

The Evening Times Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1918

ONE CENT

MOMENTOUS SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT OPENS

Has Had Longest Career in Modern Times—General Election Will Follow—Rumors That Government Will Face Severe Criticism—His Majesty Calls for Full Use of Country's Energies and Resources

London, Feb. 12.—Members of both houses of parliament assembled early today for the opening of the eighth session of the longest parliament in modern times—a session which is virtually certain to be the last and which will be followed by a general election upon largely extended franchise with women voting for the first time in the country's history.

King George, accompanied by the queen and the Prince of Wales, who is on leave from the Italian front, performed the opening ceremony at noon in the absence of some of the customary spectacular features. It was decided that, in view of the war, the peers and princesses will not wear their gorgeous titular robes and coronets, while the naval and military members of both houses will wear the service dress instead of the flashy gold-laced dress uniforms.

The proceedings in both houses on this occasion probably will be full of interest and importance, and may cover the whole field of war effort. Political circles have been buzzing the past few days with various rumors, showing that severe criticism of the government is to be expected in the debate. One rumor is to the effect that a hostile amendment condemning the government may be moved from the front opposition bench.

Complaints that ministers have interfered with the military chiefs have been restated recently and voiced outspokenly in a section of the press. This subject will be brought to debate in association with the demand for an explanation of the enlargement of the powers of the supreme war council at the recent meeting of Versailles. In this connection it will be recalled that former Premier Asquith last week propounded a question concerning the supreme war council, and it is understood that he will bring up this topic again. It is assumed Premier Lloyd George will reply with an important statement.

ENFORCING THE SERVICE ACT

Press Gang of Dominion Police at Work in Montreal—Gathering in All Men of Military Age Who Cannot Prove Exemption

Montreal, Feb. 12.—Press gangs for the enforcement of the Military Service Act were operating in this city Saturday and Monday, under instructions from Ottawa that the time had come when a strict enforcement of the act must be made without delay. The press gang is composed of dominion police officers from Inspector Belanger's department, and every man whom the police came across on the street who appeared to be of military age was stopped. If he could not produce satisfactory proof that he was exempt he was apprehended and taken to the dominion police offices.

It is said that between forty and fifty men were gathered in on Saturday, when they were enjoying the heaviest holiday, and those who had been exempted or were married or beyond the military age were held until they could produce their proofs. Monday the trick was repeated, but it is not known how many men were taken. Railway stations and public places were popular hunting grounds for the dominion police.

CHARGES AGAINST POLICE OFFICER

Captain Savard Accused of Protecting Gambling and Other Forms of Vice—A Notable Luncheon

Montreal, Feb. 12.—By direction of the city council, Captain Savard of the police force was ordered suspended yesterday. This was done on the recommendation of a majority report of the board of control, upon charges submitted by Controller Villeneuve. The controller will investigate the charges which are of a serious import.

In substance, Captain Savard is accused of protecting vice in his district, and it is further alleged that his friendly relations with gambling interests and other forms of vice constitute a public scandal. Further, it is claimed the presence of Captain Savard has a demoralizing influence on the force in general, and finally, the report asks his suspension.

PEACE TREATY IS NOT TAKEN SO SERIOUSLY

French Official Circles Treat It As Unimportant

Paris, Feb. 11.—The peace treaty between the Central Powers and Ukraine is not taken seriously in French official or semi-official circles, first because no one knows whether it will ever become effective, and second, because whether effective or not, the people of Ukraine have not been able under the present circumstances to have light say.

The treaty, however, is regarded as very instructive as to what a German peace may amount to in this connection. It is pointed out that the people of neither contracting party have been consulted, that the damages resulting from the war are not to be indemnified; that the Germans have carefully avoided fixing the date for the cessation of hostilities; that the Central Powers have reserved means for furthering their imperial ambitions in Asia; that they have virtually suppressed liberty of exchange, and that by excluding the regions of the Ukraine from the advantages guaranteed by any one of the coalition of the Central Powers to another.

