

BRITISH TROOPS CAPTURE BAGDAD TURK METROPOLIS OCCUPIED

British Enter City Early Sunday Morning—Victory Comes After Severe Fighting.

London, March 11.—General Frederick Stanley Maude, in command of the British forces in Mesopotamia, telegraphed to-day the welcome news for the British of the occupation early this morning of the City of Bagdad, the chief Turkish city of Mesopotamia, and formerly the capital of the empire of the Caliphs.

No details of the capture have yet been received. General Maude's story of the operations carrying events only up to Saturday morning, when the British, after effecting a surprise crossing of the Diala and bridging the Tigris, had driven the Turks back to within three miles of Bagdad. It is evident, however, that the Turks have been unable to offer any serious resistance since the fall of Kut-el-Amara. They were said to be hastily summoning reinforcements from other theatres of the war where Turks were engaged, but the distances to be covered were so great that additional forces were unable to arrive in time to save the ancient city, which, after Mecca, occupies first place in the Mohammedan imagination.

The fall of Bagdad, besides ending

German hopes of Near Eastern dominion, based on a Berlin-Bagdad railway, will reverberate throughout the Mohammedan empires, and it is believed will more than rehabilitate British prestige in the Far East, damaged by the earlier loss of Kut-el-Amara.

Further news must be awaited before it is known whether General Maude made important captures of Turkish troops or guns, either before or at Bagdad.

Apparently the occupation was effected without resistance and with only slight losses. Even if the Turks succeeded in extricating all their forces, the loss of Bagdad is a grave blow to them. Bagdad has been the base for all Turkish operations in Persia. Up to within a few days the Turks occupied about 30,000 square miles of Persian territory, but with the Russians pressing them closely from Kirmanshah, as well as from the direction of Erzerum, indications point to a speedy junction of the British and Russian forces, which would soon compel the Turkish evacuation of Persian territory.

BRITISH ADVANCE ON THE ANCRE FIERCE GERMAN RESISTANCE

Bitter Battle Along Three-Mile Front—Village of Ires Taken and 300 Prisoners.

London, March 11.—British troops have resumed suddenly their advance on the Ancre and have won a brilliant success over the Germans. Attacking on a three-mile front, the British have stormed the large village of Ires and all the neighboring defences.

This new fighting on the Ancre was forced by Sir Douglas Haig. It was no part of the German retirement to give up Ires at this time. The best evidence that the Germans wanted to hold the village and wanted to hold it here is the fact that fifteen machine guns and four mortars fell into British hands and many prisoners were taken.

In fact it is hoped here that the taking of Ires may mean the first crack in the new German line protecting Bapaume. Ires is very close to the strong Loupert wood position, regarded by some as the key to Bapaume from the west.

The troops that stormed the town and its adjacent fortifications in foggy weather had an uphill task, yet the War Office announces that their

losses were slight. When the German retirement stopped the British were on the southern outskirts of Ires, the Germans still holding the town. Ires straggles up the northern bank of the upper Ancre, its first house almost on the edge of that stream, its last on the brow of a ridge that runs nearly to Achiet-le-Petit.

As the British advanced they found themselves opposed by German strong points to the east in a ruined mill, to the west in trench labyrinth along the embankment of the ruined Albert-Avesne railroad. Ires itself was such a machine gun nest as the Germans built on the Somme-Ancre front, strengthened by trenches and entanglements of the old German fourth line and by a fortified cemetery at its north-eastern corner.

All these obstacles were overcome, however, in fierce fighting in which the Germans were steadily forced back, and to-night the British are only a mile west of Loupert wood and the same distance south of Achiet-le-Petit. It is less than two miles to the Achiet-le-Grand railroad junction from Ires.

BRITAIN OFFERS TO PURCHASE CANADIAN WHEAT CROP OF 1917

Imperial Authorities Reported to Have Made Overtures to the Western Grain Growers.

A despatch from Ottawa says: That the British Government had expressed its willingness to purchase the Canadian wheat crop of 1917 at rates somewhat below the prevailing market quotations was reported here on Friday.

The story became current following the announcement that a newspaper despatch from Winnipeg credited the Government with an intention to fix a maximum and minimum price for the grain. It was not confirmed, however, by any member of the Government.

