SEE OUR GALLANT CANADIANS IN ACTION AT THE LYRIC!

Weather Forecast: Light Snow

# The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

HOME EDITION

53rd YEAR. No. 22701 THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 22, 1917. 80 COLUMNS. PRICE, TWO CENTS.

# FRENCH MARINE MINISTER DECLARES SUBMARINES WILL FAIL

## PATRIOTIC FUND IN CITY NOW MOUNTS TO $360,000 MARK

### Subscriptions Today Total Over $4,000 and Still Continue To Reach Committee---Auction Sale Wednesday Evening Brought In Large Sum.

London's gift to the patriotic fund has exceeded the $360,000 mark, with the subscriptions amounting to over four thousand dollars which have come in this forenoon.

Though the canvass was brought to a formal close on Wednesday night, subscriptions still continue to flow into the treasury. At least a thousand dollars were taken in this forenoon by A. D. McLean, manager of the Bank of Commerce, honorary treasurer. Allan McLean, secretary of the men's committee, co-operating with the ladies' teams, reports $2,000 added today to the total of the ladies' teams, bringing the amount turned in by them to more than $30,000, their original objective. In one or two districts, in which it was impossible to complete the work in the time allotted, women canvassers have been busy today, making sure that no one has been overlooked. A substantial increase is still expected beyond the $30,000.

**Several Reports.**

Among captains making reports to Mr. McLean today were Mrs. A. T. Edwards, who gave in subscriptions amounting to $800; Mrs. Donald McLean, $375; Mrs. G. B. Sage, $225; Mrs. H. Ashplant, $195; and Mrs. E. B. Smith, $237.

Subscriptions amounting to a $1,000 or more reached E. H. Nelles at headquarters.

While every precaution was taken to prevent anyone being overlooked in the campaign just closed, there were people whom it was impossible to reach, even in several visits. A large number of these today have come forward voluntarily with generous donations. Again there were others who could not make up their minds in regard to the amount when the canvassers called and these, too, have shown their sincerity by subscribing early today.

**Barracks sends $305.**

Mrs. A. T. Edwards, whose district was the northeast end of the city, has expressed special appreciation of a donation of $305 from the barracks, forwarded to her by Col. L. W. Shannon, D. O. C.

Sir George Gibbons, chairman of the general campaign committee, left the city early this morning for Toronto.

A. E. Silverwood, convener of the canvass committee, and others who had a prominent part in the campaign as committee members, captains or canvassers, are back at their regular duties, somewhat tired, but jubilant over the success which has attended their efforts.

As far as the women workers are concerned, so encouraged have they been and so interesting have they found the experience, that a number are de-

Continued on Page Three.

## Raemakers Portrays the Kaiser's Devotion to His Allies

*Advertiser Illustrations.*

William.—When it becomes too dangerous for me I shall simply cut the rope. (When the kaiser's military position becomes critical it is believed that he will leave his allies, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey to their fate.)—Copyright, Canada, 1917, by Public Ledger Company.

## AUSTRIAN-U. S. RELATIONS ARE NEAR A CLIMAX

### Break Likely To Come Within Forty-Eight Hours.

### HOLDS CENTRE OF STAGE

### Washington Feeling Tense as Final Severance With Teuton Nears.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Austrian-American situation today held the centre of the international war stage.

The climax of this silent drama has been going on since the United States broke with Germany, appears to be at hand.

Within 48 hours, it is now generally believed, this Government will know whether the scope of its diplomatic relations is to be extended to Austria-Hungary.

**REPLY KNOWN AT BERLIN.**

Berne, via Paris, Feb. 22.—Austria's reply to the United States defining her position in the submarine war is known in Berlin, according to the Frankfurter Zeitung, which predicts that a breach of relations between Washington and Vienna is inevitable. The paper's Berlin correspondent says:

"The memorandum which President Wilson has sent to the Vienna Government leaves no doubt that the breach of relations between the United States and Germany will soon be followed by a breach with Austria-Hungary. President Wilson wishes to be clearly told whether the Austro-Hungarian Government has withdrawn its earlier declaration regarding the conduct of submarine warfare. Really one ought to think that the explanation given by Austria-Hungary at the beginning of the unrestricted submarine warfare to the effect that from February 1 all ocean traffic in the blockaded zones will be prevented with all means, should not be capable of misconception. But in his dealings with the central powers, President Wilson is always painfully exact.

