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HIGH COST OF LIVING OCCUPIES ATTENTION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS

Housewives of Great Britain Request the Government to Intervene in the Interest of the Consumer

PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION

Premier Outlines Contemplated Measures to Alleviate the Hardships of Such as Are Needy

PRICES NOT VERY HIGH

Asquith Says When War Began it Was Expected That Cost of Food Would Be Much Higher than Now

London, Feb. 11.—The housewives' side of the great war occupied the attention of the House of Commons this afternoon, for this body, by motion invited the intervention of the Government in the present fight, which has been going on against the increased cost of living in the British Isles.

The Government has already appointed a Parliamentary Commission to investigate this matter, and Premier Asquith explained to the House the result of enquiries thus far made; he also outlined certain proposed steps dealing with urgent necessities which are causing much hardship on the poor.

Lower Than Expected

The Premier admitted the formidable rise in the cost of necessities of life, but he contended that prices were substantially below the level, which the best informed judgment of the country would have anticipated at the end of six months of a war, involving, virtually, the whole civilized world, with the exception of the United States.

The large expenditure of the Government on separation allowances permitted the working classes to consume food on nearly the same scale as they did before the higher prices came, the Premier continued. Among the factors in the shortage of wheat are the closing of the Dardanelles and the depredations upon crops in the areas of war.

Wouldn't Last Long.

The Premier said he did not think the shortage of wheat would last long. The determining factor has been the prices in the New York and Chicago markets. The Premier said these are in a highly nervous and jumpy condition and I know of no way whereby any Government in the world can control speculation. As a rule speculation provides its own remedy. After next June there is reason to anticipate that the fever of speculation will abate.

Continuing, the Premier called attention to the very considerable consumption of meat by the troops, declaring that no men were better fed than the British soldiers. The stock of sugar in the hands of the Government was sufficient to last many months and the price of sugar was now approximately the same as in the States.

Supply Soon Available.

Dealing with the future, the Premier said that Argentine wheat soon will be available and Russia would facilitate in every way the export of wheat to the Allies, but it would be some time before her supplies were available. Steps had been taken to get Indian supplies.

Regarding shipping, the Prime Minister said that nine vessels of considerable size now occupied by prisoners of war would be released for service and that the Admiralty would relinquish the vessels in its service whenever possible. The Government, said the Premier, has been invited to fix maximum prices (which the German Government has done with such disastrous results) and to buy up all available supplies in Europe, but I do not think steps of that kind would facilitate the desired end. The Government desires to do everything possible to guard the working classes against hardships. A great war like the present must, however, demand sacrifices.

Kaiser Makes More Changes in His Generals

Dissatisfied With Result of the Efforts of His Army in the East—Can Blame Him?

Copenhagen, Feb. 11.—Close observers of conditions in Germany assert that the hurried return of the Emperor William from the Eastern front after his conference with General Von Moltke and other army leaders in Berlin indicated that he was dissatisfied with the result of his army's efforts. He predicted another shake up in the German army administration by which Von Moltke would again become Chief of the General Staff and von Falkenhayn would return to his work at the War office.

BULGARIA WILL REMAIN ON THE FENCE

Sofia, Feb. 11.—Bulgaria has decided to maintain a strict and loyal neutrality, said Premier Radoslavoff, at a meeting today with his parliamentary adherents, at which a German loan to Bulgaria was discussed.

The Premier declared that the military and financial preparations of the country were adequate for any eventuality, but the Government was confident that the friendly feelings of the Powers towards Bulgaria would result to its advantage.

The Kyle with mail and passengers is due at Port-aux-Basques this afternoon.

French Report Gain in Lorraine

Russians Report More Captures in the Carpathians.

London, Feb. 11.—The French Government reports a slight advance in Lorraine.

The Russian Government reports continued fighting in East Prussia, and further capture of officers, men and machine guns in the Carpathians. Russian torpedo-boat destroyers have bombarded three of the enemy's batteries at Trebizond, destroyed railway bridges, and sunk fifty enemy sailing vessels. —HARCOURT.

TOTAL OF LIST OF VOLUNTEERS REACHES 1083

Four new volunteers signed on yesterday, bringing the total on the roll up to 1083.