MAINLY INDIAN REGIMENTS WHICH WON BAGDAD VICTORY

London, March 12.—The Times, editorially discussing the capture of Bagdad, pays a handsome tribute to the Indian troops. It says: "We are too apt to speak as though the troops of General Maude's command were exclusively British. It must always be remembered that a very large pro-

It was alleged that the offer of the Imperial authorities was communicated to representatives of the Western grain growers organizations at a conference which took place last week, and regarding which there has been little information. It was said that the Government here was awaiting a reply from the Grain Growers' Associations, and that that reply was expected on Saturday or shortly thereafter.

Great Britain has already adopted in the case of Australia the policy of buying wheat directly from the producers in the overseas dominions.

portion of the forces he guided to victory are Indian regiments and cavalry, which hung on the flanks of the demoralized Turkish army and chased it to the confines of Bagdad. It must have been almost exclusively Indian cavalry and infantry which bore many months of privations and included Indian units which had already fought heroically in France, at Gallipoli, and in Egypt.

RUSSIA'S ANSWER TO MISGIVINGS WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY

Great Armies Assembled on the Eastern Front Are Ready to Enter the Spring Campaign.

A despatch from Petrograd says: Lord Milner's statement regarding "Impressions on Russia" is received here with satisfaction. His account of the determination of the Russian people to go on with the war undeterred by any of the multitudinous disadvantages under which they are laboring will be readily endorsed by every Russian. Whatever the significance

can be no doubt she will remain faithful to the allies to the end. The best answer to any misapprehensions and misgivings which may have been engendered by the failure of the army machine to cope with the enormous difficulties of the war will be forthcoming when the great armies assembled on the eastern front enter the spring campaign.

CANADIAN TROOPS FREE FROM TYPHOID

Only 167 Cases Reported in Dominion During the Past Year.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The Department of Militia and Defence has announced that for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1916, 167 cases only of typhoid fever were reported as having occurred amongst the many thousands of men of the C.E.F. in Canada, and this, notwithstanding the fact that typhoid fever is a disease especially affecting young adults from seventeen to thirty years of age, and a disease which is endemic in all parts of Canada.

This comparative freedom from the part of the C.E.F. is seen to be most striking when it is recalled that during the Boer War one man out of every nine in the British forces in South Africa was invalided through this disease, and that in the Spanish-American war, of 107,000 men in the United States, 20,000 contracted the disease. The remarkable change can only be attributed to the process of inoculation.

The Provincial Board of Health for Ontario has supplied to date all the typhoid and paratyphoid vaccine used by the entire Canadian Expeditionary Force (about 450,000 men). In all, nearly 600,000 doses have been supplied free of cost.

CANADIANS ESCAPED FROM GERMAN PRISON

Every German Soldier Longs to Escape the Western Front.

A despatch from London says: Privates (16387) Sam Gordon, of Vancouver, and (24361) Sam Gordon, of Montreal, taken prisoners in April, 1915, members of the original contingent, have succeeded in escaping, and have reached England. The men state they had most difficulty in escaping with the rivers frozen.

Parcels are reaching the prisoners much more irregularly lately, which is evidence that Germany's transport difficulties are increasing. The condition of the prisoners' camps are not so good as was once the case, but these men think this is not due to the guards, who are anxious to treat prisoners as well as possible, in order to avoid trouble in camp. When trouble does arise the guards are packed off to the western front. Every German soldier admits he fervently hopes to avoid such a fate. Thurgood and Gordon were taken care of well after crossing the frontier, and were sent to England with seven other British who also escaped and nearly 250 Russians. The latter, say the Canadians, escape in large numbers.

POTATO EMBARGO IS NOT NOW LIKELY

Minister Finds Surplus of Some Two Million Bushels.

A despatch from Ottawa says: An official statement given out by the Acting Prime Minister, Sir George Foster, on Thursday disposes of the story that an embargo will be placed on the export of potatoes from Canada. The statement says: "Information gathered from official and unofficial sources from all parts of Canada indicates a substantial surplus of potatoes over and above seed and feed requirements. Under these circumstances the Government does not think that at present an embargo is justified." The potato surplus in Canada at present and above seed and feed requirements for seed and food purposes until the next harvest is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at about two million bushels.