"It is true that we have not heard that he ever sent cautions, let alone warnings, to the Entente for torpedoing Austrian or German ships without warning, but when Germany or Austria do the same thing President Wilson raises his voice in the name of humanity and civilization. The Austro-Hungarian Government will answer President Wilson's memorandum. What the answer will be is not known. Mr. Wilson can draw his conclusions therefrom."

**SUPPRESSING THE PRESS.**

Vienna, Feb. 21—Via London, Feb. 22.—The newspapers this morning publish the full text of the American aide memoire. It was accompanied by an official statement that the United States Government requested information concerning the Austro-Hungarian Government's attitude as to assurances given in its notes dealing with the sinking of the steamers Ancona and Persia. It is stated that the communication will be examined in the light of international law and then answered. The newspapers generally refrain from commenting on the American communication, but those who do comment do so in the mildest sense. The Neue Freie Presse, which disregarded the injunction sent out yesterday by the Government to consider the American note temperately, had its editorial comment completely suppressed today, half of the first page of the newspaper being blank. This measure is considered remarkable, as the Government has no right to suppress articles not directed against the country itself or dealing with military matters of importance.

## GERMANY CANNOT CUT OFF SUPPLIES WITH HER U-BOATS

### Admiral Lacaze Shows by Figures the Impossibility of the Submarine Campaign Starving Out the Entente Nations.

The following interview with Admiral Lacaze, French minister of of marine, brings the first official expression of France's view of the new German submarine campaign.

It is especially significant, following as it does, the statement of Sir Edward Carson, first lord of the British admiralty, in the House of Commons yesterday, in which England's attitude towards the unrestricted warfare was expressed.

(By W. S. Forrest.)

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

**Paris, Feb. 22.—"If Germany is building hopes that her new submarine blockade will cut off the Allies' supplies, decrease their military strength and thus end the war, these hopes are misplaced. The blockade will never succeed."**

**FIGURES TELL OF FAILURE.**

Admiral Lacaze, France's minister of marine, gave this reply today when the United Press correspondent asked him for a message to America on how France views the German submraine war.

"If the German people are looking to the submarine for peace, let them take cognizance of the fact that since the beginning of the blockade on February 1st, about the same number of French mercantile ships have been arriving at our ports as before. The total was more than a hundred daily. That figure is immutable.

**FRENCH IMPORTS DOUBLED.**

"I do not believe conditions will change much from 1916, when the average of French imports doubled from 2½ to 5 million tons monthly.

"Also, since the beginning of the war, we have doubled our seaboard imports. The blockade may reduce the present figures somewhat, but it is materially impossible for the Germans to abolish these imports. The losses of world's tonnage in the past has never been such as to bring about a critical condition as far as the Allies' supplies are concerned.

**SURVIVAL OF STRONGEST.**

"Even suppose that the German submarines destroy more than formerly, the situation simply resolves itself into the question as to who is able to hold out the longest.

"Germany, long immersed in economic difficulties, is now deprived of all sea trade except that of Scandinavia. The worst that can befall us is more rigid restrictions to civilians. Rest assured we'll keep all necessities. But this is merely hypothetical. We haven't begun to worry about supplies."

**BRUTE STRENGTH WORTHLESS.**

"The admiral reiterated his belief that the protagonists of ruthless submarinings were ever greatly opposed in German officialdom.

"The longer war lasts the more the Germans must realize that brute strength is worthless.

"If you ask who will be victorious in this war, my answer is it will be the party having the will and morals to hold on from month to month, from day to day, from hour to hour. Germany is now feeling a pinch which is not to be compared with any experience of the Entente."

Admiral Lacaze would not reveal the means by which the French navy is combatting the submarine campaign, but his air of confidence was sufficient to indicate complete success of those defensive measures.

