THE WEEKLY ONTARIO
AND BAY OF QUINTE CHRONICLE

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Government Imposes Property War Tax One Mill on the Dollar

Piracy Continues in English Channel; 3 More Ships Torpedoed

RUSSIANS FORCE THE GERMANS TO RETIRE ALONG THE GRODNO ROADS

Special to The Ontario.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.—A marked change for the better is now apparent in the operations against the German advance from East Prussia. The tide turned on Sunday when the easternmost German column was forced back by a Russian force made up of the divisions from Grodno.

The Germans were attacked among the marsh streams between the source of the Bobr and the left bank of the Niemen. The Germans tried to man-haul their light guns on sledges across the frozen streams, but they broke through the ice. Their heavy guns remained well behind and were scarcely used.

The Russian heavy guns on the Grodno roads shelled the German main column over the heads of infantry which was skirmishing among the frozen marshes. In three hours the Germans fell back, and then moved westward, leaving a large collection of pontoons, besides several merged light guns and several hundred dead.

The army from Johannisburg was trying to secure for the Germans the valuable enclave of the Bobr and the Narew, ending at the Lomza fortress, but the Russians, after stubborn and repeated charges and hours of desperate bayonet fighting, drove all the Germans from this region back upon the East Prussian frontier, where there is again a hurried movement of the enemy's trains.

There are signs that the Germans are gathering greater forces at Prasnysz, where their position is still difficult, but the Russians, further to the west have greatly improved their situation. Some hundred German prisoners have been taken in the villages in this region.

Will Artillery Retreat?

PARIS, Feb. 24.—Vast importance attaches to the slow but determined French advance in Champagne since Feb. 16.

The successful storming of trench after trench in the neighborhood of Perthes gravely imperils the railroad linking the northern Argonne district with Rheims and the army of the German Crown Prince with that of Gen. von Heeringen.

The Germans have made desperate counter-attacks daily, but they will be unable to stem the tide unless they receive very heavy reinforcements immediately. The French artillery may at any moment advance to a position commanding the railroad, which would automatically enforce the abandonment of many miles of trenches by the Germans between Perthes and Rheims.

On Monday the French threw back two furious counter-attacks, then, taking the offensive, they hurled the enemy from his original position, inflicting very heavy losses, and capturing numerous prisoners. A large number of machine-guns and bomb-throwers and a great quantity of ammunition fell into the hands of the French, the Germans having been compelled to abandon the booty in their retreat, which was carried out under a deadly gunfire.

Hopes here are high that Gen. von Heeringen will soon have to beat a retreat with his artillery beyond the range of Rheims, which suffered more Monday from the German shells than on any previous day of bombardment. A private telegram says that a large cemetery to the north of the town has been absolutely wrecked by the shells. Several family vaults have been shattered and fragments of hundreds of tombstones have been blown across the ground, which is cut up like a plowed field.

BRITAIN REFUSES TO SEND MONEY TO BELGIUM

LONDON, Feb. 24. — The British Foreign Office has directed a letter to Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American-Belgian relief committee, declining to give a direct subsidy to the commission for relief in Belgium. The Foreign Office explains it has taken this course because Germany has refused to put a stop to cash requisitions in Belgium.

"It is evident," says the British Foreign Secretary, "that, if under such conditions, the British Government undertook, through your commission, to supply money and food to the Belgian population the only result would be an equivalent diminution of the food and supplies already there. The British Government, in fact, would be facilitating the feeding and paying for the maintenance of the German army.

"Solely on account of this attitude on the part of the German Government, the proposed arrangement between his Majesty's Government and the commission must be regarded as having broken down. We shall, of course, maintain our general favorable attitude towards your work, and our offer of financial support will remain open in the event of the German Government receding from their present position with regard to their levies in Belgium."

ADOLPHE PEGOUD

The French upside-down aviator has now several daring lone-hand raids to his credit.

THREE SHIPS TORPEDOED IN ENGLISH CHANNEL; AMERICAN BOAT HITS MINE

Special to the Ontario

LONDON, Feb. 24. — Three more vessels were added last night to the list of ships torpedoed by German submarines. Two are British and the third a Norwegian steamer, the Regin.

