

Weather Forecast:  
Decidedly Cold

53rd YEAR. No. 22697

# The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.  
THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17, 1917. 160 COLUMNS.

HOME  
EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

## FIREST CITY BOY TELLS OF LIFE TODAY IN KAISER'S LAND

### LONDONER BACK FROM PRISON CAMPS IN GERMANY RELATES HORRORS OF CAPTIVITY AND SAYS TEUTONS ARE STARVING

Pte. Ivan S. Rossiter Tells Story of Being Confined With Diseased Men, of Being Fed on Poorest Food, of Being Flea-Ridden and of Unbelievable Conditions—Battle of Somme Brought Better Treatment for British Prisoners—Captured After Being Wounded and Returned as Unfit for Further Military Service.

The first Londoner to survive the horrors of German prison camps and to be exchanged, incapacitated for further military service, is Pte. Ivan S. Rossiter, who arrived on Friday bearing accounts of German treatment toward Canadian and English prisoners of war which surpass in dreadfulness the worst reports which have been circulated in Canada. He is now with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tanner, 428 St. George street, and today gave The Advertiser an interview on his experiences.

He received no personal ill-treatment, as German military authorities take the greatest pains to prevent men who have been maltreated reaching their own countries with the story.

His tale is rather one of neglect and of brutal disregard of men who in many cases were almost mortally wounded.

**THE FOOD FOR WOUNDED MEN.**  
For four months he lived in dirty barracks on rations consisting of water drawn from peat bogs, black bread and tinned meat, which was in such a condition as to be inedible.

"It's like heaven to be home again. Before I entered Germany I discounted stories of conditions there 50 per cent. After four months of life there I would add 50 per cent. Conditions in the prison camps are unbelievable," he said.

Among other horrors was the plague of fleas, which the Germans took no steps to prevent or deal with. These insects ate into the skin of the men, causing abscesses, to which no medical attention was given.

In barracks the prisoners slept on the floor with only straw for a mattress. A blanket was given to each one and a sack filled with paper for a pillow. Their utensils consisted of a bowl and spoon, their rations of dirty water and black bread. Soup was given but was so full of fleas that it was not palatable.

**Better Since Somme Fight.**  
After the Somme fight, however, steady improvement took place since the battle of the Somme. He told The Advertiser that the Germans began to learn that with the British they were not to be put into force, and their treatment of all prisoners has become less harsh. Now that diplomatic relations between Germany and America are broken off, he feels that the Germans will go back to the old state. The presence of the American ambassador in London is a sign of some improvement.

Pte. Rossiter enlisted with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles at Medicine Hat in December, 1914.

Passing unscathed through a number of minor engagements he formed part of the Canadian force which constituted the front line at the battle of Zillebeke and the first of the Canadian offensive on the Ypres front.

**One Vast, Unceasing War.**  
Early in the morning the Germans opened a bombardment of unprecedented fury from guns of the heaviest calibre in their possession. So furious was the firing that it was impossible to distinguish the reports of the guns; they mingled into one vast, unceasing roar.

Pte. Rossiter was in a trench with two comrades. A shell fell close to them and he was followed by a heavier one which flattened out the entire trench. Rossiter and his comrades were killed.

He was captured and taken to a communication trench, finding this a most comfortable place. He was taken to a hospital and then to a prison camp.

**FARRELL FAKED.**  
Montreal, Feb. 17.—It took a Philadelphia detective just seven minutes today to decide that Fred J. Farrell, who claimed he was in the room with B. W. Lewis, slain Marie Collette, the art model, was not telling the truth. Farrell, who is a soldier, will be turned over to the military authorities now.

**ARMIES ON WESTERN FRONT FEELING OUT ONE ANOTHER AS TITANIC CLASH NEARS**

Roar of the British Batteries Now Unceasing Along Western Front—Germany Gathering Young Men for Last Stand.

British Headquarters in France, Feb. 16, London, Feb. 17.—(From staff correspondent of the Associated Press.)—The cold which has held the western front frost-bound for nearly a month is gradually moderating, and it is easy to sense all along the battle line an unmistakable quickening which foreshadows the coming of grips of the greatest armies yet assembled in the world war. Already these armies are reaching out toward each other, testing various parts of the lines and attempting to discover the most likely point of contact for the beginning of the titanic struggle that is expected to make this the decisive year of the conflict.

