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WITH TWELVE GERMAN SUBMARINES MISSING FROM BASE KAISER CALLS COUNCIL TO DECIDE ON QUITTING "BLOCKADE"

LOCAL HOUSE GETS A FLYING START

Address Passed, After Brief Discussion, Without Division

J. L. Stewart, the Sturdy Northumberland Independent Conservative, Prods Government in Tender Spots—Says Dugal is Still in Legislature as Result of His Charges and Flemming Isn't---No War Tax to Be Levied---Moratorium Law to Be Enacted---Crown Land Legislation Forecasted.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Fredericton, March 11—The Windsor uniform of Governor Wood and nearly thirty stalwart officers of the overseas forces and local militia, to say nothing of the sergeant-at-arms, the sheriff and the coroner, held the attention of crowded galleries and floors in the legislative chambers this afternoon while his honor read the address to the speaker and the house and the cannon roared on the banks of the St. John opposite the parliament buildings.

Admission was by ticket but there were plenty of tickets. No one looking upon the bright and animated scene could have much thought of stress and danger to the empire but for the frequent references to the fact in the speech from the throne, and later from the lips of the members.

There was plenty of chance for patriotic feeling and the new premier was happiest in his references to those who were standing up for the empire. Some happy thought draped Major Guthrie's vacant seat with the Union Jack and his desk with a beautiful bouquet.

The absence of the speaker and the venerable clerk of the house, because of serious illness, gave the premier a chance to say kind words about those officials and of their acting successors, Messrs. Melanson and George Y. Dibblee, who is himself just recovering from a severe illness.

The 62nd Band from St. John furnished the music both at the opening and at the governor's reception at the Queen Hotel, which is again his honor's headquarters. Tonight the bandsmen are furnishing selections in the hotel while the state dinner is in progress.

J. L. Stewart Makes Government Squirm

Unexpected interest was given to the proceedings in the legislature this afternoon by the Independent member for Northumberland, J. L. Stewart, who followed the seconder in the debate upon the address and asked many pertinent and searching questions of the government. Premier Clarke was not happy in his reply to Mr. Stewart and gave but little information.

"Why," asked Mr. Stewart, "is the member for Madawaska in his seat today and Hon. Mr. Flemming not present? We have had no explanation from that member for Carleton (Mr. Smith), who moved the address and who should be in the best position to know. All that he said was that he had gone to a higher sphere. And yet one of the members for Gloucester (Mr. Hachey) was nominated for the federal house and did not think it necessary to resign his seat in this house and is here today.

"The explanation of Mr. Flemming having gone to a higher sphere is not sufficient to account for his absence. I remember the present premier last session, when leading this house, threatening Mr. Dugal of what would happen to him if the charges he made against Hon. Mr. Flemming were not proved. He told the member for Madawaska in the severe tones of a supreme court judge, a position to which he aspires I believe, that he would forfeit his seat in this house if he failed to make his charge good, and since the report of the commission the premier gives assurances to the people of this province that the charges were inquired into and were not sustained, and yet, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dugal is in his seat in this house as calm and self-contained as usual and Hon. Mr. Flemming is absent."

The Stumpage Question.

The speech was remarkable, Mr. Stewart said, for what it did not contain. The air was full of rumors and reports with regard to the intentions of the government with respect to stumpage and the cancellation of the leases. He thought it was a friendly act to the administration to mention these matters and then give the leader of the government a chance to make a statement. In his county the question of stumpage interested every one and the cancellation of the leases and the return of the bonus paid certainly interested the whole province. The cancellation of the leases had a particular interest for the men who wanted lands and could not lease them, for the small lumber operator who had been promised fair treatment but were as yet unable to get one acre of lumber land from the holdings of the big lumber lords.

The survey of the lumber lands spoken of in the speech should have been made before the bonus was fixed. The public domain act gave that power but it was not taken advantage of.

Stumpage Not Accounted For.

