GREAT BRITAIN MAKES PUBLIC METHODS TO BE EMPLOYED IN CUTTINC OFF GERMAN TRADE

ENGLAND'S PLANS FOR STOPPING GERMAN COMMERCE

Order-in-Council Made Public Yesterday Explains How Arteries of Enemy's Sea Commerce Will Be Severed — Will Lift Blockade in Casee of Nations Certifying Ships Flying its Flags Shall Not Carry Goods of the Enemy.

London, March 15.—Great Britain made known to the world today in a formal proclamation signed in council by the King and issued from Buckingham Palace, how she proposes to sever all the arteries of sea commerce to and from Germany during the period of the war.

As in Premier Asquith's speech forecasting the order, the term "blockade" is not used, and no prohibited area is defined. Nevertheless, the text of the order makes plain England's purpose —to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany during the war.

British officials tonight frankly called the movement a blockade, the foreign office describing it as an effective blockade, differing from the effective blockade of history only in that the property seized will not be confiscated outright, but sold, the proceeds eventually going to the owners.

In the last clause of the proclamation is that proposal most interesting to neutrals. This is a flat agreement to lift the "blockade," in case any nation will certify that the ships flying its flag shall not carry goods to Germany, or originating therein or belonging to subjects of the German Empire.

Ships of Germany's Allies Immune.

It is notable that the order declares no intention to capture ships of Germany's allies. Austria and Turkey, the reason being, no doubt, that the measure is avowedly a reprisal against the German submarine warfare. However,, a cordon of ships will be maintained to shut off the commerce of German ports, and regulate trade in the war zone, although ships voyaging eastward across the Atlantic will, it is expected, be seized before they reach the North Sea.

When a neutral vessel is held up, in all cases except where there is a false declaration of destination the cargo only will be seized, provided it is not contraband.

A copy of the order-in-council was handed to the American ambassador tonight for transmission to Washington.

The foreign office emphasizes the fact that wide discretion is allowed prize court officials handling neutral claims. Prominent officials urge upon neutral governments to bear in mind that many powers are conferred by the order on the officers entrusted with the disposition of detained cargoes, and instructions will be given these men to act with the greatest despatch, consistent with the proper performaice of their tasks.

While the order is absolute, in so far as ships to and from German ports are concerned, using the word "must" in stipulating how goods shall be discharged in English ports, the provisions concerning cargoes destined for neutral ports set forth that they "may be required to discharge" at British ports.

This language is typical of the general attitude of British officials toward neutral trade.

London, March 15.—The British order-in-council decreeing retaliatory measures on the part of the government to meet the declaration of the Germans that the waters surrounding the United Kingdom are a military area, was made public today in hte Official Gazette.

The text of the order-in-council follows:

"Whereas the German government has issued certain orders which, in violation of the usages of war, purport to declare that the waters surrounding the United Kingdom are a military area in which all British and allied merchant vessels will be destroyed, irrespective of the safety and the lives of the passengers and the crews, and in which neutral shipping will be exposed to similar danger in view of the uncertainties of naval warfare.

"And whereas, in the memorandum accompanying the said orders, neutrals are warned against entrusting crews, passengers or goods to British or allied ships.

"And whereas such attempts on the part of the enemy to give to His Majesty an unquestionable right of retaliation;

"And whereas, His Majesty has therefore decided to adopt further measures in order to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany, although such measures will be enforced without risk to neutral ships or to neutral or non-combatant life and in strict observance of the dictates of humanity.

"And, whereas, the allies of His Majesty are associated with him in the steps now to be announced for restricting further the commerce of Germany, His Majesty is therefore pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

"First—No merchant vessel which sailed from her port of departure after March 1, 1915, shall be allowed to

(Continued on page 3)

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ABSOLUTE REFUSAL REPLY OF GR. BRITAIN

London, March 15.—The British Foreign Office delivered today to Ambassador Page its reply to the American note proposing to Great Britain and Germany the withdrawal of the German submarine blockade provided England would permit food to reach German civilians. Great Britain's reply is an absolute refusal.

The Foreign Office also delivered to the ambassador Great Britain's reply to the American note inquiring for further information in regard to the measures to be taken by the allied powers to cut off trade to and from Germany. The reply to this note is based largely upon the order-in-council which was issued today.

Great Britain's refusal to accept the American proposals to this country and Germany is due to the reasons outlined several days ago.

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Evangelistic Meeting

Another successful service last night in connection with the evangelistic meetings being held in Douglas Avenue Christian church drew a large attendance. Rev. Mr. McPherson's subject was, "Shall we know our loved ones in heaven?" The meetings continue exciting great interest.