## COUSIN RECOGNIZES "TANK" COMMANDER SHOWN IN PICTURE

### Officer With Cat Relative of Mrs. Tanner.

### IS AIRMAN EDDIE McKAY?

### Friends Sure That Smile Can Belong to None Other Than Londoner.

The clearness and vivid portrayal of the Canadian war pictures, now being shown at the Lyric Theatre, were demonstrated last night, when Mrs. Harold Tanney of 801 Maitland street recognized in the commander of "The Dolphin, 53," one of the "tanks" shown, her cousin, Lieut. Harry Drader, son of Henry Drader, formerly one of the best-known oil men of the Petrolea district.

Lieut. Drader was seen going into his tank with his mascot cat on his shoulder. He is one of the Canadian boys who have been given command of the land battleships which have created such havoc in the German lines. Only 20 years of age, he enlisted in the old country, where he was when the war broke out. He has made a great record as a tank comamnder, and won the Military Cross the first time he took his wonderful machine into action.

**IS HE EDDIE McKAY?**

Those of his friends who have seen the Canadian Official War Pictures at the Lyric this week are reasonably certain that the Canadian aviator shown is none other than Lieut. "Eddie" McKay, star birdman and master of Capt. Boelke.

The aviator is garbed in the characteristic uniform of the service, and not until he climbs into his machine and smiles toward the camera is his face seen.

Then for certain it is seen that there is at least a remarkable resemblance, and his closest friends are positive that it is "the McKay."

"That is Eddie McKay's smile as sure as I am alive," said one of his closest friends who saw the pictures yesterday. He is going to attend another show to make certain.

## FREE COMPETITION IN PAPER MAKING IS OBJECT SOUGHT

### U. S. Commission Seeking a Cure for Conditions.

### DEPENDS ON THE MAKERS

### Those Favorable to Fair Price Represent 30 Per Cent of Output.

Washington, Feb. 22.—News print paper manufacturers began arriving here today for conferences with the federal trade commission on a proposal that the commission fix news print prices for a period of six months. Manufacturers representing about one-third of the production of the United States and Canada have signed the proposal. Those coming did not join in the suggestion and are here at the request of the commission, which wishes their views on it.

**Seeking a Cure.**

Restoration of free competition in news print paper manufacture is the aim of the commission, and if it accepts the proposal it will work with that purpose in view. The commission, it was stated today, is bent on finding a cure for conditions and not a mere palliative. At the end of six months the commission feels that conditions in the news print industry will so have been shaped that unrestrained competition will insure fair and equitable prices.

**Depends on Makers.**

Acceptance of the proposals depends on the attitude of manufacturers, who are arriving here. Those who already have signed the proposal represent about 30 per cent of the news-print output of the United States and Canada. Their surrender in the face of criminal indictments, officials believe, will break the news print market and force prices to an equitable level whether all other manufacturers join in or not. Members of the commission are hopeful that most of the other big manufacturers will come in.

A census of pulp wood consumption, made by the forestry bureau in co-operation with the Newsprint Manufacturers' Association, announced today, shows that 160 mills reporting used in 1916 about 3,419,000 cords of wood and produced approximately 2,239,000 tons of pulp.

## STARTLING CHARGE MADE BY EMPLOYEE ON GOVT. CONTRACT

### Says Overpayments in Connection With Manitoba Job.

Winnipeg, Feb. 22.—Charges of overpayments in connection with the work being done for the Manitoba Government on the new Parliament Buildings by the J. McDiarm'd Company, the present contractors, were made before two audiences last night by Octave S. Guilbault, a former employee of the contractors. Guilbault, who is to appear today before the public accounts committee of the Legislature, declared that if a proper inquiry were granted, and the documents produced he would expect to see all his charges proven.

Guilbault declared that the Government was charged with larger quantities of coal than the amount used, and with a better quality of coal than that actually used, that the labor used on other contracts of the same contractor were charged against the Parliament Buildings, that the coal tonnage was padded, that material ordered for the Parliament Buildings was charged to the buildings, and then used by contractors on other work, and that the time of men on other work was charged against the buildings. He charged also that the Government paid more for certain machinery than it was worth. Guilbault said he would reserve his details to come out at the proper moment.

## SWEDEN WILL PROTEST OVER LOSS OF STEAMER

Stockholm, Sweden, Feb. 22. — Via London.—The Swedish minister at Berlin has been directed to file a protest against the sinking of the Swedish motor ship Hugo Hamilton. Nothing has been learned regarding the fate of the crew.

