

The Toronto World

FOUNDED 1893.
A morning newspaper published every day in the year by The World Newspaper Company of Toronto, Limited.
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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UNITED STATES.
Daily World \$4.00 per year; Daily World \$5.00 per month; Sunday World \$3.00 per year; Sunday World \$2.50 per month, including postage.

It will prevent delay if letters containing "subscriptions," "orders for papers," "remittances," etc., are addressed to the Circulation Department.

The World promises a before 7 o'clock a.m. delivery in any part of the city or suburbs. World subscribers are invited to advise the circulation department in case of late or irregular delivery. Telephone M. 5508.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 4

Raids on Britain

Germany has threatened and announced so many air and sea invasions of Britain since this war began that the latest one is likely to fall on deaf ears. Everyone knows the fable of the shepherd boy who thought it fine fun to interrupt the harvesting with his cry of "Wolf, wolf!" when there was no wolf, but found at the cost of his flock that when the raider actually appeared his cry brought no response. He was the guardian of the sheep and when his voice was discredited he and they alike suffered. But the British public have this to remember, that in their case it is the enemy that calls and therefore that deceit is an essential part of enemy tactics.

Hopeless as an effort at invasion may seem and useless as a factor in this war the Kaiser may take a gambler's last chance. His fleet might just as well be at the bottom of the sea as hiding under the guns of his fortified naval bases. Prepared as they were on land the Germans were caught unprepared at sea to the extent required to inflict serious damage on British maritime trade. This was probably due to the fact that in Germany the naval arm was in fact under military control and is, in fact, treated as a branch of the army service. In Britain, with her long maritime tradition, the navy is an entirely separate organization, with its own problems and its own methods of meeting them.

Germans have become desperate. Compelled to recognize the menace of trade isolation and confronted with the rapid reinforcement of the British armadas in the western theatre of war while the German fleet waits idly in its shelters, they may and likely will make a sudden and violent effort to break the gap that is threatening them. The escape into the Atlantic of even a few cruisers, however brief their career, might seriously hamper the course of British trade. This and other possibilities are without doubt within the full purview of the admiralty. The British navy has done splendid service already, and every possible contingency, it can be taken as certain, has been considered and anticipated.

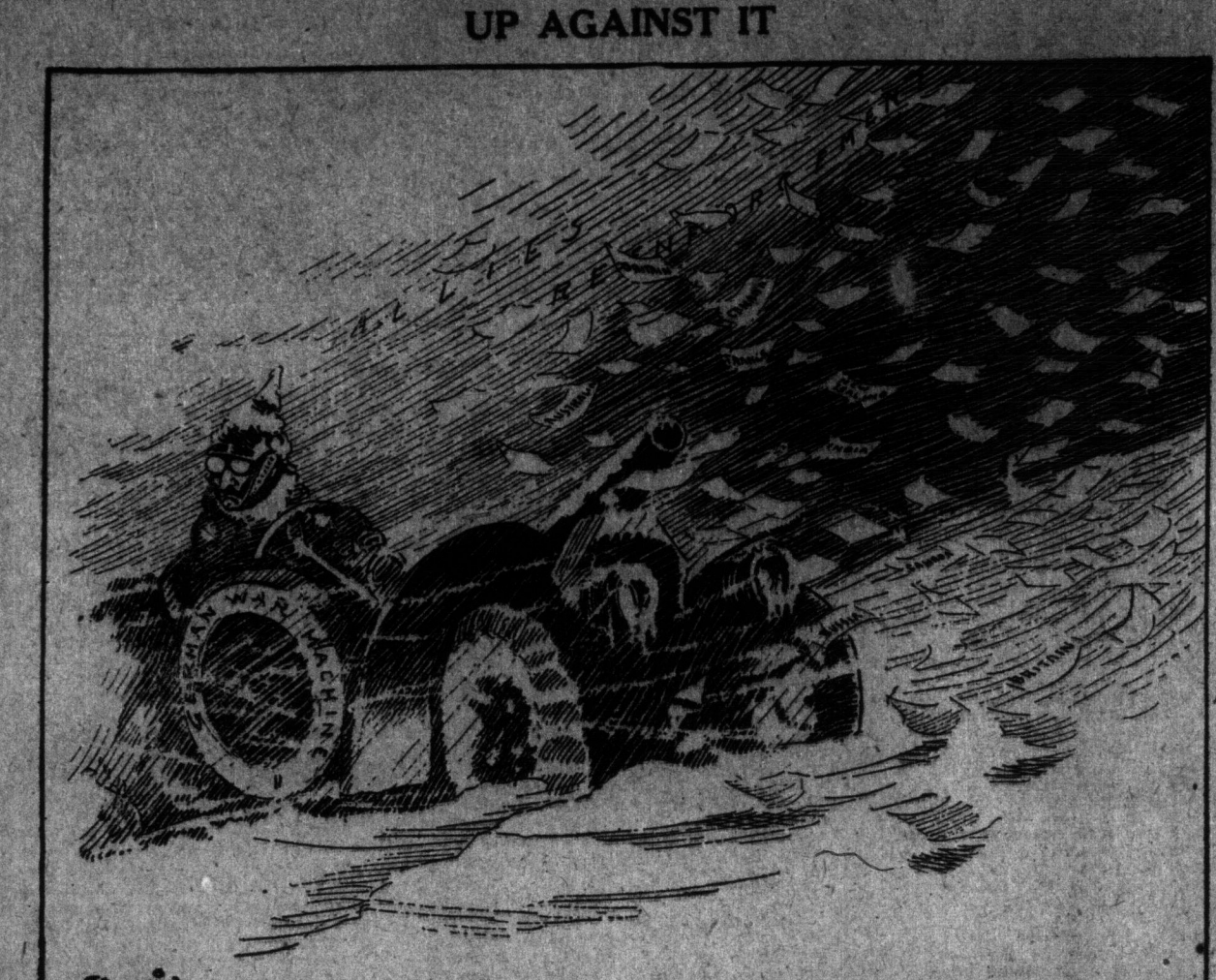
What of the Zeppelins?