MEAT CONSUMPTION IN BRITAIN DECLINES

A despatch from London says: There has been a substantial diminution of meat consumption in Great Britain as the result of the recent appeal to the people by the Food Controller, asking that they place themselves on rationing. In consequence of this, it was stated in the House of Commons on Wednesday, there is no intention at present to introduce compulsory meatless days. The returns showed, it was said, an increased disposition on the part of the public to adopt voluntary rationing. The Evening News says that Baron Devonport, the Food Controller, has decided to put into effect measures to regulate the prices of bacon, butter, cheese and lard.

DOMINION REVENUE GREATLY INCREASED

War Outlay in 11 Months Double Amount Last Year.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Dominion revenue for the eleven months of the fiscal year totals \$205,417,039, as compared with \$154,348,809 in the same period last year. For the whole year the estimate is \$225,000,000. February revenue was \$17,513,475, an increase of about two and three-quarter millions. The eleven months' expenditure on current account was \$239,597,008; on capital account, \$113,161,357. In the same period war outlay was \$217,590,670, about double the amount of last year.

LEADING MARKETS

Wheat—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.05; No. 2, \$1.95; No. 3, \$1.85; No. 4, \$1.75; No. 5, \$1.65; No. 6, \$1.55; No. 7, \$1.45; No. 8, \$1.35; No. 9, \$1.25; No. 10, \$1.15; No. 11, \$1.05; No. 12, \$0.95; No. 13, \$0.85; No. 14, \$0.75; No. 15, \$0.65; No. 16, \$0.55; No. 17, \$0.45; No. 18, \$0.35; No. 19, \$0.25; No. 20, \$0.15; No. 21, \$0.05; No. 22, \$0.00.

Barley—Manitoba barley—No. 1, \$1.25; No. 2, \$1.15; No. 3, \$1.05; No. 4, \$0.95; No. 5, \$0.85; No. 6, \$0.75; No. 7, \$0.65; No. 8, \$0.55; No. 9, \$0.45; No. 10, \$0.35; No. 11, \$0.25; No. 12, \$0.15; No. 13, \$0.05; No. 14, \$0.00.

Oats—Manitoba oats—No. 1, \$0.75; No. 2, \$0.65; No. 3, \$0.55; No. 4, \$0.45; No. 5, \$0.35; No. 6, \$0.25; No. 7, \$0.15; No. 8, \$0.05; No. 9, \$0.00.

Flour—Manitoba flour—No. 1, \$3.50; No. 2, \$3.40; No. 3, \$3.30; No. 4, \$3.20; No. 5, \$3.10; No. 6, \$3.00; No. 7, \$2.90; No. 8, \$2.80; No. 9, \$2.70; No. 10, \$2.60; No. 11, \$2.50; No. 12, \$2.40; No. 13, \$2.30; No. 14, \$2.20; No. 15, \$2.10; No. 16, \$2.00; No. 17, \$1.90; No. 18, \$1.80; No. 19, \$1.70; No. 20, \$1.60; No. 21, \$1.50; No. 22, \$1.40; No. 23, \$1.30; No. 24, \$1.20; No. 25, \$1.10; No. 26, \$1.00; No. 27, \$0.90; No. 28, \$0.80; No. 29, \$0.70; No. 30, \$0.60; No. 31, \$0.50; No. 32, \$0.40; No. 33, \$0.30; No. 34, \$0.20; No. 35, \$0.10; No. 36, \$0.00.

Wheat—Ontario wheat—No. 1, \$2.00; No. 2, \$1.90; No. 3, \$1.80; No. 4, \$1.70; No. 5, \$1.60; No. 6, \$1.50; No. 7, \$1.40; No. 8, \$1.30; No. 9, \$1.20; No. 10, \$1.10; No. 11, \$1.00; No. 12, \$0.90; No. 13, \$0.80; No. 14, \$0.70; No. 15, \$0.60; No. 16, \$0.50; No. 17, \$0.40; No. 18, \$0.30; No. 19, \$0.20; No. 20, \$0.10; No. 21, \$0.00.