At Petrograd, Amsterdam, Feb. 12.—German and Russian delegates at Petrograd, according to a dispatch from Berlin, have signed an agreement calling for the earliest possible repatriation of prisoners of war units for military service. Owing to the transportation difficulties in Russia, considerable delays are expected.

Only New From Germany, London, Feb. 11.—All news concerning the peace negotiations between the Central Powers and the Russian factions still come solely from Germany, Petrograd remaining completely silent. It is not yet known here whether the Ukraine Rada actually exercises the power implied in the terms of the Ukraine agreement.

Advantageous to Enemy, The general tendency of the moment is to regard it as having created a situation exceedingly advantageous to Germany. While the recognized interest of Russia is to hinder Germany's full realization of the benefits to be derived from the agreement, it is not yet known how far she will go to exploit the resources of food, minerals and other commodities at the earliest practicable moment. The political advantages she can reap from the new situation are regarded as quite equally important.

Imperial War Cabinet, I have summoned representatives of my dominions and my Indian empire to a further session of the imperial war cabinet in order that I may again receive their advice on questions of moment affecting the common interests of our nation.

My Lords and Gentlemen: The struggle in which we are engaged has reached a critical stage, which demands more than ever our united energies and resources. I confidently commend to your patriotism the measures which will be submitted to you, and I pray that the Almighty may bestow His blessing on your labors.

THE STOCK MARKET.

London, Feb. 12.—The stock market was only moderately active today with irregularity in prices, due to profit-taking. The death of business was attributed to the increased sale of war bonds and yesterday's heavy demand for treasury bond bills on rumors that the cessation of their issue was contemplated. Grand Trunk and Argentine rails were flat while industrial, armament and tin shares were the only firm features. Money and discount rates were firmer.

Austrians Launch Another Attack Against the Italians

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Feb. 11.—(By the Associated Press)—The Austrians have launched another attack against the Italian positions west of the Fretta river, along the same Frossenda Valley leading to the plain where the Italians recently defeated them with heavy loss.

Another drive was made at Massaso Rosso, further east, where the enemy tried to break into the old trenches lying ahead of the Italian lines, but here, too, the powerful concentration of the Italian batteries checked his progress at the first advanced posts.

With the British Army in France, Feb. 11.—(By the Associated Press)—The tension along the British-German front is tightening. As the extraordinarily bright, mild weather has continued to dry out the sodden fields, the two great armies have become more alert. The crisis of the days when the western theatre was held in the grip of snow and impassable mud has disappeared, and the contending forces are poised, watching each other, like duellists, for the first move, which will mean that the most sanguinary period of the war has begun.

Something seems bound to happen before another month has passed, if the present weather holds. Indeed, even now the ground in some sections is quite fit for fighting.

BRITING UP REINFORCEMENTS

The enemy continues to make intense preparations for what has been advertised as the "great offensive." German troops and guns keep pouring into the western front and there are indications that a few Austrian units are in Flanders.

Certain areas back of the German front have been cleared for action and daily bodies of troops have been practising attacks under the tutelage of experts. Prisoners say that leave for the soldiers was stopped on Jan. 20.

So far as actual fighting is concerned, it is still confined to identification raids, air activity and occasional bursts of artillery.

QUIET SEEMS OMINOUS

Along many miles of the front which the correspondent visited in the past two days there is an ominous quiet. One may sit for hours on a vantage point so close to the German lines that the enemy can be seen working about; yet there are few sounds of strife.

The enemy is playing possum or ignoring the military movements behind the British lines, and the British themselves are sitting tight, saying little. The silence is uneasy, and it is portentous.

Naturally the Allied preparations cannot be discussed, but it may be said that everywhere there is the spirit of optimism. Every soldier in the long line knows what is coming and smiles with assurance, for he knows what his supports are. The Allies still have a preponderance of men and guns along this front and they have an inclination to use this advantage. The Germans will find that their opponents have not wasted the winter months.

Australians Take Prisoners

London, Feb. 12.—The official communication issued by the war office last evening says: "Thirty-seven prisoners were captured in the raid of the Australians last night south of Messines. Three German machine guns and a trench mortar also were captured. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In addition to the losses caused by our preliminary bombardment, it is estimated by the Germans that 100 German soldiers were killed by our raiding party."