That benevolently-minded old gentleman, Count Zeppelin, must be considerably disappointed at the failure of his dirigible balloons to accomplish anything of consequence. Dire things have time and again been threatened—none have materialized and experts are now seriously inclined to doubt whether they are of real use for any purpose. Winter conditions in the North Sea do not lend themselves easily to the pilots of huge craft that present so large a surface to wind influence and to hostile attack. It may be true that the Germans are still turning Zeppelins out of their manufacturing factories, but it is to enjoy the pleasure of hope, not of memory.

The most surprising thing is that no attempt should have been made to interfere with the transportation of British troops to France. That has been going on now for many months and it is reported to be in largely increased numbers. Yet only now does a warning come from Germany that this invasion of her right to direct the operations of the allies can no longer be permitted. One would imagine that if Zeppelins had any possibilities in the way of bomb dropping at least one effort would have been made to reach the transports or the ports where the troops disembarked. Germany evidently places more reliance on her submarines.

Changing the Empire

No one can predicate the change in the whole outlook of the people of the United Kingdom that must follow upon the war. While Britons have been great colonizers and have earned the reputation of being great travelers, the masses at home have remained singularly unaffected by the experiences of the more adventurous. Their peregrinations have been largely confined to popular resorts within easy reach of their homes, and the persistence of insular and even local



UP AGAINST IT

notions and ideas has been the frequent occasion of comment. Now all these ingrained opinions concerning the unknown lands beyond the seas that bound the British Isles are undergoing a vast change. Not only will inhabitants of the United Kingdom know each other better, but they will have their whole horizon vastly widened.

Territorial regiments whose whole interest was confined to their own districts are being sent to the remotest parts of the empire. They are serving in Egypt and India. They form part of the troops in France and Belgium, and before long hundreds of thousands of the young men who have joined Kitchener's new armies will be meeting and fraternizing with the soldiers of the countries they have read and heard about, but have never seen. They will return home with an entirely different outlook on life. Other countries will no longer be names but realities. They will have learned to appreciate the common humanity that they share with peoples who speak other tongues.

To no other nation is this opportunity given in the same degree. It is part of the privilege enjoyed by Britons as the centre of a world-wide empire, shared, too, by the Britons of its self-governing dominions, who are responding to the call to arms. In a measure, too, the wider sense of unity under a common flag will be felt in India, in Egypt, and to a lesser degree in even those parts of the empire that are less directly concerned with the defence of British liberty and British institutions. Great as will be the cost in life and money, out of this war and out of the victory that crowns it will come immeasurable benefits. There will be a new conception of empire and its duties and of its obligations.

Australia's Wheat Supply

One of the few mislapses that have attended the empire at this crisis has been the failure of the wheat crop in Australasia. In 1913-14 the six states of Australia produced close on 104,000,000 bushels of the staple. Last year the production fell considerably short of the amount the commonwealth required for its own needs. Instead, therefore, of being able to assist the mother country, Australia will have to import wheat as will New Zealand, which also suffered from the unusually dry season. Drought has been the chief enemy of the farmers in the states of the southern sea, and it is doubly unfortunate for them that it should have afflicted them so seriously at the very moment when their supplies were badly wanted and when prices were unusually favorable.