Official Reports

FRANCE

Paris, March 15. via London,—March 16.—The following official communication was issued by the French war office tonight:

"The day has been marked by numerous actions favorable for us.

"In the region of Lombaertzyde our artillery very effectively bombarded the enemy's works. The Germans attempted to re-capture a small fort which we took from them during the night of March 11-12. They were repulsed, leaving about fifty dead on the ground. Our losses were insignificant.

"To the south of Ypres the British army, which a German attack yesterday compelled to fall back beyond St. Eloi, re-captured that village, and almost all of the neighboring trenches, in spite of several counter-attacks.

"To the north of Arras a very brilliant atack by our infantry enabled us to capture, by a single effort, three lines of trenches on the spur of Notre Dame De Lorette and to reach the edge of the plateau. We captured one hundred prisoners, including several officers and some non-commissioned officers, destroyed two machine guns and blew up an ammunition store."

"Further to the south, in the region of Ecuris and Roclincourt, near the road from Lille, he blew up several German trenches and prevented the enemy from re-constructing them.

"In the region of Albert, near Carnoy, the Germans exploded a mine beneath one of our trenches and occupied the excavation. We drove them from it. They once more installed themselves, but a fresh counter-attack enabled us to recover the position. We have held our ground there ever since and have succeeded in putting in order once more all our defensive organization.

"In the Valley of the Aisne, near Vassens, northwest of Nouvron, two German companies were caught by our fire and suffered very heavy losses.

"In Chapagne we made fresh progress. We gained ground in the wood to the northeast of Souain and to the northwest of Perthes. We repulsed two counter-attacks in front of bridge No. 196, northeast of Lemesnil, and extended our position in that section. We took prisoners and captured a trench mortar.

"In the Argonne region there has been very great activity alone yesterday. In the region of Bagatelle two counter-attacks by the enemy were repulsed. We demolished a blockhouse, occupied the site and established ourselves there.

"Between Four De Paris and Bolante the enemy attempted two counter attacks which failed like three others previously made.

"At Vauquois our infantry delivered an attack which made it master of the western part of the village. We took numerous prisoners. At Bois Le Pretre, northwest of Pont-A-Mousson, the Germans blew up with a mine four of our advance trenches, which were completely destroyed. They gained a footing there after the explosion, but we recaptured the first two trenches and half of the third.

"Between Bois Le Petre and Pont-A-Mousson, at Dieupt Height the enemy made an attack which was repulsed.'

RUSSIA

Petrograd, March 15, (Via London)—The Russian War Office today issued the following statement:

"In the whole front in the region of Przasnysz, from the Mlawa Railway to the Orzyc river, and on the left bank of the latter river, we progressed fighting all the way. German counter-attacks everywhere have been repulsed.

"The guns of the Ossowetz fortress have put out of action several German siege batteries of heavy calibre which had been installed within range of the fortress.

"On the left bank of the Vistula river there has been no fighting.

"In the Carpathians, generally speaking, there have been no changes.

"Austrian attacks in the direction of Baligrad, and German attacks on Hill No. 992, near Koziowka, have been repulsed.

"In East Galicia our troops threw the enemy back in the region to the north of Obertyn.

"There has been an artillery duel at Przemysl."

AUSTRIA

Vienna via Amsterdam to London, March 15.—The following official communication was issued today:

"In the western Carpathians Sunday was calm.

"North of the Uszok Pass there was fighting of a furious character. Strong Russian forces made an attack there yesterday, and advanced to near our positions where for a time they maintained themselves. Our troops during the afternoon made a counter-attack throwing back the enemy on the entire front, and capturing four officers and 500 men.

"On our positions on both sides of the Opir Valley the enemy, reinforced, repeatedly tried to gain the heights, but failed with heavy losses. A very heavy attack collapsed Sunday, and in view of the losses these offensives probably will not be repeated. A thousand prisoners were taken in this battle.

"South of the Dneister, our counter-attacks gained ground, the Russians being pushed back from several front sectors.

"In Poland and West Galicia there have been only artillery duels."

A United Canada in Hour of Empire Crisis

(Continued from page 1)

appeared to have approached his amendment with a troubled conscience and that the opening part of his speech seemed to partake of the nature of an apology for what he intended to move.

Sir Wilfrid, in attempting to justify the course the opposition had pursued, had referred to the procedure of the British opposition. What was that procedure, asked Sir George. Was it not that while the opposition reserved the right to criticize the conduct of the war by the government, all questions of domestic policy, home rule, Welsh disestablishment, or the country's fiscal methods, had been laid aside when war broke out? This was what had been done and last August the Liberal party in Canada had taken the same ground. When the government had then sought to raise money to carry on the war by the method approved by the people of Canada since Confederation, tariff revision—Sir Wilfrid Laurier had acquiesced and his party with him.