The Hugo Hamilton was on the way from Valparaiso with 4,000 tons of saltpetre consigned to the Swedish Farmers' Association, which was greatly needed on account of the scarcity of fertilizer in Sweden. She carried a crew of more than 30 men. Several days ago the Swedish government asked Berlin for particulars regarding the sinking.

### THE WEATHER

**TOMORROW—LIGHT SNOW.**

Toronto, Feb. 22—8 a.m.

**Forecasts.**

Today—Fair; moderately cold tonight.

Friday — Higher temperatures and mostly fair, but some light local snow.

**Temperatures.**

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

| Stations. | High. | Low. | Weather. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Victoria | 36 | 28 | Cloudy |
| Calgary | — 6 | —18 | Cloudy |
| Winnipeg | 2 | —16 | Cloudy |
| Port Arthur | 16 | — 4 | Cloudy |
| Parry Sound | 22 | 12 | Clear |
| Toronto | 27 | 22 | Clear |
| Ottawa | 20 | 0 | Snow |
| Montreal | 18 | — 4 | Cloudy |
| Quebec | 18 | — 4 | Clear |
| Father Point | 14 | — 8 | Fair |

Minus (—) means below zero.

**Weather Notes.**

Light snow has fallen in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces.

The weather has been decidedly cold in the Western Provinces, and moderately cold from the Great Lakes eastward.

## PYJAMAS AND GOLD ON BERNSTORFF SHIP SEIZED BY CUSTOMS

### One German Attache Had Hundreds of Suits.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 22.—Examination of the baggage of the German party on board the Scandinavian-American steamer Frederik VIII has revealed that each and every member of it has plentifully stocked himself or herself with goods which are scarce in the Fatherland to which they are sailing. The most favored line of goods among them, however, is cotton, and it was reported today that one secretary of the German embassy in Washington alone has several hundred suits of pyjamas. In view of the close association between cotton and explosives, it is thought that the custom officials here will relieve the Germans of some of their excess cotton goods, and make an allowance for them.

**Plenty of Money.**

The Germans, too, are all well supplied with money, most of it in gold. This is also contraband, and it is understood here that it will be exchanged for them into some form of currency less useful to the fatherland.

The rigidity with which the operations upon the Frederik VIII. have been conducted have not been relaxed as the time has passed. In addition to keeping a close watch upon the passengers and crew of the vessel, the guards placed over them are themselves under the surveillance of secret service men. One guard found this out when, after he had broken the rule forbidding him to converse with anybody conected with the ship, he was taken off his post, searched, and before being released, given a good lecture.

Most of the custom officials who have been engaged in going over the ship have been retained on the ship to offset the barest possibility of communication being established between the boat and the shore.

## Sir Robert Borden Pays Tribute To John Bull's Navy

London, Feb. 22.—Sir Robert L. Borden, the Canadian premier, who arrived in London today, told his interviewers that his voyage was uneventful except for the taking of necessary precautions. The premier said the journey across the Atlantic under war conditions impressed him most vividly with the wonderful achievement of the navy in keeping the ocean pathways comparatively secure against the "most deadly menace ever devised."

**CITY MEN DID WELL.**—The hydro and waterworks employees of the city contributed $903.78 towards the patriotic fund, so General Manager E. V. Buchanan announced today, an average of $10.50 each.

## TO CANADA

(The following tribute to Canada is from the pen of John Callan O'Laughlin, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Herald, and is especially written for The Advertiser.)

Across thy snow-clad hills and plains,
Across thy frozen lakes and streams,
Thy Spirit flames,
Oh, Canada!

Thou reckest naught of joys nor pains,
Thou art not moved by mirage dreams,
Thou art a force, a purpose grim,
Resistless; tide of human race,
Like to the ocean's pulsing rythym,
That beats and beats with sturdy pace.
On, on thou goest in thy might,
On, on, thy steps invade the night.
Thou hath no fears, no craven streak,
No soul to shrink from danger's beak,
Thine eyes are bright, with courage rare.
Thy shield's unblotted by despair,
Whate'er the future holds for thee,—
Storm or stress or troubled sea,
False beacons raised to guide thee wrong,
The lilting of a siren's song—
We know, thy sons and daughters blest,
Thou movest straight upon thy quest,
And with that knowledge in our breasts,
All's left to thee, who seeth best,
Oh, Canada!

