

ITALIANS RAIL POLA AND SINK BATTLESHIP

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ITALIANS HAVE 150 DIVISIONS IN WEST

BRITISH COMMONS DEBATES AUSTRIAN PEACE OFFER

6 BOCHES PER YARD ON WESTERN FRONT; 150 Foe Divisions

Stupendous Concentration of German Troops From the North Sea to the Oise Is Reported From Paris.

Paris, May 16.—There are six Germans to the yard on the greater part of the Franco-Belgian front from the North Sea to the Oise, according to the Gaulois, which bases the statement on the information it reports having reached the general staff that 150 German divisions are situated in this area.

Men of these divisions, it is stated, are in the region between Nieuport and Ypres. Forty divisions are between Ypres and La Bassée Canal and 100 divisions from La Bassée Canal to the Oise. On this basis it is estimated, says the newspaper, that the German strength from Ypres to the Oise is some six men to the yard, except on the northern part of the front, above Ypres, where the estimate is a third of that number.

BORDEN FAVORS DIVORCE COURTS FOR PROVINCES

Glad That Right Has Been Asserted in Western Canada.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL Makes Clear That Soldiers' Relatives in Canada Shall Benefit.

Ottawa, May 15.—A bill from the Senate to amend the Canadian patriotic fund act was introduced in the House this morning by the minister of justice.

The bill makes clear that the fund is entitled to distribute among relatives resident in Canada of soldiers forming part of Canadian and the allied forces.

The House went into committee on private bills.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux drew the attention of the Government to the unusual number of divorce bills before the House. He asked if the premier had noticed a recent judgment rendered by the supreme court in Manitoba, in which it was decided that the courts in that province had the right to grant divorces. He understood the Province of Saskatchewan made the same claim.

Sir Robert Borden stated he knew nothing of the decision referred to, save what had appeared in the public press. The three maritime provinces had exercised the right of granting divorces before the war, and their right had never been questioned. In his opinion it was very desirable that the courts should be referred to the courts and dealt with in a judicial way.

The Right to Grant.

He was glad that the right to grant divorces had been asserted in the western provinces. It might be a good idea to see if the right to grant divorces could be transferred to the courts or, at any rate, to a judicial committee. The Senate might ratify the decision after receiving the report of this committee.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the right to grant divorces was a constitutional question which could only be decided by the supreme judicial authority. It was a question of interpretation of the constitution, and the sooner it was decided the better.

The Yukon Report.

Consideration of the report from the committee on privileges and elections on the Yukon election case, in which Mr. Congdon, Opposition candidate, defeated by the soldiers' vote, seeks to have that vote thrown out, was taken up. The report recommends a reference either to the supreme court of Canada, or to two judges of the supreme court of Ontario.

Mr. Tweedie of Calgary moved that the report be referred back to the committee for further consideration, remarking that the report implied that two judges of the whole supreme court of Canada, and that there was no justification for removing the case from the jurisdiction of the Yukon supreme court. E. B. Devlin and D. D. McKinnon also spoke in support of the report.

AMERICAN AVIATORS ARE REGULAR PATROL

Washington, May 15.—Reference in the American communiqué to the success of American fliers was the first official intimation received here that American squadrons are patrolling the skies held by Gen. Pershing or by his troops jointly with the British and French. It is taken as evidence of the completion of at least part of the aviation program.

MADE A BRIGADIER.

Reginald, Sask. May 15.—Word has been received locally that Col. A. Ross, D.R.O., has been promoted to be brigadier-general, and given command of the Sixth Brigade, in succession to Brig.-Gen. Ketchum. Major Alfred Stiles has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

GERMANY GATHERS SHIPS AT KIEL

London, May 15.—The entire German Baltic fleet, except a few light cruisers, was recalled last week to Kiel, where important naval forces now are being concentrated, says a dispatch from Hamburg received in Geneva and transmitted by the correspondent of the Daily Express.

THE WAR SITUATION

Local fighting has died down again in Flanders and Picardy and only the guns are busy. The artillery fire continues strong all along the front, as well as north of Arras front, and is most violent north of Kemmel and north and south of the Somme from Albert to the Aves.

These sectors have been the scenes of all the recent fighting, and they probably will see the strongest enemy efforts whenever the Germans believe the time is opportune to make a dash in Flanders. The Germans have been disappointed in their attempts to gain Hill 44, as the French not only drove them from the high ground but also penetrated the enemy positions.

The Picardy Campaign.

