

Weather Forecast:
Moderately Cold

The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

HOME
EDITION

53rd YEAR. No. 22704

THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26, 1917.

36 COLUMNS.

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

KUT-EL-AMARA CAPTURED BY BRITISH

WILSON ASKS FOR POWER TO PROTECT AMERICAN RIGHTS

CUNARD LACONIA SUNK--AMERICANS ABOARD

GREETINGS TO THE ROTARY VISITORS OF DISTRICT NO. 17

CONGRESS ASKED TO GIVE POWER TO COMBAT SUBS

President Goes Before Congress Demanding That Forces of Nation Be Used To Safeguard Rights of United States Citizens Against German Ruthlessness.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before Congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace.

A STEP TOWARDS WAR.

Continued invasion of the rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effective as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act," which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the president into the next step towards war.

ASKS FULL POWER.

President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels or what other steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights or by driving the American flag from the seas. Congress is expected not only to authorize the president to use the armed forces of the country, but also to provide money.

WAR DEPENDS ON GERMANY.

Whether armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany resists the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion the president took his action today with the calm confidence that Congress and the country will stand behind him.

News of the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia with Americans aboard was received here as the president was on his way to address Congress. Although without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the president's words.

The president spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Congress: I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times during which it seems to me to be our duty to keep in close touch with the Houses of Congress so that neither counsel nor action shall run at cross-purposes between us.

The German Ruling. "On February 3, I officially informed you of the action of the German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to us in the government in April last and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce within the zone of the Atlantic Ocean and the waters of the Eastern Mediterranean and to continue those operations without regard to the rights of neutrals."

"It has now been in effect for nearly four weeks. Its practical results are not only daily increasing, but also more serious. It is a direct challenge to the commerce of other neutral nations suffering heavily, not only in property, but in lives and ships. It is a direct challenge to the commerce of other neutral nations suffering heavily, not only in property, but in lives and ships. It is a direct challenge to the commerce of other neutral nations suffering heavily, not only in property, but in lives and ships."

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BRITISH TAKE KUT-EL-AMARA; BIG TRIUMPH ALONG TIGRIS

Turks in Full Retreat Before Maude's Forces in Mesopotamia.

London, Feb. 26.—Kut-el-Amara has been captured from the Turks by the British forces, according to a statement made in the House of Commons today by Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council.

TURKS IN RETREAT.

London, Feb. 26.—The Turks on the Tigris River front are in full retreat toward Baghailah, 24 miles to the west of Kut-el-Amara, says an official statement issued today by the British war department. The fleeing Turks are being engaged by pursuing British cavalry.

ALL POSITIONS CARRIED.

London, Feb. 26.—Mr. Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons today as a result of the operations on the Tigris River front, all of the Turkish positions from Sunnatyat to Kut-el-Amara have been secured and that the town of Kut-el-Amara automatically passed into the hands of the British.

ROTARY PRESIDENT HERE

A. Klumph of Cleveland Given Warm Welcome by the Local Club.

Archibald Klumph, Cleveland, international president of the Rotary clubs of America, was given a real Rotarian welcome on his first visit to London, at noon today. He arrived shortly after 1 o'clock, and was soon surrounded by the Rotarians who were glad to see him. He came to London to attend a conference of the Technical School in that city, which was held at the Hotel Cecil. Delegates were present from Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Brantford and other places.

The noon-day luncheon was addressed by George L. Sprague, Hamilton, president of the Technical School in that city, who spoke on "The Development of Vocational Training in Canada."

The most important work was that of the day classes. Boys from 14 to 15 attended these schools, and were taught woodworking, machine shop practice, electricity and construction, toolmaking and the like. His idea was that they should develop into trades schools, and as such should not be made self-supporting. There should be no wastage of material when the boys were learning the fundamentals of trade. At present the school in Hamilton was manufacturing drill presses, which could be sold. This can be done in London or any other city where there is a technical school.

"It is much better training than exercises," he declared.

Replies of Factories. The idea was to make the schools a replica of a manufacturing plant, where the boys could be taught not only the operating of machines, but the principles behind the operations. The first essential was quality, but the time idea was not lost sight of. The boys were taught not to sacrifice quality for quantity, but were shown the laggy medium. These education shops were doing splendid work. In addition, there should be chemical laboratories in each of these.

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PRUSSIA'S NEW WAR COUNCIL



Advertiser Illustration. —N. Y. Evening Telegram.

PERMANENCY OF ORGANIZATION WHICH RAN PATRIOTIC CAMPAIGN MOST DESIRABLE FOR LONDON

Citizens Enthusiastically Indorse Advertiser Suggestion To Keep It Together For Industrial and Other Development Purposes—Point Out How Much Good May Be Accomplished.

Numbers of prominent citizens of London have welcomed the idea suggested by The Advertiser on Saturday afternoon that the patriotic fund campaign committee be made a permanent organization, a citizens' club in the broadest sense of the term, for the purpose of fostering the spirit of altruism and co-operation generated by last week's big canvass, and to be a power in making dreams come true for those who have the best interests of the city and its future at heart.