In anticipation of eventualities, the Germans have removed the civilian population from the cities and towns in proximity to their line, but no such precaution has been felt necessary behind the Allied front.

**British Guns Never Still.**  
Never silent, the British guns are beginning to roar more and more steadily. Tonight they are booming

FIRST LONDONER TO RETURN FROM DREADFUL HUN PRISON CAMPS



Pte. Ivan S. Rossiter, C. M. R., native-born citizen, who describes dreadful treatment of Canadians captured.

### BIG BUSINESS AND LACK OF SHIPPING HAMPER RAILROADS

G. T. R. Vice-President Says the Situation Improving.

Montreal, Feb. 17.—Vice-President Howard G. Kelley, in charge of operation, Grand Trunk Railway, has issued the following statement with reference to freight congestion.

"The general railroad situation is abnormal by reason of the exceptionally heavy business and the balance of load movement being to the east. Conditions have been aggravated by shortage of ocean tonnage and irregularity of arrival of ships upon rearranged schedules, thereby disarranging all provision for loading ships and increasing switching and terminal delays.

**The Coal Shortage.**  
Combined with this is the actual shortage of coal supply and continuation for a period of several weeks of heavy storms and temperatures below zero. These conditions are most difficult to overcome, but every possible effort is being made to adjust them and relieve congestion. The Grand Trunk is now accepting freight freely at almost every point on the system.

"With a continuance of fair weather conditions this steady improvement will be maintained. Serious freight congestion has not been confined to Canada, but has been general all over the continent and in the eastern section of the United States remains especially severe."

**CUBAN REBELS ARE IN FLIGHT BEFORE FEDERAL FORCES**

Government Troops Hold the Railroads and Cars.

Havana, Feb. 17.—It is officially announced that Col. Fajol's forces have occupied Escalero de Avila, the rebel headquarters in Camaguey Province. The town was entered on Thursday afternoon, the rebels fleeing at the approach of the troops.

Some now hold the Cuba and Jucaro and Moron railroads and have captured sufficient rolling stock for the transportation of the rebels.

The rebels are reported to have reported to have broken up into small groups, some heading for Camaguey and others for Las Villas, and their escape is believed to be practically out of the question.

**CONULS STILL HELD.**  
London, Feb. 17.—The United States consulate who are still in Germany may be unable to leave the empire for some weeks, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Times, quoting an American who has arrived there from Germany. This informant said that at the time he left Berlin the Government had not arranged for the special train which had been arranged for the consuls, and that it was thought some weeks would elapse before the arrangements could be made.

**CAME FROM GERMANY**  
London, Feb. 17.—"There is a rumor," telegraphs Reuters' Berna correspondent, "that the German Government is considering the possibility of sending a large number of German prisoners of war to the American Government, suggesting fresh negotiations for the return of German prisoners of war."

**Palmer Says Entente Will Win This Summer**  
Boston, Feb. 17.—Capt. Charles A. Palmer of the North German Lloyd steamship Koenigsberg, who testified today at a federal court hearing on a petition for the sale of the vessel that it was an enemy ship, said today in an official capacity with the German embassy, to the United States Government, in the event of hostilities with the United States, that he would serve as a medium of communication between the belligerents.

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### U. S. MODIFIES ITS DEMAND ON GOVT. OF KAISER

Now Asks for Explanation as to Sailors.

Will Ships Be Armed?

Wilson May Go Before Congress to Ask for Protection Measures.

BY E. J. ARCHIBALD.  
[Special to The Advertiser.]  
Washington, Feb. 16.—Up to a late hour tonight, no word of an official confirmation had been given out by the state department for the story so prominently featured by the morning papers, that the Americans captured by Germany on the British steamer Yarrowdale had been set free. The men may, of course, have been released as the result of a very respectable callous, but the fact has been omitted. The White House is concealing its hand with great care, but the most reliable information obtainable tonight goes to show that the press reports have had at least some effect.

**Asked to Explain.**  
Whereas last night we were told that a very sharp demand was being sent to Germany for the release, tonight it appears that this has been modified and a request has been sent, or will be sent, to Germany for an explanation as to why a number of American consuls and private citizens are being prevented from leaving Germany. It has been interesting to note the change in the public view since President Wilson delivered his famous address to Congress two weeks ago tomorrow. The prophets then insisted that this country would wait for some definite event, perpetrated by Germany before declaring war. In these days it seems a long time ago—everybody was convinced that the president's next appearance at the capital would be the immediate precursor of open warfare. Then it began to be whispered abroad that the president would not ask for war, but for power to take American merchantmen and that war would follow on the heels of an attack upon the ships.

