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## BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE TO TWO MILLION MEN Russians Complete Evacuation of Dobrudja Without Loss

### FERGUSON DENIES IN HIS DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT

Machine Gun Fund, Hydro and Nickel Issues to Fore.

### STRONG DENIALS GIVEN

West Simcoe By-Election is Developing a Furious Pace.

By Staff Reporter.

Alliston, Ont., Jan. 5.—C. W. Bowman's charges regarding misuse of government money in the purchase of machine guns, Liberal claims to hydro fatherhood and the nickel issue were dealt with by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson in a West Simcoe by-election speech here that lasted until half past eleven o'clock last night. He was unusually vigorous.

Mr. Ferguson, in beginning his address, deplored the fact that there should be a by-election during the war. For the Liberals to have let go by acclamation would have been "but a fitting and graceful thing to do" in memory of the late Hon. James Duff, he said.

For twelve years, since Sir James Whitney came into power, there had been not a single charge of misappropriation. In this respect they had a clean sheet. It was a thing worth consideration and to the credit of the present government. The opponents of the Conservative candidate were the very men who had supported the regime the memory of which was still poignant. If his hearers gave their votes to the Liberal candidates they were by so doing endorsing the powers that had permitted that corruption.

"I challenge any man in this hall to point his finger to a single misappropriation of the public funds. It can't be done, because to do so is to do the same thing as to do such a thing under Mr. Hearst's name that they dared under Sir James Whitney," said Mr. Ferguson.

Attack on Bowman.

Mr. Ferguson then turned his guns upon C. M. Bowman's allegations at a previous meeting in Alliston. Mr. Bowman was "this Simon pure, sanctified apostle of purity." He must have suffered a sudden change of heart. Mr. Ferguson said he would not go into the political biography of Mr. Bowman nor describe the gymnastics he had performed nor the profits he had reaped from them. He was not afraid to say these things, because they were a matter of record.

In regard to colonization roads charges had been made. "I want to say," said Mr. Ferguson, "that in our colonization roads policy today the road and the workmen get the money and not the foreman. That's the difference in our policies."

Machine Gun Fund.

Mr. Ferguson then turned to Mr. Bowman's charge that the government had misused public money in purchasing machine guns, claiming that they had spent \$175,000 and the guns bought had been scrapped. "I know the facts," said Mr. Ferguson, "and I say that it is a most unfounded fabrication, the most scandalous untruth ever uttered by a politician. There is not a particle of truth in the whole of it. I know because I have been in the department of finance since 1912. For five years he was employed in the Intercolonial Railway, and from that branch of the service he entered the department of finance in 1917 as a third class clerk. He has worked his way upwards thru all stages."

(Continued on page 2, column 2).

### BRITISH MAKE ADVANCE AFTER AFRICAN BATTLE

Gen. Smuts' Forces Storm Strongly Entrenched Lines in German East Africa.

London, Jan. 4.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"In East Africa our forces in the vicinity of Kissaka, south of the Ulu-guru hills, assumed the offensive New Year's Day. They stormed the enemy's strongly entrenched lines in the Mgeta valley, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing several guns and howitzers. Pursuing the enemy we approached on January 3 the (Tigowal) River, eleven miles northwest of Kibambawe."

### CRITICS OF BRUCE ACCUSED OF BIAS

Colonel is Silent, But His Friends Do Not Hesitate to Speak.

### CONTROVERSY RAGING

Perley Replies to Charge That Selection of Probers Was Prejudiced.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, Jan. 4.—The C. A. P. understands the Bapiste report will be presented forthwith and will presumably be obtained by anyone interested. A little while back the C. A. P. asked Col. Bruce if he would confirm rumors of his objections to the personnel of the Bapiste commission. Col. Bruce courteously and very properly expressed his inability to say anything in view of the military discipline. The C. A. P. is able to state, however, that the majority of the board was prejudiced against him and would not be able to approach the subject with an open mind. It was also asserted that three members of the Bapiste board had expressed themselves as antagonistic to the whole scheme of reorganization as outlined by Bruce before they had even read the proposals. It is also asserted on behalf of Bruce that he was not given an opportunity of attending the sittings of the Bapiste enquiry, but on this point it is undeniable that neither Carlton Jones nor Bruce ever asked to be allowed to attend. The British Medical Journal in November contained an article which de-

(Continued on page 2, column 6).

### TURKS CLAIM REPULSE OF BRITISH ON TIGRIS

Berlin, Jan. 4, via Sayville.—The Turkish headquarters report, issued under date of Jan. 2, states that British attacked a portion of our positions on Dec. 31. They were repulsed with heavy losses, estimated at between 800 and 600 men."