The advantage is recognized of the backing of such a representative, business-like and powerful organization for co-ordinating the forces and making a success of a real industrial development movement for the city, and of the vacant lots and backyards' garden scheme, to serve the Empire through increase of production. The fact is appreciated that while a citizens' committee would not attempt to override any body organized for a special purpose, a tremendous amount of influence could be brought to bear in any issue on the side of the best interests of the city and citizens as a whole.

With perhaps one or two exceptions, leaders in last week's canvass, approached in regard to The Advertiser's proposal to make the committee a permanent one, were not only favorable, but enthusiastically so. The attitude of practically all was expressed by one leader, "I am ready at any time to get on the band wagon and boost."

W. M. Manning, Sheriff, Manning & Co.: "I believe much could be accomplished in London through the making permanent of the patriotic fund campaign committee, as The Advertiser suggested on Saturday. What we need here more than anything else is the creation of a fine civic spirit. The recent campaign and previous ones since the beginning of the war, have done a good deal to break down barriers of creed and politics. We want to get away from these and forget them. The idea is a splendid one, if it could be carried out. For that matter there is no 'if' about it. A month ago people said that it would be impossible to raise \$500,000 in London in a three days' campaign, and yet it was done, and more. The project would require leadership and team work, just as did the canvass. As far as the gardening end to increase production is concerned, the Government and papers may preach gardening and thrift, but in order to accomplish results they must have backing in order to get response. In backing up a thrift and production campaign for London the suggested committee would require to set an example, just as was done in giving."

HEARTILY IN ACCORD.

E. C. Mitchell, manager of the National Drug Company: "I am most heartily in accord with the views expressed in the front page editorial of your Saturday edition, advocating the making of the patriotic fund committee a permanent civic welfare organization. At the time when we held the first patriotic fund canvass in London, of which I was chairman, at the banquet held the closing night, I suggested that the committee should evolve into a patriotic association to continue while the war lasted, and that anyone could become a member by simply standing up. That organization is still in existence, but hasn't done anything. I think The Advertiser's idea is a splendid one and should be the beginning of a greater London movement."

"There is no reason in the world why London shouldn't be the second city in Ontario instead of the fourth or fifth as it is at the present."

HAS EVERY ADVANTAGE.

"It has every advantage to make it a leading city, situated in the heart of the most fertile district of the province, and with excellent railroad facilities. A lot of people here aren't alive to its opportunities. Such an organization as has been suggested, retaining the enthusiasm, or at least a measure of it, which characterized the campaign, could carry everything before it in the way of promoting civic welfare. For example, I don't see why a number of the aldermen are bucking natural gas for McClary's. The company has found natural gas an absolute necessity. It isn't a case of something up their sleeve."

"A real live civic organization would be a powerful force in retaining industries and bringing new ones to the city. I believe that one of the first things such an organization should do would be to take up the vacant lots and backyard garden end of patriotic service. The food situation is likely to be a most serious one. A halt should be called and people impressed with the responsibility, both in taking care of what they have and in increasing production. I am with The Advertiser heart and soul for any such movement."

WORTH MORE THAN EFFORT.

Ray Lawson: "Anything that can be done in the way of organization to keep alive the spirit manifested during the patriotic fund campaign of last week, will be worth more than the effort put into it. It was remarkable the fine feeling of comradeship that prevailed, both in the canvass and at the banquet, Grits and Tories, people of all denominations and creeds, pulling together in harmony. I don't know just how far such a committee could go over the heads of the board of trade, industrial committee, and other organizations formed for the purpose in the way of retaining and bringing industries to the city, but I

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SUB SINKS LACONIA; U. S. CITIZENS ABOARD; SURVIVORS NUMBER 270

HUNS COVET FAT HOLLAND; PLAN TO DRIVE DUTCH TO WAR

London Believes Sinking of Merchantmen Deliberately Planned.

CHRONICLE ON WILSON

London Daily Thinks He Should Do Something For Other Neutrals.

BY E. L. KEEN.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.] London, Feb. 26.—The conviction is growing in Great Britain today that Germany deliberately planned the torpedoing of the seven Dutch ships reported on Saturday to have fallen victims to German submarines.

The belief was based on the theory that Germany, her belt tight from lack of food, has for a long time looked longingly at comfortable, well-fed Holland.

Commenting on the Dutch crisis the London Daily Chronicle today made a vigorous editorial assault on President Wilson, "because he has never lifted a finger on behalf of any interests except American, and seemed unwilling to do so."

DUTCH COULD SEAL FRONTIERS AGAINST HUNS

London, Feb. 26.—News dispatches from Holland to the London newspapers emphasize the continued indignation aroused among the Dutch by the recent destruction of Dutch ships by German submarines. The dispatches state that there is a complete absence of protest, the gravity of the situation having produced a marked silence, amounting to a sense of solemnity.

All reports agree that nothing which has happened hitherto in the war has provoked such an intense feeling.

A Difficult Situation. An Amsterdam dispatch to the Times says "Everybody is asking what the Government will do. The position is one of extreme difficulty and is engaging the most anxious attention of the Government. It is generally accepted that the rapidity of Dutch rights will be a purveyor of foodstuffs for Germany. The Dutch are in a long suffering people who Germany is concerned and extremely cautious, however."