In Picardy the Germans have not renewed their counter-attacks to drive the French from the wooded terrain captured near Hallies. German and French artillery fire continues heavy north of the Aves. The enemy bombardment of the French lines has been most intense in Flanders the last two weeks, but the Germans have attempted no attacks to react against successful French local gains.

The Germans put down a heavy barrage on the American lines northwest of Toul Wednesday, but no infantry attack resulted. In aerial fighting in this sector two American aviators have been counted for three German machines. Increased artillery activity is noted on the Lorraine sector.

The German attack on the lull in Northern Italy remains unbroken, but with expectations that, as in France, heavy fighting will break out soon. Observers in London believe the heretofore unbroken lull in the Italian front will be against the Italian lines from the Stelvio Pass to Monte Grappa. Just east of the Brenta, in the hope of breaking through the Italian defense and reaching Brescia. Milan, Rome reports lively artillery and patrol engagements along the mountain front, and the dispersal of enemy troops at two points or the other.

Failed to Reach Paris.

An attempt by enemy aircraft to raid Paris Wednesday night was frustrated by aerial and artillery defenses of the city. The Germans, however, dropped a number of bombs on the more distant suburbs of the French capital. Aerial activity on the battle lines continues as the French and British air forces drop bombs on railway stations and concentration centres behind the German lines.

Germany's ambitions as regards Austria-Hungary's place in the Mitteleuropa plan, German newspapers indicate, were realized in the convention agreed upon by the two emperors at their meeting. The agreement, which is not yet signed, calls for an alliance for 25 years, with closer economic relations and more severe military obligations. Vienna is reported to look with apprehension on the probability that the Austro-Hungarian army will be Prussianized, and believes such a step more imminent than any other feature of the alliance.

N. S. FOREST FIRE.

Windsor, N. S., May 15.—A forest fire is raging on the Midland Railway, between West Gore and Clarksville. Fifty soldiers from the depot here have gone to help save West Gore, a prosperous village surrounding the Antigonish mine. A black fox farm has been destroyed.

FIVE MORE R. F. C. MEN.—Five more members of the 1st Depot Battalion, W. O. R., have been discharged to re-enlist in the Royal Air Force. They are Ptes. Terence A. Behan, Robert B. Skinner, Harold W. Sprule, Benjamin V. Scott and Frederick G. Galbraith.

BOLD FORAY BY ITALIANS BAGS GREAT Foe WARSHIP

20,000-Ton Battleship Is Torpedoed in Pola Harbor.

Rome, May 15.—An Austrian battleship was torpedoed by Italian naval forces in Pola harbor early Tuesday morning it was officially announced today. The battleship was the Viribus Unitis (20,000-ton vessel).

The Italian force worked its way into the Austrian naval base by dodging the patrol boats and searchlights of the defenders.

While the naval operation was progressing an Italian seaplane force engaged Austrian battleships above Pola. Two of the Austrians were brought down and several others were compelled to descend out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely.

There are four Austrian battleships of the Viribus Unitis class which comprised the largest and most modern fighting vessels completed for the Austrian navy up to the time the European war broke out. The ships of the class are the Tegetthof, the Prinz Eugen and the Szent Istvan. The namesake ship was completed in October, 1912, and the others at intervals between then and the beginning of the war, with the exception of the Szent Istvan, which was not finished until 1915.

Each battleship of the class displaced 20,955 tons, is 325 feet long over all, 63 feet beam and 28 feet draught. Their armament comprises twelve 12-inch and twelve 6.6-inch guns in main battery, with very, with eighteen 11-pounders and various smaller guns, and from two to six torpedo tubes. The complement of the battleships ranges from 952 to 1,000 men. The Viribus Unitis developed a speed of 20.9 knots on her trial trip.

DIES WITHOUT ANY WARNING WHILE AT DIOCESEAN MEETING

Prominent Church and I. O. D. E. Worker Passes.

SECOND TRAGIC DEATH Mrs. John Callard, Who Died in Cronyn Hall, Lost Husband at Port Stanley.

While attending a meeting of the executive committee of the Cronyn Diocesan Branch of the W. A. in Cronyn Hall this morning, Mrs. John Callard died without a moment's warning of an acute heart failure. Thinking she had fainted, a call was sent for Dr. James Wilson who, arriving within a few minutes, found that life was extinct.

Mrs. G. B. Sage, president of the W. A. Diocesan Branch, and Mrs. Williams, wife of Bishop Williams broke the news to the members of the family who are at home, Miss Anne Callard and Harold Callard.