"An enemy counter-attack was successfully repulsed. We had some twenty casualties."

"The hostile artillery showed intermittent activity today southwest and west of Cambrai. In this area a number of German working parties were engaged by our batteries."

(Continued on page 2, seventh column.)

RIOTS IN STREETS OF COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen, Feb. 11.—Great crowds of syndicalists, numbering between 60,000 and 80,000, participated in the riots in Copenhagen today. Attempts were made to plunder shops in the fashionable streets and to storm the treasury. One crowd attempted to enter the royal palace at Amalienborg. All efforts were put down by the police.

All public buildings and the office of the newspaper Social Demokrat, which represents the Conservative Socialists, are being guarded by the police.

RETURNED SOLDIERS D.MAND FAIR DEAL

Montreal, Feb. 12.—The Montreal branch of the Great War Veterans' Association, at its annual meeting here last night, expressed regret that in this city the business men had not given the returned soldiers a fair deal in the matter of providing them with employment.

Truoper V. Brown, secretary of the association, stated that able-bodied men, who were fit to go overseas, were being held in the present war. Then Sergeant Nighthale and the work of women at the front in the present war. Then Sergeant Nighthale and his assistant veterans threw on the screen a series of remarkable photographs taken in France and Belgium, showing the havoc made by German guns at Ypres, Arras, and other places, with pictures also of St. John soldiers on the firing line. Sergeant Puddy gave a most interesting brief description as the pictures were shown. Just as he finished there arrived a messenger from Bond's, with coffee and sandwiches provided through the generosity of Mr. Bond, and the boys regaled themselves before going home. Mrs. J. E. Secord, Mrs. Harry Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Belding and George Guilford served the refreshments, and the boys gave hearty cheers for all their entertainers.

COMING FROM THE WRONG MAN.

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Roosevelt's Condition

New York, Feb. 12.—Theodore Roosevelt passed a fairly favorable night and was resting easily this morning. It was stated at the Roosevelt Hospital, where he was under an operation last week,

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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers in real estate have been recorded as follows: St. John County. J. R. Armstrong et al to W. P. McDonald, property in Simonsville. Mary A. Elmore and J. M. to Katherine, wife of F. T. Mullin, Public Landing. Selma Harwick, trustee of C. H. Gibson, property in Wright street. Isaac MacKellar and Neil to H. J. Gardner, property corner Charles and Garden streets. W. H. Sargent et al to Louis Urdang, property corner Union and Waterloo streets. Kings County. J. B. Coy to H. C. Coy, property in Springfield. E. L. Floyd to Isabelle Floyd, property in Uman. W. A. Innis to Amelia Innis, property in Norton. William Thomas to Minnie Thomas, property in Springfield. G. W. Weldon to E. W. Hayes, property in Cardwell. W. W. Weldon to Byron McLeod, property in Cardwell. Jessie Whiting to Theresa M. Rodgers, property in Westfield. J. H. Walker to C. K. Walker, property in Norton.

ENJOYABLE EVENING AT THE BOYS CLUB

Nearly seventy members of the Boys' Club had a particularly interesting time at the front in the present war. Then Sergeant Nighthale and his assistant veterans threw on the screen a series of remarkable photographs taken in France and Belgium, showing the havoc made by German guns at Ypres, Arras, and other places, with pictures also of St. John soldiers on the firing line. Sergeant Puddy gave a most interesting brief description as the pictures were shown. Just as he finished there arrived a messenger from Bond's, with coffee and sandwiches provided through the generosity of Mr. Bond, and the boys regaled themselves before going home. Mrs. J. E. Secord, Mrs. Harry Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Belding and George Guilford served the refreshments, and the boys gave hearty cheers for all their entertainers.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, Director of meteorological service.

POISED LIKE DUELLISTS, RIVAL ARMIES AWAIT WAR'S MOST SAUGUINARY PERIOD

More Favorable Weather Finds Forces On Alert

Air of Expectancy On The Western Front While Opposing Leaders Feverishly Finish Preparations For What May Be Deciding Campaign Of The Great War

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