Shipping interests are extremely concerned, and talk of the stoppage of all Dutch shipping in general. It is suggested here that one way of bringing Germany to a sense of her misdeeds would be to seal the Dutch frontiers so that Holland could be utilized no longer as a purveyor of foodstuffs for Germany. The Dutch are in a long suffering people who Germany is concerned and extremely cautious, however."

SOCIALIST RUPTURE. Stockholm, Feb. 26.—Via London.—The rupture between the warring factions of the Socialist party, which was foreseen during the recent congress here, has come to pass. Members of the Socialist Left have published an appeal for the formation of a new Socialist party.

STALE BREAD FOR PARIS. Paris, Feb. 26.—Parisian restaurants were served Saturday night with stale bread fresh from the ovens, the last they will get in all probability for a long time. Sunday, only stale bread was on sale in accordance with the new government regulations. In future night work in bakeries will be entirely abolished.

The abolition of night work offices has been demanded by working bakers and this has been brought about by force of circumstances. Many Parisians scarcely relish the prospect of stale white bread in place of the fancy rolls to which they have been accustomed, but they are expected soon to reconcile themselves to it in the same cheerful spirit shown in meeting many other minor hardships, resulting from the war.

Preparations for the distribution of sugar cards also were begun in earnest yesterday, when papers to be filled out and signed by each householder became available. Every householder must sign and return his declaration by Monday night or he will get no sugar in future. The new regulations become effective March 11.

SPAIN TAKES FLOUR. Madrid, Feb. 26.—Via Paris.—The government has requisitioned wheat flour in Madrid and neighboring towns to the amount of 4,000 tons.

Cunarder of 18,099 Tons, New York to Liverpool, Torpedoed By Germans—Carried One Hundred Passengers, of Whom Some Were Americans.

London, Feb. 26.—It is stated authoritatively that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard Line steamship Laconia, of 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk.

TEN AMERICANS ABOARD.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia had 100 passengers on board, among whom were ten or more Americans.

SURVIVORS NUMBER 270.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The survivors of the Laconia are said to number 270.

ONE OF THE LARGEST.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Laconia, sunk by subs, was one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet, and the largest thus far sunk since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. She registered 18,099 tons, was 600 feet long, 71 feet beam and 40 feet depth. She was built in 1911 at Newcastle.

ONE CASUALTY KNOWN.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard Line announced at 1:36 p.m. that they had received confirmation from the British admiralty of the destruction of the Laconia and that the advices stated there was only one casualty thus far known. She was torpedoed last night, the line announced.

HEAVY PENALTY FOR DISOBEYING ORDERS OF RAILWAY BOARD

Toronto, Feb. 26.—Attorney General Lucas will introduce in the Legislature this afternoon a bill providing a penalty of \$5,000 a day upon any corporation or municipality which fails to obey any order made by the Ontario Railway Board.

It is said there have been many cases of such disobedience of orders lately.

VANCOUVER TUG LOST; ALL ON BOARD PERISH

Salvage Vessel Pilot Goes Down Off Guatemalan Coast.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 26.—The British Columbia Salvage Company's tug Pilot of Vancouver, which sailed from here last July for Ocosingo, Guatemala, to salvage the former German freighter Sasotris, foundered off the Guatemalan coast with the loss of all on board, according to advices received today from Salina Cruz, Mexico. The Pilot steamed from Salina Cruz on February 1 for Ocosingo, which port she should have made in 30 hours, but the advices say that from that time nothing has been heard of her. Soon after the Pilot left the Mexican port a terrific gale set in, raging for five days. So far as known five men were on the Pilot when she left Salina Cruz.

Fix Potato Prices. Herr Batocki announced the intention of potatoes for the entire year at five marks a hundredweight, except in the west and south of Germany, where it would be six marks. He emphasized the importance of a supply of bread corn for children at least. The food situation was so serious that it was impossible to increase the meat ration owing to the urgent necessity of maintaining the stock of cows for butter and milk.

CAN SEIZE ALL COAL. Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 26.—A telegram from Berlin says that it is officially announced that the Bundesrat has authorized Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to claim, and wherever necessary seize, the whole production of coal, lignite, briquettes and coke in Germany.

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BABY-KILLERS SHELL TWO ENGLISH PORTS; SLAY TWO PERSONS

Broadstairs and Margate Bombarded This Morning.

London, Feb. 26.—German destroyers bombarded Broadstairs and Margate early this morning. One woman and one child were killed and two persons were injured. Two houses were damaged. This announcement was made in the House of Commons today by Sir Edward Carson, first lord of the admiralty.

One Against Many. Sir Edward Carson said that one of four British torpedo-boat destroyers on patrol duty in the English Channel last night encountered several German destroyers and a short engagement ensued. The British destroyer was not damaged, though she was under heavy gun and torpedo fire.

The German vessels were lost sight of, the first lord said, but in the darkness another force of German destroyers bombarded the undefended ports of Broadstairs and Margate.

British light forces in the vicinity closed in on the German warships which only remained a short time, he added, and were gone before the approach of the British vessels.

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