All three were attacked in the English Channel.

The steamer Kalibra, which arrived at Lydd, in Kent, and made the report, states that one was attacked off Fairlight, on the Sussex coast. One vessel was sunk and the other is sinking. Three trawlers are standing by. The names of the vessels attacked are not stated.

A despatch from New Haven, England, says that eighteen members of the crew of the Cardiff steamer Branksome Chine, a Government collier, landed there last evening. Their vessel either struck a mine or was torpedoed in the English Channel twenty miles southeast of Beachy Head about two o'clock yesterday afternoon. The men say the captain and mate of the steamer are standing by the vessel, which is badly damaged and awash. An attempt will be made to pull her to the coast and beach her.

A larger steamer is reported in distress near the same spot. Lifeboats are in attendance upon her.

From Paris the following despatch was received last night:

A German submarine, which for the past few days had been lying in the English Channel in wait for steam packets plying between France and England on Monday night, fired a torpedo at the steamer Victoria while she was on the voyage from Boulogne to Folkestone with 92 passengers, including some Americans.

The captain of the Victoria, however, saw the characteristic wake made by the topedo and slowed down his vessel, and the torpedo passed harmlessly about 100 feet in front of her.

The French second light squadron was informed to keep a sharp lookout in the Channel for the submarine. The Minister of Marine announced that a torpedo boat belonging to the squadron sighted the submarine at 7.30 o'clock yesterday morning eight miles southwest of Cape Alpenech, near Boulogne, and immediately opened fire, and succeeded in scoring several hits before the submarine was able to dive. The announcement adds that a wide patch of oil was seen afterwards on the sea at the spot where the submarine disappeared, and from this it is presumed that the submarine was wrecked.

The British Admiralty gave out an official report of the attempt to torpedo a Channel boat, inferentially the one mentioned here.

Another neutral vessel fell victim yesterday to the German submarine. The Norwegian steamer Regin was torpedoed in the Engish Channel off Dover. She sank in less than fifteen minutes. British destroyers closed in about her and picked up the twenty-two members of the crew. They were landed at Dover yesterday afternoon. The men said they believed the vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine.

The Regin was carrying coal from the Tyne to Bordeaux.

A despatch from Berlin says the American steamer Carib has gone to the bottom off the German coast in the North Sea as a result of running on a mine. It is believed that her crew was saved.

The steamer Carib belonged to the Clyde Line. She was of 2,280 tons net, and left Charleston Jan. 27 for Bremen with 4,600 bales of cotton. She was in command of Captain Cole and had a crew of 30 men.

NOT A WAR TAX SAYS HON. MR. MACLEAN.

Tariff Increase a Purely Protective Measure, Says A. K. Maclean.

OTTAWA, Feb. 24. — The budget debate was resumed yesterday, speeches being delivered by Hon. A. K. Maclean and Hon. Frank Oliver on behalf of the Opposition and by Mr. Claude Macdonell on behalf of the Government.

A. K. Maclean maintained in the first place that the Government did not need any additional revenue in view of the fact that all war expenditures were being advanced by the British Government. The so-called war taxes, he said, were not being levied on account of the war or to help carry on the war, but to meet deficits in our domestic finances caused by reckless extravagance. He then proceeded to show how enormously the cost of government had increased in the various Departments, although, he contended, they had a great deal less work to do.

Mr. Maclean dealt next with the decrease in the British preference. That preference had been already almost wiped out by increased freight rates and insurance rates attendant upon the war, and now the Government proposed to do away with it altogether by adding a five per cent. tax. Their action in respect to the British preference, he said, had caused surprise in this country and consternation and amazement in England.

So far as the war stamp taxes went, Mr. Maclean had no objections so long as the money derived therefrom was used for war purposes. But in his opinion they were not meant to meet war requirements, "but to meet the ordinary expenses incurred by the Government."

The Opposition, he said, would facilitate the passage of the war supply bill and would vote for a supplementary bill if it were needed, but would demand a strict accounting.

