Weather Forecast:
Fair and Very Cold

The London Advertiser

HOME EDITION

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

53rd YEAR. No 22684 | THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2, 1917. 112 COLUMNS | PRICE, TWO CENTS.

OFFICIAL WASHINGTON EXPECTS BREAK

U. S. READY FOR WAR--CHICAGO FIRE DISASTER--FRENCH STOP ATTACK

GAS EXPLOSION AND FIRE TAKE FORTY LIVES AT WINDY CITY

Apartment Building On West Side Razed Early Today.

SOME ALIVE IN THE RUINS

Hundreds Forced Into Street With Temperature 10 Below Zero.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Firemen attacking the ice-covered wreckage of the West Side fire penetrated through the outer crust at 10 a.m. and declared they could distinguish what seemed to be voices beneath them. Efforts to remove the debris were redoubled and ambulances were sent for in the hope that victims still alive might be rescued.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 2.—Forty persons are believed to be dead and as many are injured as the result of an explosion and fire that wrecked a tenement building at 813-23 West Fourteenth Place, in the heart of the west side, early today. Injured persons and residents, forced from their homes scantily clad, suffered miserably in a temperature of 10 degrees below zero, and the cold hindered the work of firemen and rescuers. Burning gas from a main prevented search of the ruins and at daybreak only two bodies had been recovered, those of an unidentified man about fifty years old who was crushed when the walls crumbled, and Mrs. Charlotte Stitaley.

Heard for Miles.

The explosion was heard for miles. By some freak of the shock, buildings a few yards away were undamaged, while windows were broken many blocks further distant. Hundreds of Hebrew, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian tenants of the district rushed into the street scantily clad.

Some Children Saved.

The explosion wrecked one end of the tenement building which contained 24 flats, sixteen of which were occupied. The flames burst throughout the lower story immediately. When firemen arrived they were able to rescue a few children who were dropped by their parents from the upper windows. Some adults also were saved in this way. A group of railway switchmen who happened on the scene in advance of the firemen were reported to have rescued fifteen children. Early today Fire Chief O'Connor said the ruins were so hot that it would be many hours before search of the wreckage could be made and the loss of life ascertained.

Gas Main Burst.

The explosion is believed to have followed the bursting of a gas main in the basement of the tenement house. Morris Feldman, janitor of the building, said that 67 persons were, or should have been, in the building last night. Of these, he said, forty were missing and probably dead.

Two tenants of the building who escaped, but would not give their names, said that the odor of gas was observed yesterday afternoon and was reported to the gas company.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 29; lowest, 6.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 10; lowest, zero.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND VERY COLD

Toronto, Feb. 2—8 a.m.

Forecasts.

Fresh northwest winds; fair and very cold today and on Saturday.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	34	24	Rain
Calgary	— 2	—30	Clear
Winnipeg	—18	—34	Clear
Port Arthur	— 2	—20	Clear
Parry Sound	0	—28	Clear
Toronto	16	— 8	Clear
Ottawa	4	—20	Clear
Montreal	8	—14	Clear
Quebec	4	—16	Clear
Father Point	0	— 6	Cloudy

Minus (—) means below zero.

Weather Notes.

Local snowfalls have occurred in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, but the weather is now fair and very cold in nearly all parts of the Dominion.

Woodrow Golfs As World Waits

Washington, Feb. 2.—President Wilson had no conference on the submarine question during the morning, but played golf for two hours.

Dr. Beland Kept From Dying Wife By His Captors

Further Inhumane Treatment of Ex-Canadian Minister.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Quebec, Feb. 2.—A letter received here today announces that the wife of Dr. H. S. Beland of Beauce County, a Belgian noblewoman, died recently in Belgium and that her husband, Dr. Beland, a prisoner of the Germans in Berlin, was refused the supreme consolation of attending his wife at her deathbed.

Dr. Beland was with his wife in Belgium when war broke out, but refused to leave for England, staying behind to attend wounded Belgians and Germans in Antwerp before the fall of that city. Some time ago he was imprisoned by the Germans in a Berlin detention camp and, although successive appeals were made to high German authorities, he was always refused a permit to see his sick wife, who died some days ago without seeing her husband.

Le Soleil here today says that it is an outrage for Germany for having thus treated Dr. Beland, who, after all, committed no other crime than staying behind to attend the wounded and sick, Germans as well as Belgians, and that it is strange that the Canadian Government releases from our internment camps Germans such as Mundheim, while innocent Canadian heroes are so inhumanely treated by Germany.