When the shortage became apparent the commonwealth government at once placed an embargo on the export of wheat. This action was taken on the recommendation of the Federal Commission on Food Supplies of which Mr. Alfred Deakin was chairman. It also strongly urged that the area set aside for wheat cultivation should be extended as much as possible in the hope that the untoward weather conditions would not recur this year. The farmers made so ready and immediate a response that it is possible the area under wheat cultivation will be increased by fifty per cent. It is estimated that in Australia at least 100,000,000 acres of good land is available that only needs clearing and the state governments have already taken steps to utilize the unemployed for that purpose.

Simplified Spelling

One of the dominant notes at the meetings held during education week in London, England, a month ago was the quiet satisfaction that marked the teachers' references to the war and the schools. They had for many years been urged by people infatuated with German ideas to copy German methods. Just as steadily was this advice resisted on the ground that what may be called the spiritual method was superior to the material method of

training children, and the teachers now believe that the events of the war are proving their opposition to have been justified.

In one direction, however, Germany has had a distinct advantage—that of the phonetic spelling of the language. Even at that German has other disabilities that make it a hard tongue to master. English without these disabilities is still handicapped by an indefensible, illogical and time-wasting system of spelling. It was natural, therefore, that during education week the opportunity should be taken by the advocates of simplified spelling to press the desirability of reform. A conference was accordingly held and attended by many of the leading members of university and school staffs under the presidency of Mr. William Archer.

At the conference it was strongly urged that a commission be appointed which should include scholars, teachers, men of letters and men of science for the purpose of enquiring into the necessity for spelling reform and as to how it best could be introduced. It was again pointed out how great is the waste and confusion resulting from a system of spelling "defended only by those who ignore its wretched history." This is the great handicap to the expansion of the English language, and its reform only means a return to the early simplicity and truthfulness of our elementary schools would become far more valuable were the many hours devoted to spelling set free for other purposes by the introduction of a system that reconciled sight and sound.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD WELCOMED BY PREMIER

Commission Meeting on Water Pollution is Officially Greeted by Hon. W. H. Hearst.

The joint international commission on the pollution of boundary waters received yesterday the stamp of approval from Ontario's premier, and an enthusiastic greeting from the minister of agriculture, Hon. James Duff. The commission, which is composed of representatives of the engineering, surveying and other departments of the government, met in the morning at the residence of the premier, and spent the day in arranging matters for their session. From indications already received it is likely that the personnel of the commission will stand as it is for several years, and there is some talk of it being made a permanent body.

In his welcome Hon. W. H. Hearst referred to the additional evidence in the spirit of good-will and friendship existing between Canada and her southern neighbor. He stated that the government would without doubt give the matter serious consideration, but that he could not hold out any hope.

Will Warn Members.
When the delegation returned to the hall a resolution was passed to the effect that every director on the board of the association should appeal to the member in his riding and put forward before him his responsibility to his constituents in this respect. The resolution passed unanimously.

The report of the treasurer was passed as read and showed a good financial year.

DAMAGES AWARDED TO INJURED WORKER
Elpidio Vardecchia Gets Compensation From Canadian Stewart Co., Contractors.

Judge Denton yesterday awarded Elpidio Vardecchia \$300 damages and costs in his action against the Canadian Stewart Co., Limited. The defendant company were contractors for the Dominion Bank Building, and plaintiff was employed by them as a laborer. On July 10 last, while carrying rubbish across a plank from the building to the street he collided with another workman and was thrown off the plank and received several injuries to the knee.

DELEGATES PROTEST TO HON. JAS. DUFF

Entire Convention Journey to Parliament Buildings to Register Grievances.

WILL WARN MEMBERS

Resolution Passed Calling for the Influence of Local Representatives.

Election of officers and a visit to the parliament buildings were the features of the proceedings of the last day of the Ontario Association of Farmers and Exhibitors' fifteenth annual convention, which has been in session the past two days in the C.O.F. Hall.

Delegates Make Protest.
About 3.30 in the afternoon the convention as a body adjourned to the parliament buildings to meet the premier and cabinet, but owing to some misunderstanding only the minister of agriculture, Hon. James Duff, gave them a hearing. The minister apologized for the informal way in which the delegates had been received, but stated that the premier was unaware that any delegation was to visit upon him.

Government Forced to Retrench.
In reply Mr. Duff reminded them that every business was economizing now, and that as long as the war lasted it would continue, so the government had been forced to make retrenchments also. He stated that the government would without doubt give the matter serious consideration, but that he could not hold out any hope.

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See the Beautiful Scenery at Niagara Falls.

The Toronto Bowling Club is running an excursion to Niagara Falls, Ont., and Buffalo, on Saturday, Feb. 6, via Grand Trunk Railway. Tickets are good leaving Toronto via the 8.10 a.m. fast express, and valid to return on regular trains until Monday, Feb. 8, 1915. Return fare to Niagara Falls, Ont., \$2.25, and Buffalo \$2.75. Tickets now on sale at city ticket office, northwest corner King and Yonge streets, phone Main 4209.