The sudden death of Mrs. Callard not only has proved a great shock to her family and the members of the executive committee by whom she was surrounded, but also to the members of the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire and the many other citizens to whom she was well known.

Several years ago her husband, Dr. Callard, lost his life by drowning at Port Stanley, walking over the side of the pier into Kettle Creek in the dark. He had gone out for a walk alone, after having supper, and intended to spend the night with friends. The search was made, and it was some days before his body was found and recovered in the manner in which he had lost his life.

The strain of the days during which his fate was unknown, proved a great one on Mrs. Callard. One of the first women to identify herself with the order when it was organized in this city at the time of the South African war, she was made regent of the Trafalgar chapter, and has held the office ever since. Her services were untiring and her connection with the packing of I. O. D. E. soldiers' comforts for overseas.

She is survived by two daughters and four sons—Miss Gussie, a nurse in New York; Annie and Harold at home; Dr. Charles, who is with the A. M. C. on overseas service; Fred in the Southern States, and Reginald in the west.



Uncle Sam: "Tommy, make room for your uncle!"

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL NOW PREPARING CHARGES TO FILE IN FIRE DEPT. PROBE

Officers Declare They Will Be in City Clerk's Hands in Time To Be Dealt With at Monday's Council Meeting—Will Call Firemen To Back Up Complaints, They Say.

Charges in connection with the troubles in the London fire department are already in course of preparation by the trades and labor council. They will be formulated and in the hands of the city clerk in time to be presented to the city council when it meets on Monday night.

Officials of the trades council say they are not dissatisfied with the action of the No. 1 committee last night, when it filed the council resolution requesting an investigation.

These labor leaders state that they thought that the committee might grant an investigation and name a time to start the probe. They would then have had their charges ready and would have been prepared to back them, they say. However, there will be a little more delay occasioned now. They also thought it would be better that they delay laying charges until the report of the fire underwriter's inspector had been received.

NO CHANGE IN HIGH COMMAND

Law Says None Made and That There Are None in Contemplation.

London, May 15.—Reports that were in circulation, to the effect that a change was imminent in the higher command of the British army in France, were denied by the House of Commons today by Chancellor Bonar Law.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bonar Law said no change in the higher command had taken place, nor was any in contemplation.

GOVT. CANNOT WIND UP BY WEEK'S END; MAY CLOSE MAY 24

Too Much Business To Permit Prorogation Saturday.

Ottawa, May 15.—While the Government's official program still makes provision for prorogation on Saturday of this week, there is no expectation on the part of the ministers and the House members that it will be possible to wind up the business of the session within the next three days. It is regarded as practically certain that the final ceremonies will take place not later than Thursday, May 23, and they may occur as early as Tuesday, May 21, but this is not likely. There is still considerable business to be disposed of, and the supplementary estimates have yet to be tabled by Hon. A. K. MacLean. A considerable part of the members will leave for their homes at the end of the week, but the majority propose to remain in Ottawa.

The idea that the House should adjourn until August has been abandoned, it is officially stated.

SIR THOMAS COMING BACK.

Ottawa, May 15.—Having concluded his work at Washington, for the present, Sir Thomas White left New York this evening for Toronto. It is understood that the minister expects to be in Ottawa early next week.

BOY INSTANTLY KILLED.

Windsor, N. S., May 15.—Stewart Goudie, aged 20, son of Postmaster Goudie, was killed yesterday morning, and it was reported that the schooner San Lucas was adrift with a broken mast and in distress off Matane, Assistance has been sent.

BRITAIN READY TO CONSIDER ANY SERIOUS PEACE OFFER BUT Foe'S ARE ALL FALSE

WHITE SAYS CANADIANS ARE CONSUMING TOO MUCH AND CALLS FOR GREATER ECONOMY

Finance Minister Declares Thus Only Can Trade Balance Be Restored.

Toronto, May 15.—"As a people we are consuming too much, not only of luxuries, but of many other classes of goods. We are spending too freely for ornaments, musical instruments, and other means of amusement and pleasure. All this counts against us in our trade balance with the outside world, and places our dollar at a discount. If the rate of exchange between Canada and the United States is to be kept normal, that is, if our Canadian dollar is to be quoted at par, internationally, much greater economy on the part of all of us is necessary."

Warning From White.