FAIL TO TERRIFY THE ENTENTE WITH THEIR SUBMARINES

French Admiral Shows How Hun Piracy Has Failed.

CANNOT STARVE FRANCE

51 Million Tons Reached Ports of Republic in Eleven Months.

Liverpool, Feb. 2.—On being asked as to the general attitude of Liverpool shipowners in the face of the German threat to shipping, the manager of one of the largest shipping firms said:

"I do not think there will be any change. Personally, I should not hesitate to send a dozen ships to sea tomorrow at my own risk. For two years the Germans have done their worst. There is no cause for alarm. The Germans have made threats before which they have not been able to make good."

Other shipowners expressed the opinion that the new British mine fields would curb the operations of submarines, while patrols would do the rest. The underwriting business is going on as though nothing had happened.

RUSH FOR HOME.

London, Feb. 2.—The German note has resulted in a rush of Americans to procure passage to New York on the first available boat. Large numbers who expected to sail within a fortnight have decided to leave Saturday and before noon all the first-class accommodations on the steamer ——— were booked.

Among those applying for passage are 120 persons who intended to sail on the Holland-American liner Nieuw Amsterdam, which was to have left Falmouth on Tuesday. This vessel, however, has been recalled to Rotterdam, whence she sailed two days ago.

Paris, Feb. 2.—Rear-Admiral Lacase, minister of marine, speaking in the Senate yesterday declared that only one-half of one per cent of all the tonnage which entered French ports during the last 11 months have been sunk by German submarines. He said that this

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SOLDIER SUICIDES IN STRATFORD ARMORIES

Pte. Howden Found Suspended by Rope in Engine Room.

Stratford, Feb. 2.—Pte. James Howden, night orderly at the School of Instruction at the local armories, committed suicide during the night by hanging. His body was found suspended by a rope in the engine room this morning. He was a Scotchman, 45 years old, and worked here. Ill health is believed to have been the cause of the rash act. Howden had no relatives here. The military board will investigate.

"ALL'S WELL," IS REPORT FROM PHILADELPHIA

New York, Feb. 2.—A wireless message received here today from the American Line steamer Philadelphia said that at noon yesterday the vessel was 913 miles west of Fastnet, Ireland, and expected to arrive at Liverpool Monday morning. The message reported: "All well."

The Philadelphia's captain sent a wireless yesterday saying the crankshaft of the port engine broke on Wednesday. No alarm was expressed as to the ship's safety.

RESTING AFTER STRAFFING FRITZ

Advertiser Illustrations.

This picture was taken in France two days after the boys had left the front line trenches. Reading from left to right they are: Standing—Billy Curnoe, Fred Foxworthy, or this city; George Cummings, of Dresden. Sitting—Jack Jennings of Toronto, and A. Labelle, Montreal. The photo was sent home by Pte. Foxworthy, who left with the 70th Battalion, and is now in the Mounted Rifles. He sends his brother some badges which have been with him "through some devilish fighting." His parents live at 561 William street.

THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS FIGHTING LIBERTY'S BATTLE BENEATH THE UNION JACK

With the British Armies in France, Feb. 1—Via London, Feb. 2.—From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press: Nearly fifty thousand Americans are estimated as fighting for the Allies, and inquiry shows that nearly four-fifths of these are in the khaki-clad British army commanded by Field Marshal Haig. It is computed that the actual fighting force of Americans now in France under the Union Jack is probably larger than the United States army, which was actually engaged in hostilities in the brief campaign of the Spanish-American war.

Hundreds Give Lives.

Hundreds of Americans have given their lives for the cause of the Allies, and hundreds of others bear permanent scars of the shock of battle, but each new battalion and each new group of reinforcements arriving from overseas brings numbers of their fellow countrymen to take their places.

The Canadian regiments naturally attracted the greatest number of Americans, many of the recruits living in the Dominions when the war broke out. But Americans are also scattered through the distinctly English battalions and some are found among the Australians, South Africans and in the different staff departments. Many former members of the United States army and of the crack national guard regiments answer to the British roll-calls, but all have had to learn the new art of modern war, and will be graduated as among the best-trained soldiers in the world. The bulk of the Americans, being absorbed in the various Canadian battalions, have been through some of the hardest fighting of this front.

Brave and Willing.