Barley—Ontario barley—No. 1, \$1.20; No. 2, \$1.10; No. 3, \$1.00; No. 4, \$0.90; No. 5, \$0.80; No. 6, \$0.70; No. 7, \$0.60; No. 8, \$0.50; No. 9, \$0.40; No. 10, \$0.30; No. 11, \$0.20; No. 12, \$0.10; No. 13, \$0.00.

Oats—Ontario oats—No. 1, \$0.70; No. 2, \$0.60; No. 3, \$0.50; No. 4, \$0.40; No. 5, \$0.30; No. 6, \$0.20; No. 7, \$0.10; No. 8, \$0.00.

Flour—Ontario flour—No. 1, \$3.40; No. 2, \$3.30; No. 3, \$3.20; No. 4, \$3.10; No. 5, \$3.00; No. 6, \$2.90; No. 7, \$2.80; No. 8, \$2.70; No. 9, \$2.60; No. 10, \$2.50; No. 11, \$2.40; No. 12, \$2.30; No. 13, \$2.20; No. 14, \$2.10; No. 15, \$2.00; No. 16, \$1.90; No. 17, \$1.80; No. 18, \$1.70; No. 19, \$1.60; No. 20, \$1.50; No. 21, \$1.40; No. 22, \$1.30; No. 23, \$1.20; No. 24, \$1.10; No. 25, \$1.00; No. 26, \$0.90; No. 27, \$0.80; No. 28, \$0.70; No. 29, \$0.60; No. 30, \$0.50; No. 31, \$0.40; No. 32, \$0.30; No. 33, \$0.20; No. 34, \$0.10; No. 35, \$0.00.

Wheat—Quebec wheat—No. 1, \$2.00; No. 2, \$1.90; No. 3, \$1.80; No. 4, \$1.70; No. 5, \$1.60; No. 6, \$1.50; No. 7, \$1.40; No. 8, \$1.30; No. 9, \$1.20; No. 10, \$1.10; No. 11, \$1.00; No. 12, \$0.90; No. 13, \$0.80; No. 14, \$0.70; No. 15, \$0.60; No. 16, \$0.50; No. 17, \$0.40; No. 18, \$0.30; No. 19, \$0.20; No. 20, \$0.10; No. 21, \$0.00.

Barley—Quebec barley—No. 1, \$1.20; No. 2, \$1.10; No. 3, \$1.00; No. 4, \$0.90; No. 5, \$0.80; No. 6, \$0.70; No. 7, \$0.60; No. 8, \$0.50; No. 9, \$0.40; No. 10, \$0.30; No. 11, \$0.20; No. 12, \$0.10; No. 13, \$0.00.

Oats—Quebec oats—No. 1, \$0.70; No. 2, \$0.60; No. 3, \$0.50; No. 4, \$0.40; No. 5, \$0.30; No. 6, \$0.20; No. 7, \$0.10; No. 8, \$0.00.

Flour—Quebec flour—No. 1, \$3.40; No. 2, \$3.30; No. 3, \$3.20; No. 4, \$3.10; No. 5, \$3.00; No. 6, \$2.90; No. 7, \$2.80; No. 8, \$2.70; No. 9, \$2.60; No. 10, \$2.50; No. 11, \$2.40; No. 12, \$2.30; No. 13, \$2.20; No. 14, \$2.10; No. 15, \$2.00; No. 16, \$1.90; No. 17, \$1.80; No. 18, \$1.70; No. 19, \$1.60; No. 20, \$1.50; No. 21, \$1.40; No. 22, \$1.30; No. 23, \$1.20; No. 24, \$1.10; No. 25, \$1.00; No. 26, \$0.90; No. 27, \$0.80; No. 28, \$0.70; No. 29, \$0.60; No. 30, \$0.50; No. 31, \$0.40; No. 32, \$0.30; No. 33, \$0.20; No. 34, \$0.10; No. 35, \$0.00.

Wheat—New Brunswick wheat—No. 1, \$2.00; No. 2, \$1.90; No. 3, \$1.80; No. 4, \$1.70; No. 5, \$1.60; No. 6, \$1.50; No. 7, \$1.40; No. 8, \$1.30; No. 9, \$1.20; No. 10, \$1.10; No. 11, \$1.00; No. 12, \$0.90; No. 13, \$0.80; No. 14, \$0.70; No. 15, \$0.60; No. 16, \$0.50; No. 17, \$0.40; No. 18, \$0.30; No. 19, \$0.20; No. 20, \$0.10; No. 21, \$0.00.