Solely a Domestic Question.

What has happened since? Sir Wilfrid was now pursuing a course absolutely contrary to the course of the British opposition, and to his own course last year. It was evident that, whatever pressure had influenced the Opposition leader to make the decision, he had done it with a troubled conscience. The political truce, not established by writings, but arising out of common spirit and wish of the people, had been fairly well kept by both parties, but now there was a change. And this change had taken place as the result of a quarrel over whether protection or free trade was the better tariff system for the country to adopt—a solely domestic question, which had been agitating the country since 1875, and was now revised in this time of crisis. The opposition financial critic had made an artificial divison between the necessties of war and what were called strictly home necessities, and had then founded a speech on it. He had also asserted that only a small part of the declension in Canada's revense was to the war.

"It is plain to every man who reads and thinks that the equipment and maintenance of troops at the front has been a dislocation of business and a damper on progress and effort," said Sir George in this connection. Canada was affected by the war because Canada was an integral part of the world. The war had cut off her borrowing power, destroyed her credit, made her securities unsaleable, had resulted in the cancellation of huge orders previously placed by other countries for Canadian goods, had effected the purchase power of Canadians and foreign consumers, had slowed down and stopped all preduction, with the exception of agriculture, and had cut off at once the flow of immigration and the money that it brought. Consequently imports had decreased, and revenues with them.

Through the speech of the member for Red Deer, last week, said Sir George, had run the old cry of protection, the bane and the curse; the old domestic question which was not to have been touched. Supposing that instead of protection the basis of Canada's tariff policy had been free trade, would none of these effects of the war have been visited on Canada because of this shield and buckler, and would Sir Wilfrid assert that Canada would have been immune to those consequences if there existed reciprocity with the United States? The answer was that there were times when no nostrum saved. But the country would not give up its faith in protection for this reason, any more than it would refuse the assistance of medical science because a patient sometimes died.

Aside from the war, there was the home situation, to which both parties had contributed, but the Liberal party in infinitely greater measures during the past fifteen years. It was not its privilege, in the interests of fair play, to throw on its successors the whole burden of the situation it had inherited; rather should it incite the opposition to stand behind the government and country in this great crisis.

Burdens Opposition Left for Government to Bear.

The Liberal party had left its successors a greatly extended Canadian Pacific Railway, a National Transcontinental, a Canadian Northern and a Hudson Bay Railway, all with millions of obligations, and the necessity of meeting them. If there had been no war the country could have gone through with the situation, but the war had increased these burdens a hundredfold.

When the opposition cavilled at the government's method of raising money, and refused to grant the money because of the method, said Sir George, it should bear in mind that the latter was the one affirmed by the people of Canada for forty-seven years. The objections raised by the opposition were those of theorists, who had not the slightest measure of responsibility. If the opposition thought the money should be voted, it was surely going too far for it to assert that because the method was not right the money should not be granted, and that it should be granted only if raised in a way without any precedent in the history of the country, and not the method pursued by the opposition itself when it was a government. This was a point beyond which the British opposition had never gone in this war.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had stated that the necessity for the money could be avoided by economy and retrenchment.

There was sixty millions of a hiatus between revenue and expenditure required for home purposes this year, and $80,000,000 was the estimated deficit next year. Could any measure of retrenchment and economy fill that gap? Sir Wilfrid had stated that the expenditures on railways and canals, post office and public works departments must be kept up to a certain extent. Well, if these items were not to be radically affected, Sir George thought, it would puzzle the opposition as well as the government, to make an effective cut in expenditures. This was true, even if it were not common sense, that the duty of the government would scarcely be to leave itself without a margin of safety in a crisis like the present one. The opposition had urged that the new tariffs would not produce revenue. In this regard Sir George pointed out that Canada had last year imported $208,000,000 of free goods, and $410,000,000 of dutiable goods. It could not be denied that a large part of this trade would still have to come in, so why should not the revenue be garnered therefrom? The objection had been that the increased tariff would mean an advance in the prices of manufactured goods in Canada, but in this regard the Minister of Trade and Commerce pointed out that in the present slack times the competition between manufacturers would be so keen as to tend to prevent this result.

The opposition, said Sir George, in caviling at all war imports, was catering to a feeling in this country that the war could be carried on and the Empire saved without the people paying anything for it. They urged that protective tariffs were an obstacle to trade, but they, themselves, had placed these obstacles in every tariff they had made, and if they got into power to morrow they would put on further ones.