Through all the vast and wonderful war machines built up by Great Britain from the North Sea to the front-line trenches young Americans can be met "doing their bit" and fighting with willing heart and steady bravery. The correspondent of the Associated Press met one young fellow in the uniform of the Canadian artillery. "What part of Canada are you from?" he asked. "Los Angeles," came the grinning reply. Corresponding answers could be had from thousands who hailed from every section of the United States. Recently a number of American army and naval officers were entertained by the British authorities who gave them every facility to study the situation and the war organizations. All freely expressed themselves as deeply impressed.

One of today's army reports diverges for the moment from dry routine and the coldly official relation of battle incident during the last 24 hours, in order to give the following particulars respecting one of a number of German prisoners taken yesterday.

"He is a man of poor physique and morale, who had been rejected several times. He wept steadily for an hour and a half after his capture, and was still weeping bitterly at the end of this time."

INSOLENT DEMAND, TIMES CALLS NOTE OF FOE TO WILSON

Necessity Knows No Laws Is Guiding Principle of Germans.

London, Feb. 2.—The Times says that there is nothing surprising in the German note to those who are nearest the war. It contends that the communication is merely "the logical application of principles upon which Germany has acted from the outset, namely, necessity knows no law. The Times sees in the speech of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg a proof that his real attitude on the submarine question has been consistent throughout, although, in his dealings with the United States, "he has sometimes sacrificed principles to expediency."

"He now proclaims," says the Times, "that he was always ready to adopt ruthless U-boat war as soon as it seemed likely to bring Germany a victorious peace. So he flings aside the pretence of humanity unctuously affected in his former notes to President Wilson."

Referring to the note to the United States, the Times says: It is for the American Government and people and for them alone to take the grave decision that these insolent demands require. We are not surprised that while opinion is unanimous in reprobation of Germany's program it should be divided as to the course to be adopted. Counsel or suggestion from the Allies would be an impertinence to Americans. They have now before them in words which cannot be mistaken the full avowal of the prime doctrine of militarism, and the acts which it sanctions. They have lately received an authentic statement of the war aims of the Allies and the principles underlying their aims. They can judge which of the two creeds, now fighting for survival, comes nearer their own high ideas of justice and right."

RESTRICTS TRAFFIC.

London, Feb. 2.—Reuter's Stockholm correspondent reports that, owing to local shortage, the minister of the interior has approved immediate restrictions of all passenger traffic on the state railways. An early restriction of freight traffic is foreshadowed.

GERMANY EXPECTS TO TAME BRITISH IN THREE MONTHS

Imagine Their Submarines Will Bring War To a Quick End.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—The attitude of the German people in respect to the new submarine policy, so far as ascertained today from conversations with persons in various walks of life, in and out of politics, is that the inauguration of an unrestricted submarine campaign is dictated by stern necessity, and for self-preservation and that in such a life and death struggle no regard can longer be paid to other considerations. The all-absorbing question in Allied discussion concerns the attitude of America. Little criticism of the government is heard. Even a Socialist speaker in the Reichstag committee meeting today is reported to have aligned the party behind the government on this decision.

Vain Hopes.

Whatever was said in committee was confidential, but in outside circles one hears estimates of the number of submarines running to several hundred, and the conviction is expressed that the amount of tonnage sunk monthly can be increased to approximately 1,000,000 tons, in addition to a large amount of neutral tonnage which will be deterred from entering the prohibited areas by the submarine terror.

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GREECE ASKS ALLIES TO RAISE BLOCKADE

London, Feb. 2.—A request has been made for the raising of the Greek blockade on the ground that the demands of the Entente Allies, including in great measure the transfer of troops to the south, have been complied with. No reply has been sent, but some arrangement may be made to relieve the immediate necessities of the poorer classes without actually raising the blockade.

LITTLE NEUTRALS LOOKING TO U.S. IN SUB CRISIS

Await the Word That Means Life or Death.

DUTCH IN A BAD FIX

Hollanders Fear They Are Doomed To Be Crushed by Huns.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

London, Feb. 2.—In the presence of what may be the supreme crisis in the war, word is awaited today from America by the neutrals of Europe with more poignant interest than by the belligerents.

The smaller neutrals, notably Holland, look to Washington to determine the issue which may mean their own life or death.

Messages today from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague indicate fear that the Netherlands is doomed to be crushed between German land and undersea forces. An actual blockade, correspondents declare, means starvation.

Present supplies of foodstuffs in Holland may last a month or two months, according to varying estimates. The concentration of troops on the German-Dutch frontier is the cause of constant speculation.