The collection of $2,903 by W. H. Berry from the Dalhousie Lumber Company in settlement for stumpage account in 1912 which was not turned into the revenue of the province, nor shown in the accounts of the auditor-general, as charged in the press by the Liberal organizer, E. S. Carter, was the next matter touched upon by Mr. Stewart, who said that if the statement made were true it was a very grave matter. The charge had been made in great detail, even the words upon the check, and the numbers of the receipts had been given and there should be some explanation. If this man Berry was guilty and is allowed to go unpunished then somebody higher up should explain the reason.

During his speech Mr. Stewart hoped that the new agricultural school would find a home in Chatham, and he also pointed out what seemed to be a necessity for a change in the school law with respect to the auditing of accounts and the books of school trustees.

"We must know what our asset is before we can deal with it," was the terse reply of the premier to Mr. Stewart's questions about the increase in the stumpage, justice for the small operators and the cancellation of the leases. "That will take time and money but until then no proper crown land policy can be framed, but whatever is done will be done in the interests of the people. The government was only the trustee of the people and the first claim is the people's right."

Nothing "Criminal" in Berry's Act.

In replying upon the Berry matter, the premier was forced to admit that the money collected from the Dalhousie Lumber Company did not appear in the crown land books but he had examined into the charge as made and was satisfied that there was nothing wrong. There had been an exchange of checks between two concerns and the province did not lose a dollar.

"But," interrupted Mr. Stewart, "the explanation of the honorable premier shows that the charge as made in the newspaper was true."

Hon. Mr. Clarke—"There may have been an irregularity, but there was nothing criminal. The transaction may have been as set forth but there was nothing to justify the insinuation against this government."

The premier failed to enlighten the house as to why the money paid by the Dalhousie Lumber Company was not handed over the the province, or what authority Mr. Berry had to pay a claim of the Miramichi Lumber Company. His statement boiled down was that he had examined into the matter. There may have been an irregularity but there was nothing wrong.

The Bald Facts.

And yet the bald facts are that the Dalhousie Lumber Company in 1912 received a bill for stumpage from the crown land department through W. H. Berry for $22,957.03, and sent a check to the province for $19,419.07, leaving a balance in dispute of $3,537.96. In settlement of that balance Mr. Berry made an allowance on "pine and pulp wood" of $634.64 and received a check on the Bank of New Brunswick for $2,903.32, on which check were written the words "Balance of stumpage" due. Mr. Carter's charge is that the proceeds of that check did not reach the province. J. W. Brankley, the manager of the Miramichi Lumber Company, says that the check was made payable to him and that he applied it to part payment of the settlement of an old claim of the Miramichi Lumber Company against the province for an over-payment of stumpage. This claim existed in the days when Mr. Grimmer was surveyor-general but he refused to entertain it, but the year following his resignation, when Mr. Flemming became surveyor-general, Mr. Brankley was more successful apparently in pressing his claim. This is the same Mr. Brankley who went with Berry to the Barker House to see Flemming and Teed upon a late occasion.

The remarkable part of this whole

(Continued on page 8.)

THE INDIAN TROOPS AT THE FRONT

The lightning rush of the Bengal Lancers right through the lines of the German Infantry. "At the word of command they swept forward and then swept into the Germans like a whirlwind."

BRITISH VICTORIES IN NORTHERN FRANCE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE

Germans May Be Obliged to Evacuate La Bassee and Other Points

Destruction of Railway Junctions By Airmen Delays Moving of German Troops to the Front—Turkish Forts Further Weakened By Heavy Shell Fire—Smyrna Given 24 Hours to Surrender?—Russians Forcing Germans to Turn and Fight in Retreat.

London, March 11, 10.25 p.m.—The arrival of the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich at Newport News, removing, for a time at least, another menace to British shipping, and the success of the British troops in the region of La Bassee, are, for the moment, the most interesting topics of discussion in the British Isles. Whether the Prinz Eitel Friedrich will be interned, or will again set out for the high seas, it is considered here that her career as an armed cruiser must come to an end, for should she be allowed to sail after repairs, it is believed that cruisers of the Allies, on the watch, will account for her.

The possible action of the American government with regard to the sinking by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich of the American ship William P. Frye is also being much discussed, and the general view is that if the United States allows German warships to sink American ships, with food supplies for England, that government can hardly protest against the Allies' prohibition of foodstuffs for Germany.