They are: St. John's—Joseph Butt, Hedley Taylor, and Frederick Ebsary. Manuels—Robert T. Mercer. The morning was spent at physical drill at the armoury followed by outdoor skrimishing.

No. 2 Co. visited Government House grounds in the afternoon where they were put through various exercises. There were 252 men on parade yesterday.

Bonar Law, who followed Asquith, said he thought the Government might have done little more than it had and that it should, especially when it knew that Turkey would enter the war and that the Dardanelles would be closed, have brought up large quantities of wheat.

The Government should also have acted earlier, Law said, in reducing the high cost of freights. It was common knowledge, he said, that many ships taken by the Admiralty often lay idle for weeks and months. If a board of business men were appointed to deal with these ships, he was sure that fifty per cent of them would be released for general trade.

The Opposition leader said if the Premier could convince the dealers that there would be a plentiful supply of wheat by June he was sure that the price immediately would fall.

Beresford Would Hang 'Air Pirates'

And as Such he Classes Germans Who Make Raids on Defenceless Towns.

London, Feb. 11.—In the Commons today, answering a question put by Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, concerning German air and sea raids on undefended towns, Premier Asquith said: "I am not prepared to make any general statement. Each case must be dealt with on its own merit."

Beresford asked the Government to treat German raiders on undefended places as pirates, and after trial by court martial to hang them in public for the killing of women and children.

CANADA'S WAR TAXES \$30,000,000

Budget Speech of Canadian Finance Minister Outlines New Measures for Raising Additional Revenue

SPECIAL TAXES TOTAL \$8,000,000

Increased Customs Duties Will Add to the Revenue Between Twenty and Twenty-Five Million Dollars.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—The necessity of raising upwards of thirty million dollars by new taxation, and the means by which this sum is to be raised, were the outstanding features of the Budget Speech by Finance Minister White, delivered in the House of Commons this afternoon.

Following are the provisions announced by the Minister for restoring the revenues to the "minimum amount regarded as necessary."

Special taxes are expected on rough estimate, to produce eight million dollars, and increased custom duties will add to the revenue from twenty to twenty-five million dollars on the General Tariff.

The increases are seven and a half per cent intermediate; five per cent preferential, with certain exceptions, such as tea, sugar, wheat and flour, with special war taxes, including one per cent on bank note circulation; one per cent on gross income (Canadian) trust and loan companies; one per cent on net premiums of insurance companies, except life, fraternal, and marine; one per cent on telegraph cable messages; ten cents for every five dollars on railroad and steamboat tickets; ten cents on sleeping car, and five cents on parlour car tickets; one to three dollars per passenger from steamboat companies carrying to ports other than Canada, Newfoundland and the United States and British West Indies; two cents on all bank cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, express and post office orders; one cent on postal notes; one cent (war stamp) on each letter and post card; two cents on bills of lading five cents per pint on non-sparkling wines sold in Canada; twenty-five cents per pint on champagnes and sparkling wines.

NEW GENERAL OF THE JESUITS

Rome, Feb. 11.—Father Ledechowsky has been elected General of the Jesuits in succession to Father Francis Xavier Wernz.

SAY GERMANS EVACUATING INSTERBURG

Copenhagen, Feb. 11.—Private reports from Berlin say that it is rumored there that the Germans have evacuated Insterburg, in East Prussia, and that the inhabitants of the city are fleeing in panic before the Russians enter.

PT. REXTON GIVES 21 RECRUITS

Port Rexton, Feb. 12.—Great scenes of enthusiasm were seen at last night's meeting held in the Orange Hall, the gathering representing Port Rexton and Trinity East with Rev. Pittman presiding. The speakers were Dr. Curtis, J. G. Storde and G. Grimes.

Twenty-one volunteered, the majority being Unionists, and there are more to follow. The fathers and mothers present willingly consented, although with tears. Five young women offered their services as nurses. The ladies sang till early morning stirring patriotic songs.

The women and men of Port Rexton and Trinity East are determined to preserve at all costs the liberties and freedom handed down by their fathers.