The London Times correspondent in Holland declared today, "While the Dutch, predominately cautious, feel a disposition to stand or fail by their rights, their eyes are turned anxiously toward the United States, the greatest neutral, to see whether she will abandon her little sisters to their fate."

AMERICAN VESSELS WILL AWAIT WORD FROM WASHINGTON

To Abide by Instructions in Regard to Blockade Rules.

ST. LOUIS OFF SATURDAY

Many American Citizens Are Desirous of Booking Passage to Europe.

New York, Feb. 2.—Owners of American vessels in transatlantic trade probably will follow the example of the shipowners of the Entente nations and abide by the instructions of their Government in regard to running the risks of the new German blockade regulations. They awaited today the reply of the state department to a message sent by P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine, seeking advice as to future movements of steamships of the American Line.

Unless orders to the contrary are received from Washington, the American liner St. Paul will sail from here on Saturday for Liverpool, her regular port of destination. No efforts have been made, Mr. Franklin said, to send wireless instructions to the vessels of the line now at sea.

Watched by Destroyers.

No passenger steamers have left New York for Europe since the declaration of the German blockade, but several freight ships sailed yesterday and last night. The shipping embargo on this port, which at first was intended to continue every night until the situation cleared, was modified last night, and several vessels were allowed to pass out. First, however, they were subjected to careful examination by the United States destroyers stationed at the Narrows to guard the neutrality of the port.

A number of American citizens are here today anxious to sail for Europe despite the dangers of submarine warfare. Most of them are buyers anxious to get to Europe to prepare for the summer trade. A few women who wish to serve in European war hospitals also have booked passage on the St. Louis.

Agents of Dutch and Danish steamers have discontinued sailings while awaiting orders from their governments. Cable advices received here say that the Dutch Government has provisionally forbidden the sailings of all vessels from Holland, and that Denmark has suggested that shipowners do not permit their ships to leave port without first consulting the Government.

The excitement caused here by the action of federal officials and police in increasing the force that is watching the ships of Germany and Austria laid up in the harbor subsided today. The authorities announced that they could find no evidence of preparations to disable these vessels or to make a dash for the high seas. Army officers commanding the forts that guard New York harbor have detailed extra guards to the most important batteries, and stationed additional sentinels to patrol the water front and the country inland for some distance from the fortifications. Major-Gen. Wood, commanding the department of the east, said, however, that no instructions to this effect had been issued from his headquarters.

CHAIRMEN ELECTED TO HOUSE COMMITTEES

Ottawa, Feb. 2.—Committee of the House organized and elected chairmen as follows:

Privileges and election, W. B. Northrup, Hastings; Railways, Richard Blain Peel; private bills, Sam Sharpe, North Ontario; standing orders, Dr. Paquet, L'Islet; public accounts, W. S. Middlebro, Grey; banking and commerce, Sir Herbert Ames, Montreal; agriculture, J. A. Sexsmith, East Peterboro; marine and fisheries, Clarence Jamieson, Digby; mines and minerals, F. H. Shepperd, Nanaimo; forests and waterways, Gerald Brabazon, Pontiac; debates, J. D. Taylor, New Westminster.

KENORA CHURCH BURNED.

Kenora, Ont., Feb. 2.—St. Albans Cathedral, Anglican, here, was destroyed by fire this morning, causing loss estimated at $15,000. Fire is supposed to have originated in the furnace room.

NO NOTE TO GERMANY YET, BUT WAR MOVES TAKEN BY THE STATES

Believed That Gerard Has Been Instructed To Get All Americans Out of Germany, Action Over Submarine Murder Policy Being Held Up For That Purpose---Navy and Army Preparing For War---Official Washington and German Embassy Expect Early Announcement of a Break With Germany.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2.—Secretary of State Lansing authorized the statement today that so far no communication had been sent to Germany.

The secretary refused to say whether any instructions had been sent to Ambassador Gerard, and declined to make any statement.

Secretary Lansing said he was unprepared to disclose whether any announcement would be made today or not.

MAY KNOW SATURDAY.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The new submarine crisis seems to have resolved itself into another day of waiting.

Tonight or tomorrow the American people may know what course the Government has decided upon to answer Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare.

President Wilson and the limited few who know his plans continued their silence today, but it was expected that this afternoon the cabinet would be informed of what steps have been taken or are proposed.

On every hand officials are convinced that nothing less than a break in diplomatic relations is the ultimate development. It may be delayed, but they all expect it to come unless there is some wholly unexpected development in the situation.