### J. C. Saunders Wins Promotion In Department of Finance

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Jan. 4.—J. C. Saunders has been appointed assistant deputy minister of finance, in succession to Henry T. Ross, who has become secretary of the Canadian Bankers' Association. Mr. Saunders has been chief accountant and dominion bookkeeper since 1916, and he has been in the government service since 1892. For five years he was employed in the Intercolonial Railway, and from that branch of the service he entered the department of finance in 1897 as a third class clerk. He has worked his way upwards thru all stages.

(Continued on page 2, column 2).

### THIEVES LOOT FUR WAREHOUSE

Second Robbery of the Kind Reported in Two Months.

Load Was Probably Carried Away in Motor or Wagon.

Special to The Toronto World.

Washington, Jan. 4.—With the American "war babies" still kidding vigorously and with hundreds of shipments of ammunition going to the allies every month, England is preparing to manufacture a big consignment of shells for the U. S. navy. Secretary Daniels made the startling announcement today that Hadfields, Limited, of Sheffield, England, was the low bidder on contracts for 16-inch and 14-inch shells for the U. S. navy. The 16-inch shells were their bid \$146 lower per shell than the 14-inch shells and \$237 lower on the larger ones than the lowest American bid, but they offered to deliver the order in eleven months and sixteen months respectively, while the best the American firms could do was 22 and 24 months. Hadfields became a serious competitor for naval contracts in 1913, when they underbid the American firms on 14-inch shells by a wide margin. Frightened by this rivalry, the American manufacturers climbed down in 1914 to \$116 per shell, which was but \$200 lower than their previous bids. After the war broke out Hadfields was unable to compete and the American price went up \$100.

Will Cause Panic.

Today's bid from Hadfields came as a great surprise to the navy department, and it is imagined will throw consternation into the American manufacturing ranks. It had not been supposed that England was in a position to manufacture shells with this class of machinery. The effect of the American "war babies" in the stock exchange as a result of this bid will be tremendous, it is predicted. If England is able to sell munitions abroad there will almost certainly be a great curtailment of purchases here, and that every American manufacturer into making better terms on future war contracts.

Beats American Firms.

Commenting on the wide disparity between the English bid and the American proffers, Secretary Daniels said he thought it singular that American firms should be unable to compete either as to price or time of delivery with the English manufacturer. For the sixteen months contract the lowest bid was as follows: Bethlehem Steel Company, four thousand in 36 months at \$775; Crucible Steel Company, 1,700 in 36 months at \$750; American Steel and Wire Company, 1,000 in 24 months at \$900; Washington Steel and Ordnance Company, 2,500 in 22 months at \$750; Hadfields, Ltd., 5,000 in 16 months at \$512.

For the 14-inch projectiles, proposals were as follows: Crucible Steel Company, 2,000 in 12 months at \$443.50; Midvale Steel Company, 5,600 in 30 months at \$550; Washington Steel and Ordnance Company, 1,900 in 22 months at \$450; Hadfields, Ltd., 4,000 in 11 months at \$386.

The Bethlehem Steel Company, the only bidder on the 14-inch, class B shell, proposed to deliver 900 in 22 months at \$310. This is the first time proposals for 16-inch shells have been opened.

### MANY LIVES LOST WITH TRANSPORT

More Than One Hundred and Fifty Persons Reported Missing.

### INVERNIA CUNARD BOAT British Admiralty Announces Torpedoing of Steamer in Mediterranean.

London, Jan. 4.—More than 150 lives are believed to have been lost when the British transport Invernia was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. A report issued by the admiralty tonight says that 33 of the steamer's crew and 120 others are missing.

The Cunard liner Invernia, a 14,275-ton steamer, at various times carried troops from Canada and between British ports and the Dardanelles. She was built in 1900 at Newcastle. Her length was 332 feet and clearance was 64 feet in beam and 37 feet in draft.

### ABSOLUTE CLEARANCE OF FURS

This is the open season for bargains in furs, and the Dineon offerings are unusual attractive. General conditions have prompted the earlier event of the annual clearing sale, and prices are set to figures prevailing towards the end of the season, when immediate clearance is a necessity. Fine Scotch mole sets reduced to three-quarters their accepted value. Persian lamb coats, \$15. W. & D. Dineon Company, 140 Yonge street.

### BRITISH FIRM WINS U. S. SHELL ORDER

Hadfields, Limited, Outbid American Competitors for Navy Contract.

### DAZES WASHINGTON

Action of English Manufacturer Will Send Down "War Babies."

Special to The Toronto World.