Mr. Claude Macdonell (S. Toronto) who rose to reply, expressed surprise that a man of Mr. Maclean's ability should at a time like this be indulging in piffle about departmental expenditures. Evidently the member for Halifax did not know that we were at war and that the Government could only raise the money needed by taxation.

A NARROW ESCAPE

Mr. Chas. Dewey had a narrow escape from death on Monday afternoon, when he was severely cut about the face by a circular saw at Rodger's mill. In addition to the severe cuts his skull was injured. He is doing as well as can be expected.—Havelock Standard.

NEW RECRUITS

Since our last report the following have joined the 39th Battalion Overseas forces at Picton: James G. Marshall, John S. Marshall, Hugh Heenan, Earl Ryckman, William Woodrow, Joseph Curley, John Frederick, Fred Cole, Gilbert Bongard, Jas. A. Norton, Hubert Franklin, Percy Pettet, A. C. Albott, Alfred Strickland, Joseph Beson, John Nairn, Edward E. Mitchell, Sidney J. Martin, Henry Lambert, John Loney, Percy Bongard, Jacob Knight, William John Sheridan, Frederick Norton, William Baker.—Picton Gazette.

TRENTON BOY BREAKS THIGH BONE

Special to The Ontario.

son, son of Mr. H. A. Thomson, Mgr. of the Molsons Bank, while playing on a haystack on the farm of Mr. Dixon, Stoney Lonsome, fell to the ground only a few feet, breaking his thign bone. Messrs. Walter Dixon and George Bowler kindly conveyed the little chap to his home where Drs Farncombe and Johnston soon set the broken limb.

Revs. Barber of Picton; Beyers, of Stirling; Hall of Bellevue, and Harris of Marmora were there with several other clergymen of the Deanery, were in town yesterday in attendance at the regular Deanery meeting

James Munns Dead

James Munns, a resident of Donald street, College Hill, passed away yesterday at the age of 77 years and 8 months.

BRIEF ITEMS BY TELEGRAPH

Within eleven months of the century mark, Mrs. Alfred Southworth died in Brockville yesterday. She came to Canada in the 'twenties.

Ald. Paul Hannagan was shot during a quarrel in the corridor of the city hall at Lawrence, Mass., yesterday. Dennis H. Finn, a former state senator, was arrested.

Carter H. Harrison, now completing his fifth term as mayor of Chicago, was defeated yesterday for the Democratic nomination by Robt. M. Sweitzer, clerk of Cook County.

The Allan, Anchor and Donaldson Lines have conceded the demands made by the Seafarers' Union for an advance during the war of a shilling a day to sailors and firemen standing by the liners.

E. J. Chamberlin, president of the G.T.R., forwarded to Ottawa a check for $40,915.91, being the amount voluntarily subscribed by the officers and employes of the G.T.R. to the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

John Hawley, aged 18, of Mountain Grove, near Kingston, shot himself in the head and is in the General Hospital. It is expected he will recover. His rifle was accidentally discharged when he was climbing over a fence.

The new whip of the Ontario Conservative party in the Legislature will be Charles R. McKeown of Dufferin. This was the chief outcome of the Conservative caucus held at noon yesterday, and was not in the nature of a surprise.

THE ORANGEMEN'S BOAST

Eight Thousand of the Order Went With First Contingent.

At a banquet held recently at Kingston by the Legislation Committee of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario considering matters coming before this session of Parliament, Grand Master Dr. J. J. Williams, Woodstock, referred to the fact that of 32,000 men in the First contingent, 8,000 were Orangemen and the proportion of Orangemen in the second contingent was as large.

F. M. Clarke, Belleville, Grand Secretary, stated that of the first contingent only 2 per cent. were French-Canadian, and that in Ireland. 15 times as many Protestants as Roman Catholics had enlisted in Kitchener's army.

58 IN TRAINING

The new recruits for the Third Contingent are: Wm. J. Sheridan, F. G. Norton and Wm. Baker. The force here now numbers 58. F. G. Norton walked over from Belleville to join the Picton detachment to be with his brother James, who enlisted on his return from the Northwest.—Picton Times.

