

**The Herald**

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**Important Government Decision.**

The Dominion government has recently been giving close attention to the shortage of farm labor, which shortage, unless remedied, is likely to seriously interfere with the Canadian output of food-stuffs so essential to the Allied nations. The necessity for increased production is accentuated by the natural diminution of field crops in European countries within the war zone. The shortage of farm labor in Canada has become more acute each season since war commenced owing to enlistment for overseas services and the number employed in munition plants.

In order to meet the difficulty the government has decided that the greatest good would be accomplished by permitting any who had entered for homesteads, preemptions or purchased homesteads to have counted as residence duty all the time spent by them as farm laborers within Canada, and an order-in-council has been passed making this temporary change in the homestead regulations.

It is believed that some homesteaders by working as farm laborers for the larger producers having all necessary stock and machinery would augment the agricultural output to a much greater extent than if they spent their time on their own homesteads hampered by lack of stock or machinery, in addition to which it is expected that the new regulations, which are passed under the War Measure Act, may induce members who have been following urban occupations in Canada to settle on the land, and may also induce members of farm laborers to come from the United States, make entry for homesteads and immediately engage themselves to farmers in Canada requiring help. With this object in view, the widest publicity is being given in the United States to the order-in-council just passed, and advertisements for farm help are being inserted in about 7,000 of the best papers in the States. Reduced railway fares from the international boundary to inter-points have been arranged for all those intending to follow farm work.

**Affairs At Washington.**

Elsewhere in this issue of the Herald will be found some account of Germany's latest plot to cripple the British and render powerless the United States. The exposure reveals intriguing with Japan to join Mexico with the view of cutting off Britain's supply of fuel oil and at the same time preventing the United States from successful active military operations.

While this infamous plotting was in progress, the German were hobnobbing with the United States and seeking to enlist her co-operation in enforcing a peace propaganda. All along the Germans have been insulting the United States, and from time to time, murdering her citizens on the high seas; but the American Government seemed most loath to take a determined stand in self-protection or even self-respect.

Finally, long after breaking off diplomatic relations, President Wilson went so far and as to agree to armed neutrality; to arm merchant ships for protection against submarines. The President's determination in this

direction was before Congress in the form of a bill and was encountering considerable opposition when information regarding Germany's latest plot came into the possession of the President and Government of the United States.

Surely this would hasten the pending legislation and dissipate all possible opposition. Washington intelligence informed us this was the case: that all opposition had vanished and all were a unit in completing the protective legislation. Congress had but a few days of existence and unity and expedition were necessary. But most extraordinary to relate, a few filibustering Senators held up the President's bill and talked against time till Congress legally expired on March 4th.

What are we to think of conduct of this kind? These men thought more of being able to strangle protective legislation by factious opposition than contribute anything towards saving the lives of their fellow citizens on the high seas. Ordinarily a new Congress does not meet until late in the spring; but under the circumstances it will likely be necessary to immediately summon the new legislators to an extra session to deal with what might have been completed and enforced before now. At best it will take considerable time to bring together and organize the new Congress, and all this time Americans are exposed to the ruthless piracy of the Huns. But what care the filibustering Senators they had their say.

For the first time in the history of Canada the British admiralty has asked for officers for the Royal Navy. The Naval Service Department Ottawa has been requested to issue a call for officers. There is no limit placed upon the number. As many as Canada can send will be taken, provided they pass the test of course. Some time ago the admiralty asked for seamen and petty officers and got them. Then motor men were invited to join the naval patrol. Now the whole navy from quarter deck to forecabin is opened to Canadians and they are invited to take part in the immense development that is in progress. Hon. J. D. Hazen has been arranging the details in London. The regulations for entry are briefly as follows: Candidates must be of pure European descent and sons of natural born or naturalized British subjects and must be unmarried. They must be in good health and free from physical defects. The examinations for entry are held in June of each year. Particulars of the final examinations to be held in England may be obtained from "Secretary Civil Service Commissioner Burlington Gardens, London, England." The naval service department Ottawa will shortly have complete information as to the preliminary test in Canada.

An Anglo-French conference was held at Calais the other day. Those participating in it were Premier Briand of France, General Lyautey, the French minister of war; General Robert G. Nivelle, commander-in-chief of the French field force; Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain; Gen. Sir Wm. R. Robertson, chief of the imperial staff at British army headquarters, and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France.

A two million dollar company has been incorporated at Ottawa entitled the International Shipbuilding Corporation, Ltd. The headquarters of the company is Montreal, but the rumor is that a shipbuilding plant is to be established on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. The names of those behind the new enterprise have not been made public, but they are understood to be Montreal capitalists.