Washington, Jan. 4.—With the American "war babies" still kidding vigorously and with hundreds of shipments of ammunition going to the allies every month, England is preparing to manufacture a big consignment of shells for the U. S. navy. Secretary Daniels made the startling announcement today that Hadfields, Limited, of Sheffield, England, was the low bidder on contracts for 16-inch and 14-inch shells for the U. S. navy. The 16-inch shells were their bid \$146 lower per shell than the 14-inch shells and \$237 lower on the larger ones than the lowest American bid, but they offered to deliver the order in eleven months and sixteen months respectively, while the best the American firms could do was 22 and 24 months. Hadfields became a serious competitor for naval contracts in 1913, when they underbid the American firms on 14-inch shells by a wide margin. Frightened by this rivalry, the American manufacturers climbed down in 1914 to \$116 per shell, which was but \$200 lower than their previous bids. After the war broke out Hadfields was unable to compete and the American price went up \$100.

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### VIENNA FULL OF CRIME MUCH FOOD IS STOLEN

Housewives Fear to Venture Out Because of Robberies and Violence.

Geneva, via Paris, Jan. 4.—The burgomaster of Vienna, Dr. Weiskirchner, threatens to resign if Hungary continues to refuse to send food to Vienna, according to reports received here. He is quoted as saying that the prisons are filled, chiefly with women and children convicted of having stolen food, while housewives are afraid to go shopping for food even in the principal streets owing to robberies and assaults.

The Swiss and German papers are crowded with advertisements for Swiss servants to go to Germany. The reason given is that every Swiss family is allowed to receive from home weekly ten pounds of foodstuffs.

### HUNS WILL CONFISCATE BELGIAN METAL GOODS

Governor-General Issues Orders Commandeering Brass, Copper, Tin, Nickel, Bronze.

London, Jan. 5.—A Reuter despatch from Amsterdam says that the Maasrecht newspaper Les Nouvelles is authority for the statement that the governor-general of Belgium has issued a decree ordering the seizure of all household goods made of brass, copper, tin, nickel or bronze, including kitchen utensils, door plates and door knockers. The communes have been ordered to assist in the collection.

### TWO MILLION TROOPS UNDER HAIG IN FRANCE

British Forces Steadily Increase to Approximately One Hundred Divisions.

Paris, Jan. 4.—A special Havas despatch from the British front in France says:

"Gen. Sir Douglas Haig today commands the largest army Great Britain ever levied on her soil. The number of effective in the British army in France on January 1 was nearly 2,000,000 men, completely trained and ready day or night to receive orders from their commander-in-chief."

"This figure only refers to the British forces in France, and is exclusive of those employed in the defense of Great Britain, Ireland, India, Salonica, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Africa."

The latest previous announcement concerning the strength of the British army in France was made last summer by Premier Asquith, who said that the forces, including Dominion troops, the numbered 88 divisions. The present strength of 2,000,000 effectives represents more than 100 divisions.

### PEACE MUST BE MADE HARDEN WARNS BERLIN

German Editor Frankly Tells Countrymen Allies' Resources Cannot Be Exhausted.

London, Jan. 4.—Maximilian Harden, editor of Die Zukunft, delivered a speech at Berlin Saturday, pleading for peace by agreement, according to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, who quotes The Berliner Tageblatt.

After referring to the enemy's calculation of Germany's strength, Herr Harden warned his hearers not to allow themselves to be deceived about the enemy's strength.

"Russia's resources cannot be exhausted," he said, "for, indeed the war proceeds only on the edges of this world empire. England's hunger, moreover, is only a catchword, for which there is no foundation, while France's lack of men can be balanced by British troops."

### BRITISH ATTACK KEUPRI IN RAID UPON STRUMA

Royal Navy Also Bombards Bulgarian Positions Near Semuto and Lake Vitai.

London, Jan. 4.—A British communication issued tonight dealing with the situation on the Macedonian front, says:

"On the Struma front we successfully raided the village of Keupri, inflicting several casualties and taking 28 prisoners. Enemy positions in the neighborhood of Semuto and Lake Vitai have been bombarded by the royal navy."

### ENEMY SINKS STEAMER WHOLE CREW PERISHES

British Admiralty Cites Another Case of Callous Disregard for Human Life.

London, Jan. 5.—An admiralty announcement of another case of callous disregard for the lives of non-combatants came to light, says that nothing further has been heard of the British steamer North Wales, proceeding in ballast from Hull for Canada, which a German wireless despatch on

### RUSSIANS QUIT DOBRUDJA; GAIN SOME HEIGHTS

Germans Make No Progress Along Sereth—Skirmishing Prevails.