## DROPS COMMISSION TO GET TO FRANCE

Sergt. Charles Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, 208 Grey street, went overseas with the 133rd Battalion as a private, after taking his lieutenant's course.

He transferred to the 134th York Borderers in England, and has been in the trenches since last December. His brother, Joe, will shortly be invalided home from England.

## NIGHT WAS CALM OVER FRENCH WESTERN FRONT

Paris, Feb. 22—2 p.m.—"The night was calm over the whole front," says today's official announcement. "Our artillery caught by its fire and dispersed a German detachment which was making a sortie near Bethincourt, on the left bank of the Meuse."

**FIRE AT WINNIPEG.**

Winnipeg, Feb. 22.—Fire last night in the premises of the Great West Saddlery Company here caused damage to stock and building estimated at forty thousand dollars.

## AMERICAN SAILORS RELEASED BY BERLIN, SAYS DUTCH CABLE

### U. S. Citizens Taken by the Raider Are Liberated.

Amsterdam, Feb. 22—Via London, 12:20 p.m.—A dispatch received here from Berlin says that the American sailors who were taken to Germany on the steamer Yarrowdale have been released.

The Americans were released, the dispatch says, after the German Government had been informed officially that German ships in America had not been confiscated, and that their crews had not been interned.

**KILLS SELF ON STREET.**

Montreal, Feb. 21.—An unknown woman, aged about 30, shot herself through the head on Laguchetier street, near St. Hubert street, at 8 o'clock tonight, and died a few minutes after having been rushed to Notre Dame Hospital, without speaking. She was fairly well dressed. In her purse was a return stub ticket from Gros Bois, dated February 21.

## 1,000 PERISHED IN DRESDEN EXPLOSION, WAS WORST OF WAR

### Munitions Factory Blew Up At Christmas Time.

London, Feb. 22.—The explosion in ammunition factories in Dresden during the Christmas holidays was the greatest disaster of the kind which has occurred anywhere since the war began, according to a Central News dispatch from Christiania quoting a Dresden dispatch to the Aftenposten.

More than 1,00 persons were killed out of 20,000 employed in the wrecked factories. Emperor William visited the scene on the following day.

A Paris dispatch dated January 27 said that, according to a letter taken from a German soldier and written from Dresden, the Dresden arsenal had been blown up, and 1,000 women and young girls killed. The letter was dated December 30.

## Five Americans On Board This Victim of Subs

### Given Ten Minutes To Escape When Skygland Was Sunk.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Sinking by a German submarine of the Swedish steamer Skyland, which had five Americans aboard, after the crew had been given ten minutes to take to their boats, was reported by Consul General Hurst at Barcelona, Spain, in a message today to the state department. No one was injured and the crew landed safely at Tarragona, Spain.

## GERARD AND HIS PARTY REACH SPANISH CAPITAL

Madrid, Feb. 22—Via London.—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador at Berlin, and his party, arrived here this morning, on their way to the United States. They were met at the station by representatives of the foreign office.

## DAILY TOLL OF THE SUBS

**TODAY'S LIST.**

Paris, Feb. 22.—Official announcement was made today of the sinking on February 21 of the Dutch steamship Amroon, 3,598 tons gross, and of a British trawler.

The sinking of the Norwegian steamship Alice, 709 tons, and of the Russian steamer Sigrid, 2,194 tons, also was announced.

Lloyds also announce that the British steamer Carso has been sunk.

The Corso was a vessel of 3,242 tons. She was last reported as having passed through the Red Sea, eastbound, on January 4.

**WEDNESDAY'S LIST.**

| | Tonnage. |
|---|---|
| Centurion, British | 1,828 |
| Brigade, British | 425 |
| Minas, Italian | 2,854 |
| Skogland, Norwegian | 3,041 |
| Guiseppe, Italian | 1,196 |
| Guido, British | 2,903 |
| Rosalie, British | 4,023 |

**SUMMARY.**

| | No. | Tonnage. |
|---|---|---|
| Average daily loss, Feb. 1-20 | 6 | 13,269 |
| Total loss, Feb. 1-20 | 123 | 265,389 |

Besides the above, Berlin claims the sinking of six ships with a total tonnage of 21,548, which has not yet been admitted by the Allies.