Of Strategic Importance.

Of the British victory in Northern France there is no news beyond the official reports. It is believed, however, that while no great amount of ground has been captured, the improvement in the British position brought about by it is of the greatest importance, and, if pressed further, might compel the Germans to evacuate La Bassee and perhaps other points, which make their line so strong at present.

Equally important was the success achieved by British airmen in destroying the railway junctions at Menin and Courtral. These are on one of the German main lines of communication, and their destruction will delay the arrival of new contingents of troops, which are reported to be again concentrating in Belgium for another attempt to break through to Calais and Boulogne.

According to Dutch reports these troops have brought with them a large number of boats for the passage of the canals and rivers, and, for the first time in months, they include cavalry units.

There has been some fighting in Champagne, but on the whole the French seem to be satisfied, for the present, with the progress they have made in that region. In the Vosges the battle for Reich Ackerkopr has been resumed.

These, however, are small affairs, in comparison with the battles which are in progress in North Poland, between the Niemen and Vistula rivers. The Germans apparently are falling back in the north, but are fighting a rear-guard action, which has reached the importance of a pitched battle, and are taking a few prisoners with them.

In Death-Ridden Forest.

The Germans are again in Augustowo forest, on the East Prussian border, which has been the burial place of so many German and Russian soldiers. The Germans have brought up more guns, but of a lighter calibre, to bombard Ossowetz, while further to the south, in the neighborhood of Ostrolenka, they claim to have defeated the Russians. The battle on the roads from Khorjele to Przasnysz, along which the Germans hope to reach and pierce the Russian fortress line, still continues.

The weather having turned colder, the ground in North Poland has hardened, which will greatly facilitate the movement of troops. This is said to be the first time in history that the weather has favored any army attempting to invade Russia.

Reports from Tenedos say that the Turkish artillery in the Dardanelles grows weaker daily, and that the last bombardment by the Allied warships badly damaged the forts at Chanak Kalesi. Two big cruisers spent the night in the Straits, protecting the vessels engaged in mine-sweeping.

Despatches from Rome indicates that the German ambassador, Prince Von Beulow, has renewed his negotiations with the Italian government with the object of securing the continued neutrality of that country, in return for territorial concessions in Austria. Austria, however, is said to be opposed to making any such concessions as would satisfy Italy.

Austrian Units Annihilated.

Petrograd, via London, March 11, 11.50 p.m.—The following official communication was issued today:

"Between the Niemen and Vistula battles of extreme obstinacy were fought yesterday in the region of Simno, in the valleys of the Omulew and Orsye, and in the direction of Prasnysz. On the left bank of the Vistula there is no change.

"In the Carpathians all of the enemy's attacks have been repulsed, and near Gorlice our counter-attacks annihilated the Austrian units, which had attempted, after the failure of an Austrian night attack, to entrench themselves on our front.

"In Eastern Galicia, to the south of Niejniew, we succeeded in driving back the Germans."

British Holding Ground.

Paris, March 11—(Midnight)—The following official statement was issued tonight by the war office:

"A thick fog has greatly interrupted the operations at different points along the front.

"The British flotilla has successfully bombarded Westende, Belgium. In the sector of Ypres we repulsed two attacks near Zandworde.

Independence of China Safe in the Hands of Japan

London, March 12, 1.40 a. m.—Replying to a question in the house of commons yesterday regarding the Japanese demands on China, Neil Primrose, under secretary for foreign affairs, said:

"The British government have no objection to the expansion of Japanese interests in China, provided such expansion in no way inflicts injury on British interests."

Answering the specific inquiry whether the integrity of China was threatened, Mr. Primrose said:

"If there was any reason to suppose that these negotiations between China and Japan could not be settled by diplomatic methods, or if there was any prospect of developments which might impair the independence or integrity of China, no doubt consultations would take place to see how Japan might secure what was due her without such impairment. It is one of the objects of the Anglo-Japanese alliances to secure the integrity of China."

Allied Army In Africa Ready for Levant Landing

Paris, March 11, 11.45 p. m.—"The expeditionary forces in Northern Africa are made up of troops other than native Algerians and those from France," says a war office communication made public tonight.