### MAY EVACUATE BRAILA

Allies Have Won Sufficient Time to Remove Stores of Grain.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

London, Jan. 4.—While the Russians continued to hold the enemy on the Rumanian front, today's official bulletins record the evacuation of the Dobrudja province without loss. This evacuation gives the Germans little or no military advantage, it is said here, but specification is active concerning the question of whether the Russians will still further shorten their lines by abandoning Braila.

It is believed that the delay given the enemy has enabled the Russians and Rumanians to complete the removal of immense grain stores in the elevators at that port, but, seeing that the allies have the enemy frontally held, the question that agitates critical minds is whether the enemy will attempt to cross the Danube from Matchin, a matter of about eighty miles. The river is marshy and it is considered more formidable than usual.

The German official report of today admits that beyond some fighting on the Sereth lines there was nothing new to report concerning the situation in Rumania.

Withdrawal Begins.

The withdrawal of the Russian forces in the Dobrudja began yesterday across the Danube in the direction of Braila. The retreat followed heavy fighting in which a hostile attack near Matchin was beaten off, but later the Russians

(Continued on page 6, column 4).

### Tornado Wrecks Schoolhouse Fifteen Children Lose Lives

Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 4.—Only one of the fifty children in a frame schoolhouse near Blocker, Okla., escaped injury when a tornado shattered the building late today. Reports indicate that of the children, mostly girls, were killed, the teacher, a woman, is missing and persons living in the neighborhood of the schoolhouse express the opinion that she was killed and her body blown away.

### SWISS COMMENT ON FOE'S THREAT

Newspapers Discuss Extensively Significant Hint in Cologne Gazette.

### HAS NOTHING TO FEAR

German Minister at Berne Issues Statement Disclaiming Sinister Designs.

Geneva, via Paris, Jan. 4.—The Journal Democratique says that President Schulthess and former President Motta and De Coppet voted against the recent Swiss note supporting President Wilson's communication to the belligerents in the form that it was edited and issued, but that they were in the minority in the federal council.

There is much discussion in the Swiss newspapers of a statement credited to The Cologne Gazette, concerning neutral nations—that the Swiss confederation has the greatest interest to see peace concluded rapidly, because it is now impossible to foresee the future fate of the nations which have remained neutral up to the present.

The German minister at Berne, in an interview with The Bund, is quoted as having said that Switzerland has nothing to fear from Germany, which country will strictly respect and guard Switzerland's neutrality. The rumors to the contrary, published in certain newspapers, the minister added, were without foundation and were circulated to disrupt the traditional friendly relations between the two countries. La Suisse, commenting on the interview, agrees with the minister's statement, but asks "what about the neutrality of Luxembourg and Belgium?"

(Continued on page 11, column 2).

## WAR SUMMARY

### THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

WHILE the Russians have been holding the enemy in Rumania, between the Carpathians and the Danube, for several days, and have even taken mountain positions, they have begun the evacuation of the Dobrudja by abandoning Matchin, right across the river from Braila. As the enemy will now be able to establish his batteries at points about eight miles distant from Braila, and to bring up his big guns and fire at random into the town, many war observers are inclined to think that the Russians intend to abandon Braila and to draw their defensive lines further east. At present they hold a bridgehead facing westward from Braila and the enemy has suffered big losses from his failure to carry it. The attacks of the Germans and Austrians in the Carpathians and west of the Sereth River, in the past several days it appears, have been repulsed with immense casualties in proportion to the number of men involved.

The Polish renegade, Witowski, who has long acted as the secret advance agent of the German authorities under the name of Maximilian Harden, has advised the people of Berlin, in an address, to accept a peace agreement. He began his recommendation by saying that the allies had miscalculated the German strength, and he continued it by warning the Germans not to miscalculate the allied strength. He said that Russia's resources cannot be exhausted, for the war is proceeding only on the edge of this world empire. England's hunger, moreover, is only a catch word for which there is no

(Continued on page 2, cols. 1 and 2).

Will Along Home- Rugs Bed- Regular values- ment of rich- sing Mosals. Sizes vary 6". 19.75- 27.50- Fire Tapestry- and medallion- and brown- wearing for- fitting-rooms. and floral ef- fects, bath- ings yards .55- om Mat, with- borders; in- ury. Size ap- 1.49- or the- ng- comfortable- Dyer factory- nter than- icks of up- hat you are- d style you- y Depart- your home- a first-class- Yarn- rn, made- thoroughly- for sol- 1.25- 00- Quality. .24- .28- .30- .32- .34- .36- .38- .40- .42- .44- .46- .48- .50- .52- .54- .56- .58- .60- .62- .64- .66- .68- .70- .72- .74- .76- .78- .80- .82- .84- .86- .88- .90- .92- .94- .96- .98- 1.00- Tea, of uni- any where- 37- Company Limited