British Preference.

Sir George then turned to the British preference. The opposition, he pointed out, appeared to confuse the preference with free trade. It had been claimed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had fathered the preference. As a matter of fact, he was the father of preference only by force, since ater he had brought in a bill providing for the extension of preferences, not to Great Britain alone, but to any country which desired them, he had been informed by the British law lords that he must either drop all his recriprocity proposals or name Great Britain alone in them, and leave out all others, since he was running up against the favored nations treaties.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce referred to the speech on the budget made last week by Dr. Michael Clark, who, he said, was "a little crazy on protection and free trade." Dr. Clark had traced the course of protection by the deadly trail the serpent left until he came to the year 1896; then he had lost the trail. (Conservative laughter). However, continued Sir George, Dr. Clark had then caught his breath, made a running jump, and caught up with the serpent in 1911.

After quoting statistics to show that protection had built up industry and promoted Canadian trade, Sir George concluded with a stirring peroration.

"What I plead for in this House, in this country, everywhere, is that the best of the Canadian Dominion, Liberal as well as Tory, outside of race or creed or political faith, may look upon the verities of the war, and may learn to value, as in only such cases we can learn to value, the comparative merits of the trivial and of the absolutely important. These things I plead for, and as much as in us lies in this House and in this country, let us all, until the war is determined, bend our backs to the burden. Let us put behind us that which is trivial and not of moment, facing steadfastly the mighty issues in which the proudest and highest and best of the civilazations that the world has seen delevop is fighting for its life and its continuance to trench and under circumstances of terrible difficulty and of terrible peril."

Mr. W. F. Carroll (Cape Breton), who followed, paid attention first to the speech of Mr. Boulay, the concluding speaker Friday night. As compared with Mr. Boulay's position, the Liberals, said Mr. Carroll, were unanimous in voting every dollar required to carry on Canada's full share of the war as a part of the Empire.

Dealing with Sir George Foster's references to the breaking of the political truce by the Liberals, Mr. Carroll advised the minister to take a look first at his own side of the House.

It was not the Liberals, he said, but the Conservatives, who had raised the fiscal issue in Canada by increasing the tariff unnecessarily under the color of war taxes.

Sir George Foster, continued Mr. Carroll, had dragged the skeleton of trade out of the national closet and thrown stones at it, as if it were part of the Liberal policy. The Liberals before 1896 had declared for tariff for revenue only, not for free trade.

Mr. Carroll went on to give evidence that the manufacturers were raising prices as the result of the war tariff. He cited a well known make of woolen, on which he said the increase was from ten to twenty per cent.

In closing, he warmly advocated increasing the one hundred million vote by one or two millions, the amount to be spent in buying food and clothing for the suffering Belgians. We do not appreciate, he said, what the people and army of Belgium have done for France, Great Britain and Canada.

Mr. J. A. Decarres, of Jacques Cartier, who delivered his maiden speech stated that in the present era of hard times, due to the war, it was an imperative necessity that the unemployed be given work. It was not sufficient to weep over their misfortunes, the important thing was to come to their assistance. Sir Wilfrid Laurier demanded the suspension of public works, while on the other hand Mayor Martin, of Montreal, although a Liberal, had asked that the public treasury be opened and money scattered therefrom with a lavish hand. Such a division of opinion within a party was unique. Mr. Descarres praised the manner in which the government had dealt with the situation, expenditures having been reduced, but those public works which would afford needed employment having been continued.

Up to 1911, the policy of the Liberal party had been to hand Canada over to the United States. Now the party appeared to lack a leader, and to be engaged in individual attempts to hinder the government, which was trying to do its duty to the Empire. The Conservative party, on the other hand, was doing its very best, and the people would recognize that fact at the next election.

Mr. J. J. Hughes, of Kings, dealt with the effects of the tariff increases, stating that the prices of many home-made articles would be increased to the full extent of the advance in the customs.

Mr. D. A. Lafortune, of Montcalm, blamed the Conservative government for not repealing the Laurier Naval Service Act when in power, though they had always fought against the idea of a Canadian navy when in opposition.

Speaking of the financial situation the member for Montcalm stated that distress had now replaced prosperity, that in Montreal people were hungering, and misery abounded. He then went on to speak of what he declared had been an insult to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by the application of the closure during the naval debate in 1912. Lady Laurier, he said, who was in the gallery at the time, had been moved almost to tears.

Mr. J. H. Rainville, of Chambly-Vercheres, arose to request that the name of Lady Laurier be not brought into the present discussion, while Speaker Sproule ruled that it was not permissible to employ it.

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