INSTRUCTIONS SENT GERARD.

As another day of tension began opinion was about even as to whether any communication actually had been dispatched to Berlin. There was no doubt that Secretary Lansing had yesterday prepared a document for President Wilson, but whether it had gone further was not known. There seemed to be no doubt, however, that some communication had gone to Ambassador Gerard, probably warning him of the steps the United States felt compelled to take, and giving him an opportunity, however limited, to make some arrangements to alleviate the possible hardships of Americans in Germany. The Government's best information is that there are about 3,000 there. Doubtless some efforts would be made to get them over the line into Holland, or into some of the other adjacent neutral countries.

BERNSTORFF EXPECTS BREAK.

The German embassy continued its official silence, calmly prepared for the break Count von Bernstorff has said privately he expects, but serenely confident that the German Government's action, irrespective of the protests of neutrals, will be the winning factor of the war.

ENTENTE READY.

The Entente embassies, fully expecting the United States to break with Germany, seem to be confident that the new campaign of ruthlessness will be of little greater effectiveness than the campaign which the Entente Governments contend the German submarines have been waging all along, despite the pledges given in the Sussex note. A few more ships may be sunk they think, but they expect the British navy to meet the new attack successfully.

WAR MEASURES TAKEN.

Whatever measures are being taken in the United States by the administration to prepare the country physically for a break with a first-class power, which in history always has been followed sooner or later by war, are being carried out secretly but with expedition. It is officially denied that any orders whatever have been given to army, navy or coastguard, but there are evidences that the agencies of the Government are ready to take any steps necessary to follow a diplomatic break.

It was generally expected that some announcement would be made from the state department or the White House during the day or certainly tonight. The state department has made no reply to the telegram from the International Mercantile Marine, asking instructions for movements of American ships. No announcement similar to Germany's has been received from Austria.

OFFICIALS SILENT.

From the official refusal to affirm or deny that any message had gone forward to Ambassador Gerard, an impression grew that some such message had been sent, but it was thought at most a message to outline a first preliminary statement of the American viewpoint without definitely committing the country till a final decision has been reached.

It was pointed out to officials that the country was waiting for some statement, or at least an official interpretation of the attitude of the administration. Officials declined, however, to express themselves in this way or to say whether the situation was becoming more or less serious. While yesterday it was said flatly that no announcement would be made for the rest of the day, officials refused today to commit themselves to a similar announcement.

DAILY TOLL OF THE SUBS

London, Feb. 1.—The Norwegian steamer Portia, of 1,127 tons gross, has been sunk Lloyds shipping agency announces. The crew was landed.

The Russian steamer Egret, 2,599 tons net, struck a mine January 28 and is a total loss, the agency reports.

The sinking of the following steamships also was announced by Lloyds:

Essonite (British), 589 tons gross.
Algorta (Spanish), 2,116 tons gross.
Violet, British trawler.
Marcelle, Belgian trawler, sunk by gunfire; crew landed.

TWO MORE GONE.

London, Feb. 2.—The steamer Ravensbourne has been sunk, Lloyds announces. Three members of the crew of this ship were lost, the announcement states.

The Norwegian steamer Hecla of 524 tons, is reported sunk, says another Lloyds announcement.

The steamer Ravensbourne is not listed in available records.

INSURANCE SUSPENDED.

London, Feb. 2.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Times says that underwriting has been temporarily suspended by the Danish war insurance office. The United Shipping Company has ordered ships in English ports to leave before Sunday if possible. The Scandinavian-American liner Hellig-Olav, now in New York, has been ordered to remain there.

HITS THE SWISS.

Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 2.—Via Paris—The note in which the German government informed Switzerland of the inauguration of an unrestricted submarine campaign named Cette as the only port in France through which Swiss traffic is authorized. The Bund says that this will involve a different arrangement for the conveyance of supplies to Switzerland and will also render necessary a ration system for the Swiss and the issuance of cards for the principal articles of food.

ATTACKS OF ENEMY FAILED TO CAPTURE FRENCH TRENCHES

Paris, Feb. 2.—2:10 p.m.—French trenches south of Leintrey, in Lorraine, were attacked last evening by the Germans. The attacks failed, the war office announced today.

There were artillery actions last night at Louvemont, north of Verdun, and at Metzeral, in the Vosges.

A German aviator dropped five bombs on Dunkirk. The war office statement reports the damage small and there were no victims.