PASSAGES ARE NOW CLOSED

Irish and North Channels Barred By British Admiralty.

LONDON, Feb. 24. — The Official Press Bureau last night made the following announcement:

"The British Admiralty has issued an order closing the Irish Channel and the North Channel to the shipping of all nationalities. The order took effect yesterday.

"All traffic wishing to proceed through the North Channel must pass to the southward of Rathlin Island between sunrise and sunset."

The southern entrance to the Irish Channel, known as St. George's Channel, is between Carnsore Point, on the Irish coast, and St. David's Head on the opposite coast of Wales. Certain areas of this channel have been closed to mercantile navigation by the Admiralty's orders, which also require that all traffic wishing to proceed through the North Channel must pass to the southward of Rathlin Island between sunrise and sunset. No ship will be allowed within four miles of Rathlin Island between sunset and sunrise.

KHAKI UNIFORMS FOR 39TH BATT.

Arrived Today—155 Recruits in 49th Regiment.

A carload of khaki service uniforms for the 39th Battalion has arrived in the city and is today being unloaded at the headquarters of the quartermaster's stores, namely Pinnacle St school

When the men will be issued with uniforms is not known by the military men as yet

The 39th Battalion recruits in the city will attend divine service on Sunday morning next at Victoria Ave. Baptist Church

The 49th Regt. volunteers now number 155 men. This is an excellent record. Some twenty men have been added in the past few days.

Officers of the 39th Battalion are beginning to pay frequent visits to Belleville

The Prince Edward volunteers of the 16th Regt. did not march to Belleville yesterday

Boards of Trade

Lt-Col. W. N. Ponton, J. Elliott, and H. F. Ketcheson have gone to Toronto to attend the annual meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario. Other members of the Belleville Board may attend

MARMORA SOLDIER WOUNDED AT FRONT

James McFarlane, of Marmora has received official word that his son had been wounded at the front. No particulars were given

He has two sons with the First Contingent. One is private M. McFarlane of the 49th detachment

SPECIAL TAX ON PROPERTY IN ONTARIO BY GOVERNMENT

TORONTO, Feb. 24. — A special war tax of one mill on the dollar of all assessable property in Ontario will be levied by the Government. It is the first time in history that the residents of the province have been required to meet such a tax. According to Hon. T. W. McGarry, who made the announcement in the Legislature yesterday, the report of the action will be as a testimonial of the generosity and patriotism of Ontario.

The statement followed immediately the budget speech. There is now $1,800,000,000 worth of assessable property in Ontario and the income from it will be $1,800,000. It will go to Britain and the Belgian relief organization.

Collection will be made through the municipalities in the ordinary way, and in counties the tax will be made on equalized assessment and paid over as part of county rates. Against this sum, collectable next fall, the Treasurer will borrow two millions. The policy was founded on their conception of the wishes of the people and would end with the war.

The announcement followed a stinging arraignment of the large insurance companies which are now combatting the increased corporation tax, and the list was read out and denounced in strong terms. Beginning with the Canada Life, Confederation, Continental, Crown, Mutual, Sun Life, he ran through them, castigating their action in this period of stress as "traitorous and cowardly."

Further, in referring to succession duties where men were dying and the province was not getting proper dues, he stated that the revenue here would be augmented in the near future.

Mr. McGarry argued that if the Government took into account the assets on hand in the shape of public buildings there would be a net surplus of more than $14,000,000.

There was a deficit of $627,000 allocable to generosity in patriotic contributions. There was a war loss in the forests branch of $258,000 and outstanding company debts of $250,000. With all these in a surplus would have occurred.

The increased federal subsidy was based on increase in custom and excise duties collected. The provinces deserved even greater support from Ottawa. Bar and brewers' licenses recorded a drop. In 1913 the bar tax alone had returned $294,000, and in spite of reduced numbers the revenue was creditable. On an average 153 licenses per year had been removed.