EVENTFUL TRIP OF ADVENTURE

Met Stormy Weather in the Mediterranean—Held Up by Warships

The S.S. Adventure, Capt. C. Couch, 15 days from Naples in ballast arrived yesterday afternoon, after a stormy trip. Leaving here Jan. 2nd she proceeded to Naples and Alicante, and discharged her fish.

Returning through the Mediterranean she ran into a storm and had a difficult time reaching Gibraltar. Four other steamers were in sight at the time, all bound to the Rock, and the Adventure was the first to arrive there.

Some of these steamers were five days crossing from Algiers to Gibraltar.

The run from the Rock was made in 12 days, which, considering the weather experienced, was exceptionally good.

Twice the Adventure was held up by French cruisers, signals were exchanged and the steamer was permitted to continue. In one instance the Frenchman had his boat manned all ready to board the Adventure.

Slob ice was met 250 miles off and extended to port. A huge berg was seen about 220 miles off.

Mr. Bert Hayward, who made the round trip enjoyed it immensely. The Adventure leaves for Louisburg shortly for her sealing coal.

U.S. Paper Says German Van Horn Is Extremely Lucky To Get Chance Of Trial In British Court Of Law

New York, Feb. 9.—Under the caption of "Just an ordinary crime" The Herald comments editorially on the St. Croix bridge dynamite outrage as follows:

"Kultur" is no respecter of neutral nations. After Germany's assumption of the right to ride roughshod over neutral Belgium it is not at all surprising that the shallow-brained German calling himself Horn should have assumed it his right to use the United States as a base of operations for crime. Nor is it surprising in view of what happened in Belgium, that this man, who proclaims himself a valiant warrior, should regard his dastardly attempt to blow up a railway bridge—thereby endangering the lives of hundreds of

Casualties Of The British Total 104,000

But Sixty per cent. of the Wounded Have Recovered and are Fit for Service.

London, Feb. 11.—Premier Asquith in an announcement, made in the House of Commons, said that the Government is about to take more stringent measures against the trade of Germany. He promised that arrangements will be made to publish communications from Sir John French twice weekly, thus giving more news of the war.

In connection with his recent statement to the effect that British casualties in the western fighting zone numbered 104,000 officers and men, the Premier explained that approximately sixty per cent. of alleged wounded had already recovered and were fit for service.

EXPLAIN RUSSIAN RETREAT

Withdrawal in East Prussia of Czar's Forces is Strategic Move Say Petrograd Officials

SIMPLY A PART OF BIG MOVEMENT

Garrison of Przemysl Exhausting Itself—"Final Repulse" of Germans in the Carpathians

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—A further explanation of the retirement of the Russian forces in East Prussia was made today in an official statement which says: It is believed we are upon the eve of a great operation which must solve definitely the struggle in East Prussia. Warning is given that because of the necessity for military secrecy little information may be expected regarding the operations which are about to begin.

The Russians are seeking the shelter of their own fortresses, the statement asserts, before attempting to take "more concentrated" locations from which to oppose the heavily reinforced Germans.

The Russians claim the garrison of Przemysl is exhausting itself in fruitless sorties.

A final repulse of the Germans who temporarily occupied the heights of Kozlovka after twenty-two assaults is reported.

The temperature along the railway line registers from 10 to 25 above. The weather S. W. winds, fresh and dull. Snowing a little at Bishop Falls, Quarry and Gaff Topsails.

STIFF TALK IN U.S. NOTE TO POWERS TO HOLD GERMANY TO STRICT ACCOUNT

Great Britain and Germany Warned Against Jeopardising American Lives and Property

TO HOLD GERMANY TO STRICT ACCOUNT

Britain Told That Grave Situation May Arise if General Abuse of Neutral Flag is Sanctioned

Washington, Feb. 12.—Publication by the State Department of the text of the note sent yesterday to Britain and Germany revealed that both countries had been warned in most emphatic terms against menacing the vessels and lives of American citizens traversing the recently proclaimed sea-zones of war.

Germany was advised that the United States would be constrained to hold the Imperial German Government to a strict accountability for such acts of its naval authorities as might result in the destruction of American vessels, the loss of American lives and that if such a deplorable situation should arise the American Government would take any steps as it might deem necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property.