MARSH ENTERS SUIT.

Lou E. Marsh, journalist, is suing Louis M. Tigh, carrying on business as the Sanitary Wet Wash Laundry, for \$3000 damages for personal injuries sustained by him in a collision between the plaintiff's motorcycle and defendant's motor truck, on Wilton avenue, on May 12, 1914.

DYNAMITARD SOON TO BE DEALT WITH

Secretary Bryan Promises Speedy Extradition If Canada Demands It of U.S.

NO OFFICIAL DETAILS

State Department Unable to Determine Yet Whether German Government Involved

Special to The Toronto World.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The attempted destruction of the international bridge of the Canadian Pacific and Maine Central railways, near the Canadian pier of the St. Croix River bridge, created consternation among officials of the state department and the British embassy today. Up to a late hour neither the department nor the embassy had been officially apprised of the crime, but were expecting despatches of an explanatory character.

Secretary of State Bryan expects that the course of the Canadian Government will be to demand at once the extradition of the miscreant, and it is probable that the British embassy will be the first official channel of information on the subject. Extradition will not be long withheld, according to Mr. Bryan.

May Cause Complications.
Pending the receipt of definite information as to the character of the man charged with the offense, it is not possible to say whether the matter will involve any international question between the United States and Germany. It is pointed out by well-informed persons here that only in the event of the man who planted the bomb being proved to have acted in his capacity as an official of the German military establishment could ground for protest be so that government be found. It is even a question whether such a charge would lie against a single individual at any rate in the strict acceptance of the terms of international law prohibiting armed expeditions being initiated from American territory.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER OFFERED TO KINGSTON

Sir Adam Beck Works on Scheme and Advises Acceptance of Interim Offer.

By a Staff Reporter.
KINGSTON, Feb. 3.—In a letter to the city utilities commission regarding copper power and the offer of J. M. Campbell to supply the city from Kingston mills, Sir Adam Beck said:

"I find that Mr. Campbell was prepared to accept the commission's conditions of the contract, with the exception of the price, that proposed by the chief engineer being six cents per kilowatt, while Mr. Campbell insisted that he should receive 75 cents per kilowatt, which amount the commission was not prepared to recommend. In the interval the commission has endeavored to secure a lower rate than the one asked, not feeling justified in asking your council to pay the same. If your council authorize the commission to make a contract at 75 cents per kilowatt with Mr. Campbell, we shall be glad to do so without delay. Respecting a future adequate supply of power for your city, the commission has been working on two schemes, negotiations on which have not and will not cease. I regret that I am not at present able to give you definite information as to the time when we shall be able to have such an adequate supply available."

The city council passed a resolution today favoring the innovation of the right of municipalities to bonus industries.

Grandson of Kruger Faces Treason Trial

Special Cable to The Toronto World.
LONDON, Feb. 3.—A news agency despatch from Pretoria states that Pieter Kruger, member of the fourth African Union parliament, and a grandson of Paul Kruger, has been committed for trial on a charge of treason.

Two Killed, Nine Hurt When Mine Exploded

Special Cable to The Toronto World.
STOCKHOLM, Feb. 3.—A the enclosed zone of a camp south of Yonah which contains 4000 unarmed Germans who were brought to the front as members of the Landsturm and who have been sentenced to imprisonment for mutiny or for refusing to fight.

Russians Warmly Welcomed.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 3.—The Soviet Gazette states that Russian troops received a tumultuous welcome from the people in Yabris when they entered that Persian city. Offerings of bread and salt, emblems of friendship, were made to the soldiers by the population.

RECEIVES BEQUEATH

Robert Sp... Sole Ben...

Robert Sp... Sole Ben...

Robert Sp... Sole Ben...

IT STAMPS ONE "OUT-OF-DATE" To Use "White Phosphorous" Matches

IT IS NOW ILLEGAL TO MAKE "WHITE PHOSPHOROUS" MATCHES, IN A YEAR'S TIME IT WILL BE UNLAWFUL TO SELL THEM.
IF YOU'RE STRONG FOR EFFICIENCY—FOR "MADE IN CANADA" AND "SAFETY FIRST"—YOU WILL USE

EDDY'S "SESQUI" NON-POISONOUS MATCHES

467

OFFICES -FOR- RENT

76 Adelaide St. West

Central Location, Fireproof Construction, Exceptional Light and Ventilation.

KENNETH J. DUNSTAN, Manager

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CHIEFS OF PARTIES IN CONVERSATION

Sir Robert Borden Sees Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Truce is Expected.

By a Staff Reporter.

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