POSITION OF GERMANS ENTERED BY BRITISH

Berlin's War Report Tells of Lively Patrol Engagements.

Berlin, Feb. 2—Via Sayville.—Artillery and reconnoitering activity of a lively sort is reported in today's army headquarters' statement in many sectors of the Franco-Belgian front. The artillery duel was particularly sharp between the Ancre and the Somme, while in the Gueudecourt sector on the Somme front an operation by a British force resulted in the German lines being entered. The text of the statement reads:

"Western Front, Army Group of Crown Prince Rupprecht: Between Armentieres and Arras numerous advances by strong British reconnoitering detachments failed. On both sides of the Ancre and on the Somme there was a lively artillery duel.

"In the morning and evening hours there was lively reconnoitering by our troops, who brought one officer and twelve men from hostile trenches southwest of Miraumont and northeast of Le Sars.

"On the road from Gueudecourt to Beautencourt, after a strong fire, the British entered our positions on the front of one company. By counter-attacks the position was cleared. A number of prisoners remained in our hands.

"Army Group of the German Crown Prince: On Combres Height and in Ailly Forest raiding detachments returned with twenty prisoners from destroyed French lines. In the Vosges our reconnoitering troops took six French prisoners during an enterprise.

"In the northern part of the western front the airmen were very active. Our squadrons secured valuable information from the parts of French fronts. Our adversaries lost seven airplanes in air engagements."

Regarding the Russo-Galician front the report says: "Owing to the severe cold and heavy snowfalls there were no important events."

No changes on the Rumanian or Macedonian fronts are recorded.

CAUGHT BY WHIRLING BELT AND SEVERELY INJURED

William Pethick, Employee at Columbia Handle Company, Now in Hospital.

William Pethick, 344 Burwell street, an employee of the Columbia Handle and Lumber Company, Adelaide street, was caught in a whirling drive belt at the factory today and seriously injured about the head and neck.

He was in the act of placing the heavy belt on the running flywheel when, unexpectedly, the belt caught and threw him violently to the floor, dragging him some feet at the same time. Fortunately, he was thrown clear of the belt or he might have been drawn into the huge flywheel and whirled to death.

Drs. Hugh A. and W. J. Stevenson attended the injured man, who was removed to St. Joseph's Hospital in the police ambulance.

He is in a critical condition from shock, in addition to the cuts and bruises sustained about the neck and head.

SPANISH PREMIER SAYS SITUATION IS SERIOUS

Asks People to Remain Calm During Submarine Crisis.

Madrid, Feb. 1.—Via Paris, Feb. 2.—The minister of the interior has announced that the war and navy departments have given the naval and military authorities instructions required by the gravity of the circumstances. Premier Romanones was in conference with U. S. Ambassador Willard from midnight until 2 a.m. He also received the president of the Mediterranean Martime Federation, who informed him that the federation had ten ships at sea with safe conducts given by German consuls.

Urges Calmness.

Later the premier announced that although Spain had entered a difficult hour the Government would neither close parliament nor suspend the constitutional guarantee. He declares, however, that the administration would refuse to discuss the German note in either house and urged everyone to keep calm. A subsequent conference was held between the premier and the president of the chamber of deputies, after which Count Romanones stated that it was useless to deny that the country faced a very difficult situation.

King Alfonso returns to Madrid tonight from the castle of San Luchar in Granada, the residence of Duke San Pedro de Galatine, where he has been stopping.

TEUTONS CHARGE RUSS LIKE IN OVERALLS

Petrograd Reports New Stunt Tried by Enemy in East.

Petrograd, Feb. 2.—Via London.—German troops dressed in white overalls yesterday broke through the Russian first line trench positions at Solotvina, southwest of Brzezany, says the official statement issued today by the Russian war office. The Russians, however, launched a counter-attack and drove the Teutons back into their own entrenchments.

The text of the statement follows:

"Western Front: West of Solotvina, 13 1-3 miles southwest of Brzezany, after a violent bombardment a detachment of Germans dressed in white overalls, broke through our first line trench, but by a counter-attack, supported by artillery, the enemy was driven back into his own entrenchments.

"Rumanian Front: Scouting, reconnaisances and infantry fighting is proceeding.

"Caucasian Front: There was nothing important."

I. C. R. FIREMAN KILLED.

Quebec, Feb. 2.—Adelard Filion, fireman for the I. C. R., was instantly killed at 7 o'clock this morning in a collision between a light engine and a sub train taking workmen to Levis. The damage was slight and there were no other casualties.