**OUTSIDE BARRED ZONE.**

London, Feb. 22.—The British steamer Perseus has been sunk, Lloyds' Shipping Agency announced today. Four men of the crew are missing.

Two British steamers Perseus are listed. The larger is a vessel of 6,728 tons gross, built at Belfast, and owned by the Ocean Steamship Company of Liverpool. She was last reported sailing from Dakar, West Africa, on January 18, en route from Liverpool to Yokohama, which would place her far outside any of the barred zones. The smaller vessel is a 155-ton trawler, owned in Grimsby.

## BRITISH ATTACK SHARPLY, IS REPORT OF BERLIN

### Claim to Have Driven Haig's Men From Captured Positions.

Berlin, Feb. 22—Via Sayville.—A sharp attack by several British companies on the German lines in the vicinity of Armentieres is reported in today's army headquarters statement.

The text of the statement reads:

"Western Front, Army Group of Crown Prince Rupprecht: South of Armentieres, after strong artillery preparation, several British companies entered our position. They were immediately ejected by a powerful counter thrust. While clearing the trench 200 British dead were counted. Thirty-nine men were taken prisoners.

"Reconnoitring advances by the enemy south of La Bassee Canal and between the Ancre and the Somme failed."

## REINTRODUCE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FOR ENGLAND

London, Feb. 22.—The reintroduction of the daylight savings scheme was today unanimously recommended by the committee appointed by the British Parliament to consider the subject. The Government is being urged to bring the schedule into effect in April instead of in May.

## DRASTIC MEASURE AS CHECK TO VICE IN BRITISH ISLES

### Bill Raises the Age of Consent To Sixteen.

### HEAVY FINES ORDERED

### Men Will Be Held To More Strict Accountability Hereafter.

London, Feb. 22.—"The practice of prostitution on our streets by girls of 15, 16 and 17 is a scandal to civilization," declared Herbert Samuel, late home secretary, in a speech in the House of Commons last night, which expressed the growing intensity of public feeling on this subject. London and other cities in Great Britain are filled with soldiers, many of them mere youths from the country and the overseas dominions, who are exposed to extraordinary temptations to such an extent that the Government has been compelled to deal drastically with the problem.

**Bill Raises Age of Consent.**

Sir George Cave, the new home secretary, is pressing forward a criminal law amendment bill which may be passed. This measure holds men to a far stricter accountability than heretofore for their conduct toward girls up to the age of 16. At present there is no defence even if a girl is under the age of 13 if she consents. The bill raises the age of consent to 16 and provides that any act of indecency against a child under 16 shall be subject to indictment; to say that the child consented is no defence. Neither under the law can a man, as previously, plead that he had reasonable grounds to suppose that the girl was older than she really was. Absolute responsibility will rest upon the man to make sure that the girl is not under 16.

**Laws Broken With Impunity.**

Fines, in fact, have been wholly insufficient, and those breaking the laws could do so with impunity. Innumerable offences entailed no very great embarrassment for the guilty. Henceforth the fines will be enormously increased and severe prison sentences will be added. Landlords and keepers of disreputable houses will be sharply prosecuted. The penalties for these offenders will be raised from insignificant amounts up to £100 ($500) or three months in jail for the first offence, £250 ($1,250) or six months for the second offence, and £500 ($2,500) or twelve months for the third offence. Magistrates will be empowered to exact both fine and imprisonment.

**Ban Upon Indecent "Ads."**

Soliciting will be heavily punished. Anyone knowingly communicating disease or soliciting while diseased will be deemed guilty of an offence punishable with two years in prison. Advertisements of alleged cures of specific diseases shall be deemed indecent and be subject to a fine of £500 ($2,500) or six months' imprisonment. The highest penalty now is £5 ($25) or three months imprisonment.

**GIRL CLERKS FOR FRANCE.**

Peterboro, Feb. 21.—Capt. J. H. Burnham, 93rd Battalion, today cabled the British war office an offer to raise a contingent of girl clerks for France, to relieve men for the trenches. Capt Burnham has opened lists at his office to receive the names of young women who will come to meet the demand for the female help.