**What Will Happen?**  
Some days passed since American shipping was taken to a port of refuge. Incidents developed. Then those who foresaw what would happen declared that the Yarrowdale was a consequence of these incidents. It was a very respectable callous, but would seek power to arm his ships as a consequence of these incidents. It was a very respectable callous, but would seek power to arm his ships as a consequence of these incidents.

**Guns For All.**  
It is stated that the Government is preparing, has indeed, made all preparations, to man United States vessels with guns of a very respectable calibre, and to see that they are manned by those who know how to use them, and that these ships will be on the Atlantic by the middle of next week. Then, of course, will come the attack, and as most people believe that the next week.

**There is a pretty little problem which has been going on since the Yarrowdale was captured. It is a problem of a situation which might develop into a serious one. It is a problem of a situation which might develop into a serious one. It is a problem of a situation which might develop into a serious one.**

**WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN FRONT SEAT OF LIBERAL POLICIES**

"Votes for Women" Is Now Chief Battlecry.

Special to The Advertiser.  
London, Feb. 17.—Woman suffrage has definitely climbed up into the front seat of Liberal policies and "Votes for Women" is now the chief battle cry of the radical forces.

Even while the Liberals were struggling for prohibition they were also strong advocates of woman suffrage. But naturally enough prohibition was not the chief issue. Now the chief issue is woman suffrage. They are co-operating with the Labour member Mr. Studholme, and they are asking the Government to do as they did in regard to prohibition—that all parties in the Legislature should unite to pass unanimously a measure for giving women votes. The Liberals point out that the Government have already agreed to do this in the past.

**Many Americans Held by Germans at Border**  
U. S. Consuls May Not Be Able to Leave Germany for Weeks.

Geneva, via Paris, Feb. 17.—Many Americans who have been living in Germany are reported to be waiting near Singen and Konstanz for permission to cross the frontier into Switzerland. It is reported from Schaffhausen that only a few Swiss citizens are permitted to enter Switzerland from Germany since Ambassador Gerard and his party arrived at Bern. The Swiss and Spaniards are said to be giving every assistance in their power to the Americans still in Germany.

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**Ordered by Embassy to Destroy Engines of Interned Liner**  
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### Patriotic Fund and Red Cross Victory Campaign

Watch the Black Line.

Big Blizzard and Very Cold Spell Headed This Way

Winnipeg Snuck by Storm Which is Moving on Ontario.

Special to The Advertiser.  
Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Winnipeg was hit with a regular old-time blizzard last night, with about six inches of snow. The temperature has dropped from twelve above yesterday to twenty below this morning. Observatory officials say the blizzard will probably strike Ontario Saturday night or Sunday; also considerably lower temperature.

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### SEND THE "CROAKERS" OUT TO THE MARSHES WITH THE FROGS

Then Probably London Will Forge Ahead and Reach 100,000 Like a Little American City.

A Londoner who has devoted much time to public service returned the other day from an American city, which, when he was visitor a few years ago, showed less than half the present population of London. On his last trip he found that the city transformed as though some giant had invoked a magic lamp. The little American city is now 100,000 population and forging ahead by leaps and bounds. It has several hundred factories, and so potent has been the seed that a second crop is growing up around the first.

Last year that city put up 3,000 new residences, and this year one company is erecting a similar number on a 62-acre tract that was sold a short time ago for \$52,000—a price which caused the throwers of wet-blankets to characterize the purchasers as "light-headed fools."

The Londoner in question believes and always has believed that London needs only a touch of the divine fire of real city spirit to bring about the same transformation. He heard the stories of the American city builders and found them not much different from London people, save in one respect—EVERY ONE WAS PULLING TO MAKE THIS CITY A GREAT INDUSTRIAL CENTRE. They won!

**SEND CROAKERS TO THE FROGS.**  
This new city had its croakers. The men who strove to advance the city had their troubles for a time, but after the city had landed a number of new industries the man with a grouse didn't have a look-in. If he wanted to croak he was invited to go out in the far off marshes with the frogs! But usually he was converted, because in spite of all he could do to prevent it, his property started to increase in value. When a croaker gets rich, he becomes the original optimist.