Barley—New Brunswick barley—No. 1, \$1.20; No. 2, \$1.10; No. 3, \$1.00; No. 4, \$0.90; No. 5, \$0.80; No. 6, \$0.70; No. 7, \$0.60; No. 8, \$0.50; No. 9, \$0.40; No. 10, \$0.30; No. 11, \$0.20; No. 12, \$0.10; No. 13, \$0.00.

600 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES LOST WHEN TRANSPORT SUNK

Collided With Another Vessel Off the Isle of Wight While En Route to France.

A despatch from London says: The British transport Mendi, carrying South African native laborers, was sunk after a collision on Feb. 21, and 625 persons lost their lives.

Ten of the persons lost were Europeans, according to the announcement on Friday to the South African Parliament by Gen. Louis Botha, the Premier. The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight. The official announcement says: "Premier Botha stated to the South African Parliament on Friday that the transport Mendi, carrying the last

batch of the South African native laborers contingent (the rest of whom were landed safely in France), collided with another vessel en route from England to Havre and sank in 25 minutes. The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight on Feb. 21. The transport's searchlight could not penetrate the fog, but the survivors were rescued by passing vessels. Twelve European officers and 191 natives were saved. Ten European and 615 natives were lost. Difficulty in obtaining authentic information caused the delay in making the announcement public."

MORE THAN 187,000 WIDOWS ON THE BRITISH PENSION LIST

Scheme in Its Entirety Will Involve a Capital Charge of \$396,000,000 and for the First Two Years \$25,000,000.

A despatch from London says: Minister of Pensions Barnes gave some astonishing figures in the House of Commons on Wednesday when he came to review the operations of the Pensions Department. He explained that the Ministry had charge of the following:

Disabled men 140,275
Children of disabled men 157,544
Widows 62,596
Children of widows 128,294
Dependent on deceased men 29,832
Total on books 518,741

Besides these there were 125,000 widows who are now drawing separation allowances, but will come on the pension list; 65,000 men in hospital, and 65,000 men medically unfit. Those figures brought the total number of men, women and children to 733,741. Medically unfit, of whom over 100,000 were not to be granted pensions, were to be put back where the State found them. In exceptional cases there would be a gratuity of £100. The scheme in its entirety would involve a capital charge of \$396,000,000, and for the first two years \$25,000,000.

CANADA BUSY BUILDING SHIPS

Shortage of Ocean Tonnage Results in Increased Activity.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Shortage of ocean tonnage and consequent high charter rates have resulted in increased activity in shipyards in Canada with a probability of still greater activity in the near future. Reports so far received here indicate that more than one hundred vessels ranging in size from 250 tons to 6,000 tons steamships are now under construction. Sailing vessels are in the majority and most of them are being built on the coast of Western Nova Scotia. Indeed it is stated that many yards in the Maritime Provinces which had been idle since steam replaced sail have now ships on the stocks.

Two yards at Toronto, those of the Polson and Thor Companies are reported to be building steel steamers and there is activity in shipyards at Port Arthur, and on the Pacific coast. Norwegian capitalists said to be interested in steamers now in course of construction.

BELGIAN INDUSTRIES ARE TO BE SHUT DOWN

A despatch from Amsterdam says: The Telegraaf says there will be an almost complete stoppage of industry in Belgium within a few days. The German authorities asserting that this is necessary owing to the lack of coal and transport facilities. Practically the entire population of Belgium will be thus unemployed, with such few exceptions as receive special permission from the civil authorities to continue their businesses.

WOMAN CONDUCTOR SCORES FOR HER SEX

A despatch from London says: A tram car at Exeter ran away down hill, struck the parapet of a bridge and overturned. One woman was killed, and two were injured. The woman conductor stuck to the car with great pluck until rescued by a hysterical woman passenger. The woman conductor was only slightly hurt, and scores a victory on behalf of her sex in a man's job.

PARENTS KILL THEIR CHILDREN TO PREVENT THEM STARVING

Terrible Conditions Among Prussian Poor Are Described by Socialist Member in Speech in Diet.