The Canadian and New Zealand ministers were at the war council in London on the 2nd Canada being represented by Premier Borden and Sir George Perley, and New Zealand by Premier Massey and ex-Premier Sir Joseph Ward. It is learned that the latest development in the Australian situation is that electoral arrangements will give the coalition an extra vote. If so Premier Hughes may stave off a general election and may be able to get away forthwith, being accompanied by Sir Joseph Forrest while the Right Hon. Joseph Cook will carry on the coalition. General Smuts is expected from South Africa, and Britain is prepared to lionize him as cordially as it did Louis Botha a decade ago.

The British government has reason to believe, said Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, in the House of Commons lately, that there is a serious shortage of food stuffs and of certain very important materials in enemy countries. For some months past no substantial quantities of goods imported overseas into Holland and Scandinavia had, he believed, gone through to Germany, and there had been no material overseas exports from Germany. Recently, as a result of negotiations with the Scandinavian countries and Holland, Lord Robert added, the exports of their produce to Germany have been considerably diminished.

**Progress of the War**

London, March 1.—The official communication from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "During February we captured 2,133 German prisoners, including 36 officers. The following villages were either captured or surrendered to us by the withdrawal of the Germans: Ligny, Thillois, Lebaucourt, Warelencourt, Pys, Miramont, Petit Miramont, Grandcourt, Puisieux-Au-Monts, Sers and Gommecourt. The enemy continues to yield ground on the Ancre. North of Miramont our line advanced today an average distance of 800 yards on a front of one and a half miles. We discharged gas this morning south of Souchez, followed by a raiding party in which we took some prisoners. A British raiding party also entered German trenches northeast of Givenehy, Lens and La Bassée and captured eight prisoners. Under cover of a heavy artillery bombardment, a hostile raiding party succeeded last night in reaching our trenches near Ablaincourt and Rancourt. In both cases the enemy was ejected by our counter attack. A few men are missing. There was considerable mutual activity today in the Ypres sector."

The announcement of the British war office of the withdrawal of the German forces along an eleven mile front on both sides of the River Ancre in France is admitted by the Berlin war office for the first time. The ground was "voluntarily and systematically evacuated, and the defence placed in another prepared line," says Berlin, which adds that the movement "remained concealed from the enemy." Again the British have further pushed forward their line to the north of the Ancre, and again apparently without much opposition from the Germans. The latest point of retreat of the Teutons, as reported by the London war office, is north of Miramont, where over a front of a mile and a half the British advanced an average distance of six hundred yards. That the Germans in their retreat during the past month have offered little or no opposition seems evident from the British communication, which says that during that period only 2,133 Germans were made prisoner. In the Somme region the Germans, after a heavy bombardment, launched raiding attacks against British trenches at Ablaincourt and Rancourt, and at each place succeeded in penetrating British trenches. They later were expelled, according to London. Berlin records the repulse of a strong British attack east of Souchez, while Paris reports a successful surprise attack on a German trench in the region of Tahara.

London, March 2.—On both sides of the Ancre river in France the British forces continue to make progress. North of the stream the important village of Puisieux-Au-Monts and trench systems near them have been captured, while south of the river the forces which previously had taken Ligny pushed eastward and occupied Thillois, about a mile southwest of Bapaume, and trench at Sully-Saillisel. The capture of Gommecourt was followed by the driving of the British line a thousand yards northeast of that place. Whether the Germans offered resistance in any of these sectors is not stated by the British official communication.

London, Feb. 18.—Special Canadian Press cable by Stewart Lyon.—In London there is much speculation in the press as to the meaning of the enemy's retirement at Ancre. The general view is that it means the beginning of a realignment, which will involve the evacuation of the entire salient, now dangerous and costly held by the Germans in the region west of the Bapaume Arras. British guns now command the only railway by which the southern part of the salient can be provided with food and shells. The road system is also menaced by General Gough's possession of Serre. The evening Standard presents its military correspondent's opinion "that the Germans voluntarily gave up a strip of ground two miles wide in order to forestall the upset intended by a British attack on a large scale. It is as if the anvil had been suddenly removed when the powerful hammer stroke was about to be struck. Delay is necessitated on our part by the digging of new trenches in front of the German line, and the displacing of heavy, as well as light artillery. This may be the aim of the enemy." The French view is also quoted to the effect that the Germans retired in order to prevent overwhelming disaster. In any event the next big struggle on this part of the front must be for the command of Bapaume ridge and series of heights north of Ancre, covering Bapaume on the southwest.