There was really no magic about the little American city's jump into the ranks of the big fellows. There was no gent except the God of the City that comes when citizens exhibit for the city the same pluck, enterprise, horse sense and business decency that they show in their respective lines of trade.

**WHEN OPPORTUNITY IS AT THE DOOR.**  
London can grow to 100,000 in a few years, without sky-rocketing its future, if the real Old Mr. Opportunity is regarded as a benevolent old gentleman rather than a seditious tramp.

Opportunity has knocked on many occasions. We cannot complain that we have been passed by. We cannot complain that business does not grow healthy legs in London. We cannot complain that the city has not a few more offices here, and they know that this is the saddest, most certain-of-success town in Canada. They know the soil of London is charged with the vital ingredient that makes business grow. And they know that there is abundant soil.

**THE RAILWAYS KNOW WHAT LONDON IS.**  
Ask your railways why they keep their district freight staffs so busy in London, and they will tell you "Big Business." Ask the men who have broken in here and they will tell you that London is a winner.

But why should a winner be raced at the country fairs when the big stake events are calling for entries?

London has only to watch its chances. Almost every chance has been lost. That may be "rubbing it in," but we all know it is the sober truth. A dozen of the great industries of the country have been within reach at various times, but the city seemed to need an ear trumpet or an alarm clock.

There are at least two vital industrial situations in the city at the present time—one is that of an automobile company that has been on the ground for several weeks. The other is a local mill toward which other municipalities have been directing their strenuous tones of industrial persuasion.

With the spirit aroused by the patriotic campaign, is not this the time to get at the weeds that grow in the industrial garden? Perhaps a new industrial district is required, adjacent to both railways. It may lie in another direction than that in which land is held by greedy speculators at \$4,000 and \$5,000 an acre. The real estate men of the city can help in the matter if they will, and no doubt many of them have ideas well worth considering in the matter.

Meanwhile remember the little American city that impressed one Londoner. One automobile company in that city is this year expanding to such an extent that its plant covers sixteen acres of land.

### BRAND WHITLOCK WILL REMAIN AT BRUSSELS

Belgian, via London, Feb. 17.—Brand Whitlock, United States minister to Belgium, will continue to remain in Brussels in his diplomatic capacity.

Belgian officials are still on guard under the auspices of the men now in charge of its administration.

### 400,000 MEN REQUIRED FOR THE BRITISH NAVY

London, Feb. 17.—A force of 400,000 men is required for the British navy, according to the naval estimates for the coming financial year, which provide for that number.

### STATES LIVING UP TO PACT WITH FOE, SAYS WASHINGTON

On the Other Hand, Germans Have Violated It.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The full text of the explanatory and supplementary clauses proposed by Germany as a result of the violation of the Prussian-American treaty, were made public today at the state department.

Briefly, the protocol amplifies the treaty so as to place Germans in this country and Americans in Germany, in case of war, on exactly the same footing as to all property rights, freedom from detention, concentration camps, or sequestration of property, that are applicable to other neutrals. Nationals of either country might remain fully undisturbed in the other country as long as they please, and not for the nine months period provided in the treaty.

Merchant ships of either nation might not be seized or driven to sea unless under a safe conduct to their home ports through all possible enemies and their captains and crews may not be made prisoners.

**Living Up to It.**  
Officials here have pointed out that while Germany's violation of several provisions of the treaty may be taken by the United States to have vitiated the convention, the United States will still continue to live up to its spirit. Two proclamations have already quarantined German ships or private German property will not, even in case of war, be seized and used by the United States Government.

Little interest is shown by the state department officials in the German proposals. There is no indication of any immediate action will be taken. Whether the new document constitutes in effect a new treaty subject to ratification by the senate, or whether it is a mere explanatory protocol, is one of the points at issue. If it is shown to have no effect, the German proposals will be considered as null and void.

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### WILSON STILL HOLDS HAND FROM WAR ACT AGAINST HUNS

2 Weeks' Break But No Immediate War Move Near.

CRISIS GROWING HOURLY

Washington Finding the International Situation Increasingly Difficult.

BY ROBERT J. BENDER.  
Special to The Advertiser.  
Washington, Feb. 17.—After two weeks of broken relations with Germany, President Wilson today finds the international situation increasingly difficult.

A break with Austria seems impending in view of persistent reports that all negotiations tending to dissuade Austria from following the U-boat course of Germany have failed.