"They have been placed under the orders of General D'Amade, commander of the French forces in Morocco, by reason of his experience, he having followed the British army operations in the Transvaal. Part of this expeditionary corps is actually on the way to the Levant, where it will rejoin the naval force, which is already in action, and the contingent sent from Egypt by the Allies."

Italy Not After More Territory From Austria

Rome, via Paris, March 11, 5.20 p. m.—The Italian government apparently is anxious to have it become known that the government has not initiated or urged any negotiations for territorial compensation from Austria.

The conversation yesterday between Prince Von Buelow, the German ambassador, and Premier Salandra had to do with the negotiations, as likewise did a conference today between Sir J. R. Rodd, the British ambassador, and Baron Sonnino, the Italian foreign minister.

Military preparations are being pushed with great vigor, the government desiring to be ready for any contingency.

Germans Sunk Collier Only On Paper at Berlin

London, March 11, 10.30 p. m.—The steamer Beethoven, which a Berlin wireless despatch of yesterday said had been sunk either by a torpedo or a mine, is reported by her owners to be safe at Avonmouth.

The Berlin despatch said the Beethoven was bound from Newcastle for Gibraltar, and that two of her crew had been drowned, when she sank.

Halifax Man Wounded In Battle.

Halifax, N. S., March 11—Ald. Charles E. Smith received a despatch from Ottawa today stating that his son, Carl E. Smith, had been seriously wounded in fighting in Northern France. He is twenty-five years of age, a member of No. 2 Company Princess Pats, which regiment he joined at Edmonton.

Eight of Germany's Newest Boats Fail to Report Besides Four Older Ones and Naval Council Becomes Alarmed

London, March 12, 3.35 a.m.—A despatch to the Daily Express from The Hague says:

"A secret report has been sent from Cuxhaven to the Admiralty at Berlin that twelve submarines have failed to report at their base, eight of them being among Germany's newest boats.

"The naval council will meet today or tomorrow, under the presidency of Emperor William, to discuss whether or not it would be better to abandon the submarine war."

Not Willing to Trust Germany

Great Britain's Reply to American Note Asking That German Proposals Likely to Be That "Quid Pro Quo" is Not Enough—King Signs Order-in-Council for Blockade.

London, March 11, 7.50 p. m.—Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, today presented to the foreign office a note from the American state department asking for information about the proposed British plan for cutting off German trade, and the effect the plan will have on neutral countries.

The note is identical with one presented at Paris, as France and Great Britain jointly announced that they held themselves at liberty to make reprisals against Germany.

An order-in-council, which outlines the plan to be followed in attacking Germany's trade, was signed today by King George, but the date of its publication is still uncertain.

It is not known when Great Britain will forward her reply to the American identical note to Great Britain and Germany which seeks to end the submarine blockade and the holding up of food shipments for German civilians.

Not Enough to Offer.

London, March 11, 6.26 p. m.—The British reply to the American note, suggesting that Great Britain allow all foodstuffs to enter Germany in return for Germany's abandonment of her submarine warfare on merchant vessels and her policy of mining the high seas, is expected to be forthcoming at an early date.

While the contents of the reply are, naturally, not known, it is possible, as the results of inquiries in authoritative quarters, to indicate some points likely to carry weight with the British government and to emphasize Sir Edward Grey's reply.

There is a strong feeling in Downing street that the "quid pro quo" put forward in the American note does not go far enough. Officials of the foreign office point out that since the opening of the war Great Britain has only once interfered with the supply of food destined for Germany, and then only after the German government, by assuming control of all foodstuffs, had abolished the old distinction between the civil and the military population.

High German authorities have repeatedly denied the British claim that to cut off supplies of food from civilians is a legitimate act of war. Great Britain, it is insisted, never adopted this view until the Germans, by their own act, made it impossible any longer to draw the line between non-combatants and armed forces. Furthermore, it is added, Great Britain is now invited by the United States to forego a clear belligerent right, on the understanding that Germany will abstain from committing two—but only two—of many crimes against both law and humanity.