On the remainder of the front in France and Belgium minor attacks and artillery duels continue. Near Clerf, Arras and Lens successful raids were carried out by the British, and a German raid north of Armentieres was repulsed. Comparative quiet prevails in Russia and Galicia, along the northwestern frontier of Roumania, in the Jacobeni-Kimpolung sector, the Teutons have captured several hill positions from the Russians, and taken more than 1,300 men prisoner. Petrograd, in admitting the loss of the positions, says that a counter-attack gave the Russians possession of one of the positions. In the Tigris region the British, in quest of Bagdad, are following up the Turks recently driven out of Kut-El-Amara. No notable changes in positions have taken place in either the Austro-Italian or Macedonian theatres, where small engagements and artillery duels continue to prevail. For the first time since the commencement of Germany's intensified submarine campaign the past 24 hours have brought no reports from London of vessels having been sent to the bottom by underwater boats or mines.

Petrograd, March 1, via London.—In an attack on the northern Rumanian front yesterday Russian troops regained positions recently captured by the Teutonic forces, the war office announced today. The statement follows: "On the western front scouting, reconnaissances and rifle fire are proceeding. On the Rumanian front last night our troops made counter-attacks against the heights occupied on both sides of Jacobeni-Kimpolung highroad. Our attacks north of the highroad were not successful, but south of the highroad the enemy was dislodged and our position was restored. Rumanian troops yesterday attacked the enemy's positions north of the River Seavel; one and one-third miles south of the village of Rokosa. They dislodged the enemy, occupying the height and capturing a machine gun and some prisoners. On the Caucasian front scouting reconnaissances are proceeding."

They passed through four aeroplanes attacks on Karlsruhe, during which bombs intended for the railroad station, rained on all sides of their camp. To cap the climax, they were ignorant until the last whether they were prisoners of war or neutrals in detention; whether their government was doing anything to obtain their release, or whether the United States had not already entered the war.

London, March 2.—Further progress was made today by British troops north of Warelencourt and Eaucourt, and northwest of Puisieux-Au-Monts, says the official statement from the war office tonight. Local German attacks in the Ancre region were repulsed and as the result of the fighting the British captured 128 prisoners, three machine guns and four trench mortars. The statement reads: "Our troops made further progress today north of Warelencourt and east of Eaucourt and northwest of Puisieux-Au-Monts. Local German attacks made against our advanced positions northeast of Guendecourt and northwest of Ligny-Thillois early this morning were repulsed with losses. As the result of the fighting on the Ancre today we captured one officer, 127 men of other ranks, three machine guns and four trench mortars. This morning our troops raided German trenches near Angres and Calonne and northwest of Loos, capturing 20 prisoners. An enemy raiding party made an unsuccessful attempt last night to enter our trenches southeast of Roelincourt. Hostile artillery showed considerable activity today in the neighborhood of Sully-Saillisel, Armentieres and Ypres."

Turkish forces in their retreat from Kut-El-Amara on Tuesday had reached Aziziyah, about 40 miles southeast of Bagdad and 52 miles northwest of Kut. The British pursuit continues, London announces, and since February 23 the troops under General Maude have taken 4,300 prisoners and much booty, including guns and machine guns.

**Raider's Victims.**

Copenhagen, March 2, via London.—Few more dramatic tales have been brought forth by the war than the story of adventure, hardship and peril at sea, short rations on land and the real danger from the sky which was related by four professional men. Snapped up by the German raider in mid-ocean, they cruised around for days while the commerce-destroyer continued operations. Then they made the voyage in the Yarrowdale to Swinemunde under such conditions which they expected the ship's seams to open and the vessel to sink beneath them at any moment. They lived for more than two months in prison camps in Germany, on the meagre prison fare provided by the German government, without food parcels, which lighten the conditions of existence of other prisoners of war.

Dr. Snyder, until recently a member of the health department of New York city, was captured aboard the British ship Voltair, the first ship to be captured by the raider, while he was returning to America from France. Mr. Zabriskie was the veterinarian on the steamship Mount Temple, a Canadian horse transport which lost three men from shell fire, Dr. Davis and Mr. McKim were on the White Star liner Georgie.

They were taken on board the raider and confined in the hold during the chase of each successive prize, wondering anxiously whether the intended victim would show fight and perhaps send the raider to the bottom. Each of the three ships from which the Americans was taken was shelled. There was no loss of life except in the case of the Mount Temple, on which three Canadians were killed. The Mount Temple, in addition to Mr. Zabriskie, had on board two American horse foramen, McCreel and Glennon, of Boston. Mr. Zabriskie says that there were at least two Americans among the crew of the Mount Temple who signed as Canadians to save trouble.



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