Officials are convinced the economic situation in the United States, as the result of the virtual blockade of American ports by the German U-boat decoy, makes some action imperative.

In the light of this Government, Germany's armament drive, which is armed without the usual formalities of warning, search, and seizure, is a step in the development of the last two weeks, however, there is no belated step immediately in sight.

**WILL GO BEFORE CONGRESS.**  
Washington, Feb. 17.—What has virtually become a blockade of American Atlantic ports by Germany's ruthless submarine campaign was regarded by officials today as overshadowing the cultural situation.

"That President Wilson soon will go before congress to announce steps to relieve the situation was generally accepted view, but no time has been set for his action, and there was no indication of any action would be taken.

"The effect on the country of the shipping situation was reflected in the result of hundreds of telegrams by government officials today, urging that something be done to relieve the congestion.

**Interference.**  
Officials recognize that the holding of the majority of American ships in port is fast becoming intolerable. Piling up of freight on railroads, in docks, and in other conditions, is a very serious situation, and it is the result of the inability of exporters to clear American ports of freight.

Means of protecting American ships against the submarine danger still are under consideration. Many officials believe the president has power to direct the navy department to furnish these vessels with guns and gun crews, and these vessels, which are being used with Germany might result in expected to cause the president to go before congress before taking such a step."

### DAILY TOLL OF THE SUBS

London, Feb. 17.—Lloyd's announces today the toll of submarines. A 1,016 tons, has been sunk by striking a mine. Two of the crew were killed and five injured. The captain and eighteen men are missing.

**Summary of Losses.**  
Listed Thursday. Tonnage.  
Cilia, British ..... 3,750  
Ferra, British ..... 1,500  
February 10 ..... 1,782  
Margarita, British ..... 876

**Summary of Losses.**  
Listed Friday. Tonnage.  
Longscar, British ..... 8,777  
Percy Roy, British ..... 110  
Traitor ..... 1,000  
Greenwich, British ..... 1,782  
Kynast, British ..... 1,000

**Summary of Losses.**  
Listed. Tonnage.  
February 1 ..... 10  
February 2 ..... 8  
February 3 ..... 12,787  
February 4 ..... 12,782  
February 5 ..... 8,728  
February 6 ..... 14,457  
February 7 ..... 14,457  
February 8 ..... 14,457  
February 9 ..... 14,457  
February 10 ..... 14,457  
February 11 ..... 14,457  
February 12 ..... 14,457  
February 13 ..... 14,457  
February 14 ..... 14,457  
February 15 ..... 14,457  
February 16 ..... 14,457  
Totals ..... 226,586

### CUSTOMS PROBE OF BERNSTORFF PARTY OPENS AT HALIFAX

Lies in Secluded Spot, and Under the Glare of Searchlight.

Halifax, Feb. 17.—The charge that the officers of the steamer Frederik VIII, the ship carrying Count von Bernstorff and German consular officials back to Germany from the United States, mistook, if not actually disobeyed, the orders given as to the time the vessel was to enter Halifax harbor, was made in ship-brokers circles here today. The ship was instructed before it left New York to reach Halifax at nightfall. Instead of that, the Frederik VIII sailed up towards the port in broad daylight yesterday morning. When it was noticed, the harbor officials speedily sent a notification that no entrance to the harbor could be made at that time, and the ship was ordered out to sea.

No word had come from the vessel at noon today. Not a person had been allowed to leave it, so close was the net drawn around the steamer. Even the pilot, who brought the vessel into port last night, remained on board this morning.

**Steel Net Protects the Entrance to New York**  
Will Be Lowered Daily Between Sunset and Sunrise.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Associated Press today carries the following: A steel net designed to protect the port of New York from hostile submarines and other war craft in the event of war was put in place at the entrance of the harbor today. For the present it will be kept in position only between sunset and sunrise, and will bar all ships from leaving or entering the harbor during the night. In case of war, the net will be kept in position all day long, and will be used to prevent the entry of enemy ships into the harbor.

**French Infiltration Losses on Foe in Champagne**  
Paris, Feb. 17.—Artillery duels in the sector of Maisons de Champagne are reported in this afternoon's official communiqué. The French made an attack at Ametzwiller. An appreciable loss was inflicted on the Germans, the statement says.

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CANADIAN OFFICIAL WAR PICTURES AT THE LYRIC THEATRE ALL NEXT WEEK