Authoritative spokesmen of the British view lay stress on the "inadequacy" of this proposal from two standpoints. They ask, first, what guarantee is forthcoming that Germany will keep to her agreement. Supposing, they urge, that an understanding were reached on the lines suggested by the United States, would the United States secure its strict observance?

Cannot Trust Germany's Word.

It is asserted by them that Germany has violated so many compacts and conventions in this war that British statesmen are disinclined to trust her unsupported word.

Secondly, they urge that the two offenses specified in the American note—submarine warfare on merchant vessels and the mining of the high seas—are far from being the only, or even the worst, offenses of which Germany has been guilty. The claim is set up that she has bombarded unfortified towns, dropped bombs on places inhabited solely by civilians, and sunk both British and neutral ships, as though that were the ordinary legal way of disposing them.

Great Britain, it is pointed out, has indulged in none of these practices, and such mines as she has been compelled, in self-defence, to lay have been laid in strict accordance with The Hague conventions.

The policy of the Germans, which arouses the most indignation among the directors of the British government, is her continued alleged persecutions of the Belgians, millions of whom, it is declared, "would be at this moment in a state of semi-starvation but for American generosity and assistance."

The view, therefore, held in the most authoritative quarter of Great Britain is that if there is to be any question of Germany's conforming to the rules of civilized warfare with respect to all points, and not merely with respect to the two of them, which she has been accused of departing from, it must come up for discussion, and that Great Britain could enter into no agreement on a subject which did not include a radical change in Germany's present proceedings in Belgium.

Finally, it is declared by the same authority, that these being the factors that mainly influence British official opinion, it may be inferred that the natural sympathy of the British government with the American suggestion, both on its merits and from its source of origin, must, to some extent, be mitigated by other and wider considerations.

American Ship Detained.

London, March 12, 12.45 a.m.—Laden with products of American packers, the American steamer A. A. Raven has been detained in the Downs. The cargo is consigned to dealers at Rotterdam, and the British government insists that it must be consigned to The Netherlands Overseas Trust before it is allowed to proceed.

The steamer sailed from New York, Feb. 13.

Promises Explanation.

Newport News, Va., March 11—Commander Thierichens, of the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, agreed late tonight to deliver in writing to the American government, through the collector of the port here, his explanation and reasons for sinking, in the South Atlantic ocean, the American sailing ship Wm. P. Frye.

The crew of the American ship was landed late in the afternoon, and arrangements were made for taking off later tonight the crews of British, French and Russian ships sunk in the South Sea. The Eitel Friedrich herself steamed into the Newport News ship building yard, and went into dry dock, where experts began an examination of her condition.

Commander Thierichens assured officials here that it was his intention not to intern his ship.

Narrow Escape for Germans.

Newport News, March 11—Members of the crew of the Frye and officers of other sunken ships tonight revealed more thrilling stories of the Prinz Eitel's marine wrecking career. Captain J. Wedgewood, of the British steamship Willerby, sunk Feb. 20, described how he narrowly missed sinking the Prinz Eitel, with her crew, and scores of his own countrymen who had been captured before.

"The German ship was almost on us before we discovered her," he said. "We were going full speed ahead, and the Friedrich was coming full speed to ram us broadside. She hoisted a signal for us to stop. I kept right on, but swerved and tried to claw around to get by. I saw there was no chance, for the Friedrich also swerved toward our stern. Instantly I saw my chance to ram her, and gave the order 'reverse the engines and give 'em hell for all your worth.'

"I thought I had her. We were soon going full speed astern, and it seemed we would not fail to strike. We saw men and women wildly motioning. They seemed hysterical. Little did I know that there were British, French, and Russian prisoners on board. I only thought of the chance to ram and sink the enemy, and take to sea in our own boats, rather than take a chance at rescue after the collision. But the Friedrich missed the crash by only a few yards."

MADAME CURIE, THE FAMOUS SCIENTIST, DOING GOOD WORK NEAR FRONT.

Paris, March 11, 2.50 p. m.—Madame Sklodowska Curie, the scientist, who, with her husband, the late Prof. Curie, of the University of Paris, discovered radium, is working in hospitals near the front, with a complete radiographic equipment. She is described as intensely interested in her work and is being employed busily by the military surgeons.