To Great Britain, the United States pointed out that "measure of responsibility which would be imposed on the British Government for the loss of American vessels and lives in case of attack by a German naval force, if England sanctioned the general misuse of the American flag by British vessels and thereby cast doubt upon the valid character of neutral ensigns."

German Attack On United States

Neutrality Only Veil of Preference Says German Paper.

Berlin, via wireless to Sayville, 1. Feb. 9.—"American neutrality," says The Cologne Gazette, "is now only a thin curtain behind which zealous, loving service to Britain conceals itself. If America respects only brutal power, we, too, will play the brutal power."

The Gazette, which is frequently inspired by the Government, made this attack in the course of an article dealing with foreign press comments upon the launching of Admiral von Tirpitz' submarine warfare against British merchantmen.

"If America were really neutral," said the Gazette, "she would demand permission to sell war materials to Germany and Austria as well as to the allies."

French Reserves Leave St. Pierre

The French reservists, numbering 370, left St. Pierre on the 3rd for Havre. They were taken across by the S.S. Chicago.

BONAVISTA LIST OF VOLUNTEERS 82

By late advices from Bonavista we learn that eighty-two is now the number of Volunteers from that town.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Fresh to strong S.W. winds, mild with occasional snow or rain.

Saturday—Strong breezes to moderate gales from West ward; fair and turning colder.

FIRED ON SHIP UNDER DUTCH FLAG

British Steamer Hoisted Neutral Flag When Challenged But Germans Fired on Her Nevertheless

THEN LAUNCHED TORPEDO AT HER

Dutch Investigating Report That Attempt to Sink Ship Was Made in Their Territorial Waters

Muiden, Netherlands, Feb. 11.—The German submarine U-2, yesterday, attempted to torpedo the British steamer Laertes, which arrived here to-day from Java. The vessel escaped by adroit manoeuvres and fast steaming. When attacked the steamer was flying the Dutch flag.

The attack on the Laertes was made while the vessel was steaming between the Meuse lightship and Showen bank.

The submarine fired several shells which damaged the steamer's funnel, compass and upper deck. As this did not induce the captain to stop, the submarine made an unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the steamship.

The Laertes, when challenged by the submarine, was proceeding without showing her nationality, and when asked to stop, the vessel flew the Dutch flag, but this did not prevent the Germans, according to the ship's officers, from firing on the steamer and attempting to sink her.

The Captain of the Laertes says he flew the Dutch flag in order to save the crew, which consisted of subjects of neutral states, including those from China and Norway.

The Hague, Jan. 11.—The Dutch authorities will make an inquiry into the attempt of the German submarine U-2 to torpedo the steamship Laertes, as it is suggested that the attempt was made inside Dutch territorial waters.

HEAVILY FINED FOR BREACHES OF FOX LAWS

Mr. C. E. Hunt, who was visiting Channel on professional business, returned by last night's express. He was prosecuting J. R. Forward, of Sydney, for a breach of the Fox Laws.

The case was tried before Magistrate Squary, who imposed a fine of \$400 or 4 months. Nine foxes were confiscated.

Getting Sealers Ready For Voyage

The sealer Terra Nova had a spin round the harbour, and tried her engines, which worked satisfactorily. She has had considerable repairs and alterations made her boilers of late, and she is now in better condition than ever.

GAVE BEOTHIC QUICK DESPATCH

The S.S. Beothic, which took a cargo of sugar from Halifax to the Old Country received a quick despatch in unloading and is now on her way to St. John's. She was unloaded in 24 hours. Upon her arrival here she will go to Sydney for her sealing coal.

Clarenville Doctor Had Narrow Escape

Dr. Chisholm narrowly escaped drowning a few evenings ago. He was driving from Britannia Cove to Clarenville when the horse, driver and doctor went through the ice.

They experienced great difficulty in extricating themselves and also getting the animal out. On reaching Clarenville they were supplied with dry clothing by the station agent.

The schr. Novelty, Benson, loads fish for Pernambuco for Monroe Export Co.

H. M. Woodell