In reference to the $500,000 T. & N. O. item which was criticized, he stated that last year the railway owed more to Ontario, but could not pay because of the care bestowed in perfecting the service.

In spite of the war two millions in loans had been paid off and two more were due in May. They would be renewed or covered.

The Hydro-Electric Commission had expended four millions last year and 80 municipalities, 15 cities, 19 towns, four villages and two townships were benefiting. Agriculture had so increased that farmers were enthusiastic over increased patriotic production. Crop outputs had increased 38 millions in value since 1903.

Supplementary estimates were tabled in the House yesterday. These arrange for increased expenditures above those ordinarily counted on and total $1,298,720.33. They concern spending in different Government branches arranged recently.

The new boiler inspection legislation calls for $4,400; new motor vehicle enactments providing automobile markers and supplies, $8,000; administration of justice in new districts of Thunder Bay and Kenora, $12,000; $200,000 more goes to the completion of Government House, to be opened in the fall, and other grants are for miscellaneous purposes.

MUTINY NOW SUPPRESSED

Eight Officers and Seventeen Men Were Killed In Singapore.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—An official announcement given out by the Bureau of Information says that a riot at Singapore in the Fifth Light Infantry over promotions has been quelled.

The loss of life in the proceedings was "somewhat serious."

The text of the announcement given out by the bureau follows:

"News has been received from Singapore that owing to some jealousy and dissatisfaction concerning recent promotions, a portion of the 5th Light Infantry refused to obey orders. This caused a serious riot, which the local and neighboring forces, with a detachment of the 36th Sighs, assisted the authorities in quelling.

"Assistance was rendered also by landing parties from British and allied ships.

"The disturbance was accompanied by a regrettable loss of life. Eight officers were among the total of 25 persons killed, while others were wounded.

"All is now quiet in Singapore, and there has been no destruction to property."

PLANT FOR MAKING SHELLS UNDER WAY.

The Dickson Bridge Works Co. are busily engaged in preparing their plant for the manufacture of shrapnel shells. The work is under the efficient management of Mr. A. H. McKeel, who is putting everything in order as speedily as possible. New machinery is being installed and the company expects to be working night and day in the manufacture of shells by March 1st.—Campbellford Herald.

CHARGES WERE NOT PROVEN

Mrs. Nerlich Acquitted of Conspiring to Assist the Enemy.

TORONTO, Feb. 24.—Chief Justice Mulock freed Mrs. Hedwig Nerlich of the charge of conspiring with her husband to assist the enemy. He found that there was absolutely no evidence against her, although she had shown sympathy for her own people, which was no crime. His lordship directed the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty in her favor, but ordered the case against Emil Nerlich to proceed to-day.

Before the case for the crown closed, Mr. Du Vernet made another attempt to introduce three other letters, one belonging to Emil Nerlich and the others to Hedwig Nerlich, which were seized by the police in the postoffice before they reached the Nerlich home on Dunbar road. He contended that he had laid a foundation of evidence to admit them, but his lordship ruled against him. It was on these letters that the crown depended to show that Mrs. Nerlich had sent parcels and boxes of comforts to Germany for the soldiers.

MET DEATH AT FRONT.

Tuesday Daily papers chronicled among other sad events the death on Feb. 3, of Sergt. Frank S. Brown, one of the Princess Pat's men who were at the front as reported in this paper recently. Mr. Brown is a son of Rev. S. G. Brown, pastor of Presbyterian church, Almonte, a Darlington boy, well-known in this vicinity and to many of our readers who will sympathize with him in the death of his son who has laid down his life for the home nor of our country.—Bowmanville Statesman.

PASSENGER BOAT ATTACKED BY SUBMARINE.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—A German submarine which for the past few days has been lying in the English Channel in wait for steam packets plying between France and England, Monday night fired a torpedo at the steamer Victoria while she was on a voyage from Boulogne to Folkestone with a number of passengers, including some Americans. The captain of the Victoria, however, saw the characteristic, wake made by the torpedo and slowed down his vessel and the torpedo passed harmlessly about 30 feet in front of her.

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