

### NEUTRALS' ADVICE IS NOT WANTED

Unless Advisers Will Assist Belgium, Says Sir Edward Grey.

**ASQUITH IS RETICENT**  
No Further Light Given on Plans to Blockade Germany.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, March 4.—“Unless neutral nations are prepared to assist in throwing the Germans off Belgium, no suggestions from them in the matter of preventing the further devastation of that country are wanted,” said Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, in the house of commons today.

The foreign secretary's statement was made in response to an inquiry from Frederick W. Jewett, whether the government was “willing to invite suggestions from neutrals with a view to avoiding the further devastation of Belgium by the great powers which are contending for its mastery.”

“The only solution of this question,” Sir Edward continued, “is the evacuation of Belgium territory by German troops, the restoration of her independence, repatriation, and remuneration for the wrong done her. Unless neutral powers are prepared to assist in securing this solution, I see what could be gained by the course suggested.”

Premier Asquith declined today to throw further light on the nature of the measures to be adopted by Great Britain and her allies in pursuance of their announced intention of cutting off trade to and from Germany.

Speaking in the house of commons, the premier said: “The intention of the government will be apparent when the orders of the council on the subject are published. My remark was prompted by a question whether, in case neutral ships carried goods to or from Germany or of German ownership and these goods were seized, the ships would be released.”

### BOOT SOLES BURNED OTHERS ILL-FITTED

Stitching Became Loose in Other Cases, Col. Brown Told Committee.

Canadian Press Despatch. OTTAWA, March 4.—At the resumption of the parliamentary boot enquiry today it was decided to subpoena the five boot inspectors, V. Mitchell, K.C., counsel for Ames-Holden, read cablegrams showing that the missing “resoled” sample boot sent by the militia department to the shoe company, had been returned by the company to Inspector Frenier at the Tretault factory. Col. Robert Brown stated that the boot had been produced at the enquiry as an exhibit.

Gen. Eugene Fluet, deputy minister of militia, said that after the outbreak of the war the militia council had charged the quartermaster-general with the responsibility of equipping the full force.

Col. Brown, inspector of harness and saddlery, hit upon the factories of the Gauthier, Ames-Holden, Tretault and Slater firms and had found nothing unsatisfactory. Conditions at Valcartier, where he had been, were such that he had never seen any boot which could have stood them.

Mr. Pringle then read the description given in the United States army boot committee report of a perfect military boot and questioned Col. Brown as to how the Canadian army boot compared with it. Col. Brown thought it compared very well as to strength, flexibility and workmanship generally. He thought the loss were too narrow for marching, but had not changed the boots in this particular.

Boots manufactured by the Gauthier and Tretault Companies, after being

### ERNEST HUDGIN

Ernest Hudgin, son of A. Hudgin, 138 Dundas street, who went with the 78th Nova Scotia Regiment, volunteered for the Princess Pats, and is now in the hospital suffering from rheumatism.

treated with waterproof dressing, had proved impervious to water for periods of from 24 to 72 hours.

Witness said that light stock had been used in the uppers of smaller sizes of boots and permitted in the specifications.

Col. Brown testified that boots should be protected by rubbers if worn in snow and that under general principles they should not become bad after 20 days usage.

Col. Brown said that in many cases the boots had been fitted badly. This was the fault of the commanding officer, in other cases the soles had been burned and in others the stitching had become loose.

### WOULD REVOKE CUT IN PARK ESTIMATES

Aid. Sam Ryding Thinks Original Program Might Help Unemployed.

“I am going to try to get my colleagues on the council to ask that the \$234,000 which the board of control cut out of the parks estimates be reinstated,” said Aid. Sam Ryding last night.

The Keefe street, Ontario and Perth avenue fire stations received two calls within half an hour of each other yesterday morning. The first, at 5:10, was caused by a spark from a locomotive setting fire to the roof of the Dominion Bolt and Screw Company's works at 517 71st street.

At 8:22 a still alarm from the Union colliery at 438 Symington avenue, took the three detachments on a longer run. Here an overhauled stove ignited the adjacent woodwork and the building was soon ablaze.

The Humboldt Collegiate Hockey team defeated Oakwood Collegiate yesterday afternoon at Ravina Rink in the interschool semifinals by a score of 11-2. The local boys are now in the finals with Harvard Collegiate, and feel confident after their successful season of securing this year's championship.

“The War to Date” will be the illustrated lecture delivered by W. R. Frewman this evening in the Howard Park Methodist Sunday school. The talk, which will be well illustrated with lantern slides, is under the auspices of the “Calvary” Bible class of the church.

## York County and Suburbs of Toronto

### CAR FARE BOOST HAD AGAIN

East End Ratepayers Get in Line Against the Increase.

A long discussion on the proposal to increase the civic car fares took place at last night's meeting of the East End Ratepayers' Association in St. John's parish house, Norway, and finally a resolution of opposition was passed. It was pointed out in the discussion that the increased assessment on the land affected should be sufficient to provide for the deficit on the civic lines.

Many of the ratepayers were of the opinion that the city should come to some arrangement with the Toronto Railway Company, whereby passengers could obtain transfers to the city lines, but at the same time the city should be made to pay a fare which would cover the operating cost.

Women's Association. Mrs. A. R. Courie of Balmby Beach College addressed the meeting on behalf of the Toronto Local Council of Women, who are endeavoring to form women's ratepayers' associations throughout the city.

It was reported at a meeting of the Bedford Park West Ratepayers' Association last night that the dead horses that had been removed by order of the township council.

### BEDFORD PARK

A letter read from W. G. Ellis regarding the association's request for assistance towards getting some local improvements carried out in the district, and the secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Ellis to attend the next meeting.

### BALMBY BEACH

The Balmy Beach Conservative Association will meet at Hall Balsam avenue, this evening to discuss M.L.A. and three other members of the local house will deliver addresses. Dr. H. W. Burgess will occupy the chair.

### FAVORS SUNDAY CARS ON SUBURBAN RADIAL

Reeve Griffith Thinks It Would Be Mistake to Oppose Company's Application.

“Personally I am in favor of Sunday cars,” said Reeve Griffith in referring to a proposal to block the bill of the Toronto and Eastern Ontario Railway Company, which would run Sunday cars through the city, and as 80 per cent of the parks estimates call for relief work throughout the city, and as 80 per cent of the parks estimates call for relief work throughout the city.

### BABY POINT RESIDENTS SCORE SCHOOL BOARD

Lack of Confidence Resolution Passed—Oppose Liquor Store License.

“Lack of Confidence in the Board of Trustees of School Section No. 23 of York Township, formed last evening at a meeting of the Baby Point Ratepayers' Association, which also placed in record as opposing the liquor traffic, was adopted in reference to an application contemplated by a liquor store on St. John's road.

### RIVERDALE

Organization work was completed at a meeting of the captains of subdivisions between Pape and Greenwood avenues, in connection with the Ward One Conservative Association in Oddfellows Hall last night.

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