SYRIAN GIRL HELD
AT ELLIS ISLAND

Neglected to Provide Proper
Passport to Enable Her to
Reach Relatives.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
New York, Feb. 23.—Since the arrival of the steamship La Touraine on February 7, little Miss Mishnee Karam, a comely Syrian girl, has been waiting at Ellis Island to learn whether Canadian and American immigration authorities can agree to let her pass through the United States to join her mother and brother in Canada, or whether she must return to Egypt, where she has no one that cares for her.

Since the war the United States immigration regulations require that every incoming alien must have a passport from the Government under whose dominion the immigrant had lived. The passport must also be vized by the United States consul in the port of embarkation. Miss Karam in some way neglected or failed to get her passport vized by the American consul at Havre, otherwise she would have been passed at Ellis Island and the Canadian officials would have taken her to the only surviving members of her family at Ottawa. At the death of her father in Syria, several years ago, the girl went to Egypt to take care of her grandmother, when the latter died, the girl wanted to come to America and rejoin her home folks. Her mother has been in Canada a good while and has married a well-to-do business man. Her brother, Bolos Karam, is also prosperous. The case has been appealed to Washington.

PARIS TO TAX SERVANTS.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The city of Paris, with a deficit of nearly 600,000,000 francs, is considering taxing pianos and servants. It is desired to pay off the deficit in three years.

STOP BULL FIGHT.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 23.—Police interrupted a bull fight in the corral of a packing plant here yesterday. Nineteen Mexicans were arrested, but most of the spectators got away by jumping a fence into Mexico.

X-RAY AND MOVIES.

Paris, Feb. 23.—A combination X-ray and moving picture apparatus is announced by the Intransigent, to the invention of Doctors Lormon and Comandon. The movements of the organs of animals can be shown on the screen by its use.

Russell Action Set Down
For Trial in Ontario Court

David Russell Seeking to Recover Some Eight Million Dollars
Alleged to Be Due in a Deal With Sir Edmund Osler,
Hon. William Pugsley and Others.

(By Canadian Associated Press.)
Toronto, Feb. 23.—The action brought by David Russell, of Montreal, against Sir Edmund Osler, Hon. William Pugsley and others to recover \$8,175,000 in connection with an alleged deal some years ago involving 500,000 acres of western land, was set down Saturday for trial.

MUST LOWER
UNITED STATES
MEAT PRICES

Wholesale Prices Have Declined,
But Retailers Still Demand the Old Rates.

THE PRICE OF MEAT
FALLING FOR MONTHS

Wholesale Meat Prices at Chi-
cago Drop to Pre-War Levels
for Some Grades.

(Associated Press by Leased Wire.)
Chicago, Feb. 23.—Retail meat dealers through the United States must reduce their prices as the wholesale price of meat declines or else submit their books to Federal agents for investigation of their profits. This definition of the government's attitude was announced yesterday by Attorney General Palmer. Instructions to serve the notice on all retail meat dealers have been sent to every United States Attorney, he said. "For three months the price of meat has been falling," said Mr. Palmer. "The retail dealers have claimed that their supplies were all stock purchased at the higher prices. The old stock should be exhausted by this time, and unless the price to the consumer comes down we will have to look into the question of the dealers' profits."

Mr. Palmer's pronouncement on the meat price situation follows the publication by the Institute of American Meat Packers of a bulletin announcing the practical cessation of foreign trade as a result of adverse exchange situation. Wholesale meat prices at the Chicago yards dropped to pre-war levels for some grades following the publication.

BIG GATHERINGS OF
FARMERS IN B. C.

Three Agricultural Conferences
Being Held at Victoria
Simultaneously.

(Special despatch to The Daily Gleaner.)
Victoria, B. C., Feb. 23.—Victoria will have the most important agricultural conference held this week that have ever assembled here. They were in doubt until Saturday whether, in view of the health conditions, the meeting would be permitted, but definite assurance has been given that the gatherings will not be banned. Today there will commence three gatherings simultaneously: the United Farmers of British Columbia, the Advisory Council of Farmers' Institutes, and the British Columbia Stock Breeders' Association. On Friday the Co-operative Societies' meetings will be held at the Empress Hotel, with addresses by leaders in the co-operative movement from Winnipeg and Seattle.

On Saturday afternoon the British Columbia locals of the United Grain Growers will hold a conference. This is the only private conference of the week.

The following societies and associations will be represented at the conferences held between February 24 and February 28:

Fruit Growers, 1,100 members; Stock Breeders, 325; Poultry Men, 305; Bee Keepers, 250; Dairymen, 350; Seed Growers, 150; Flock Masters, 125; Farmers' Institutes, 6,290; United Farmers, 757; total, 10,394.

The United Farmers now claim a membership of eighty locals with 3,000 members.

DEATH AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 23.—Sewell Franklin Belknap, secretary-treasurer of R. J. Murcur & Company and nephew of Dr. L. H. Davidson, chancellor of the diocese of Montreal, died of pneumonia at his residence here last night. He was born forty years ago at Knowlton, Que., and married Miss L. N. Curtis, of Knowlton, who survives him, with one son and two daughters.