A despatch from London says: "Thus far only fragmentary reports of the remarkable debate in the Prussian Diet on the food crisis have been printed in the German newspapers," says a despatch from Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent. "The Vorwarts, received Friday, contains the following passage from the speech of Herr Hofer (a Socialist member of the Prussian Diet):

"The mortality among elderly people is increasing at a terrible rate, while epidemics are spreading everywhere owing to the decreased power of resistance. The situation is much more serious than has been admitted. The number of suicides is increasing, and parents are killing their children owing to their inability to obtain food for them. Yet the price of potatoes, which long ago became generally scarce, is to be increased."

WANT MAY COME BEFORE HARVEST

Prussian Food Controller Says Reserves of Bread Are Exhausted.

A despatch from London says: The Prussian food controller, Dr. George Michaelis, made in the Prussian Diet on Wednesday what the Koelnische Zeitung calls a serious speech on the food situation, says a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam. Dr. Michaelis declared that the distress was such that a more severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centres, could hardly be imagined. He indicated the possibility that all surplus stocks of grain would be exhausted, and said that very radical measures were needed to enable the people to hold out until next year.

"We have in the third year of the war," the food controller is quoted as saying, "discovered that among all sections of the people the general feeling evidenced is not one of that endurance for which we have hoped. This is human nature, but it is highly deplorable, and may have most serious results."

"We have not perceived in the towns that stern supervision which is absolutely necessary in the distribution of foodstuffs. There has been wide-spread abuse of bread-tickets, entailing grave consequences as regards our stocks. Bread tickets have been illegally used on such a shocking scale that our entire reserves were exhausted. So when potatoes failed and bread was ordered as a substitute there was none available. Flour has been similarly reduced, owing to similar irregularities in the mills."

Dr. Michaelis concluded by urging the utmost severity to remedy the short-comings while there was yet time. Some of the mills would have to be closed and the municipalities deprived of their autonomous powers. Rationing and requisitioning must be strictly applied with respect to eggs, milk, butter, fruit and vegetables. He added:

"We are confronted with the thought of what would happen if this measure also should fail and what grim starvation there would be if suddenly during the closing months of the economic year we should find there was insufficiency and we could not hold out. The ensuing misery would be indescribable."

"ARMY BEHIND ARMY" FORMED

Eighteen Thousand British Women Going to France.

A despatch from London says: Eighteen thousand women have volunteered to go to France and form a British woman's army auxiliary corps. These recruits for the "army behind the army" will be sent out in batches of 200. Full preparations have been made for hotel billeting and accommodations.

These directing the formation of the corps say that the women are delighted at the opportunity to serve the army in the field, and keenly devote themselves to the required instructions in hygiene and discipline. Three weeks are given to training before the volunteers leave England. This training includes a military drill suitable for women, and each volunteer is inoculated.

Five thousand will be detached to France as soon as possible. The total number that can be employed on the western front is not yet known, but doubtless thousands will ultimately be enrolled to relieve men of certain duties in connection with the large army undergoing training in the United Kingdom.

Though the announcement that a woman's corps would be accepted was made only nine days ago, the applications for enrollment have been so numerous that no more will be considered for the present. The women act as typists, shorthand writers, cooks, waitresses, motor transport drivers, storekeepers, checkers of unsold labor, telephone, telegraph, and postal workers, and aids in miscellaneous services.

Women between twenty and forty years of age are accepted. They work forty-two hours a week for good wages. Existing for twelve months, they receive a bonus of five pounds if they re-enlist at the end of the year.

EMPTYING BELGIUM OF ALL USEFUL GOODS

A despatch from Havre, France, says: General von Bissing, Governor of Belgium, has issued a decree ordering the seizure throughout Belgium of certain articles for removal to Germany when the quantities held by any owner exceed certain specified numbers or weights. There are sixty articles on the list, including tablecloths, napkins, silks, manufactured or raw; waterproof stuffs and garments, oil cloths, woolen yarns, fibres of every sort, animal hair, bristles, felt, old or new blankets, tarpaulin, leggings, knee bandages, and other sanitary articles. The country, according to advices received here, is being emptied under this decree of everything useful to Germany.