This is the warning given to all Canadians today by her finance minister, Sir Thomas White, who arrived here today fresh from his conference in Washington and New York, where he talked in terms of hundreds of millions of dollars, with Lord Reading, British ambassador, and the financial heads of the United States Government and others who control the money markets of the continent. Sir Thomas seems to be quite fit again after ten weeks' absence in the United States, during which he became profoundly imbued with the spirit of enthusiasm, zeal and confidence, in connection with the prosecution of the war, shown by the people of the republic, all the way from New York to California.

"If Canada practices economy, however," said Sir Thomas, "the prospect would be satisfactory. There will, he said, 'I feel assured, be ample outside money available to enable us to balance our international accounts and keep our exchange within reasonable bounds, if only we will exercise the strictest economy which is demanded by war time conditions.'"

The finance minister said that his conference with the United States Government made satisfactory progress along the above lines.

While in Washington Sir Thomas gained permission from the Capital Securities and Priorities Board for the issuance of certain Canadian bonds in New York. He had conferences with the British War Mission, as the result of which the Canadian Government will be able to obtain large additional war contracts for munitions and other supplies, which will be sold by auction to night and will immediately resume his duties as finance minister.

VETERANS WANT ALIENS' LAND CONFISCATED AND SOLD FOR WAR ENDS

Winnipeg, Man., May 15.—With the selection of Montreal as the next meeting place of their convention, the delegates to the army and navy veterans convention finished their annual gathering yesterday. Among the resolutions passed was one to confiscate land held by aliens within the Dominion, such land to be sold by auction for the benefit of war purposes.

R. C. Irving of Winnipeg was elected Dominion secretary. Rev. Dr. B. B. Schofield, Winnipeg, was appointed chaplain and Ed. Low treasurer.

After a session in Ottawa, Mr. Irving was appointed as Ontario representative on the executive.

Following a hotly contested fight at the morning session Winnipeg beat out Ottawa in the race to secure the Dominion headquarters of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association of Canada. The voting went in favor of the western city by 61 to 58, whereupon the eastern delegates who had voted for Ottawa made the selection unanimous.

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, 72; lowest, 35.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 64; lowest, 43.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND WARM.

Toronto, May 15.—8 a.m.

Forecast.

Today—Moderate southeast to south winds, fine, with higher temperatures. Tomorrow—Moderate to fresh southerly winds, fair and warm.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures for the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Station.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	51	48	Cloudy
Winnipeg	50	40	Cloudy
Windsor	50	44	Fair
Perry Sound	58	48	Cloudy
Port Stanley	53	43	Fair
Toronto	62	43	Fair
Ottawa	62	44	Fair
Montreal	52	48	Fair
Quebec	62	44	Cloudy

Showers are now occurring in many portions of the western provinces. They have also been experienced in the Lake Superior district. The steady cold which has been so persistent over Hudson Bay is now moderating.

Pacifists Launch Debate in the British House Over Sixtus Letter to France—Balfour Declares Nothing Kept Back From President Wilson.

London, May 15.—Foreign Secretary Balfour was asked in the House of Commons today whether Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, to whom Emperor Charles of Austria addressed a letter last year in which peace was offered to France, paid two visits to England in connection with the peace proposals and whether he was in communication on this subject with Premier George. The question was brought up by Robert Outthwaite, Liberal member of the House of Commons for Harley. Mr. Balfour replied that the subject was not one which could be dealt with by question and answer.

The whole topic of Emperor Charles' proposal was discussed today in the Commons on the initiative of the pacifists and advocates of peace by negotiation.

How It Started.

In response to questions, Mr. Balfour said that Emperor Charles wrote a letter to a relative (Prince Sixtus) is a brother-in-law of the emperor, and that it was conveyed by this relative to the president and premier of France under the seal of the strictest secrecy. No permission was given to communicate the letter to anyone except the sovereign and the premier of this country.

Mr. Balfour said he had no secrets from President Wilson. Every thought he had on the war or in regard to questions of diplomacy connected with the war was open to the president.

The foreign secretary said he did not think it would be possible for the United States and Great Britain to carry on the great work in which they were engaged or to deal with the complex day-to-day problems without complete confidence. So far as he was concerned, complete confidence would always be given.

Teutons' Offers False.

There was no one more desirous than the British Government, he continued, that the war should be brought to an honorable termination. If any method could be shown the Government would be ready to accept it, he said, but he added, however, that no effort at conversations which had been made by the central powers had ever been made in the interests of fair and honorable peace being the war more of the Allies.

Referring to the statement made by Walter Runciman, formerly president of the board of trade, that France had asked for a bigger peace—bigger than that of 1870, Mr. Balfour said there was no question of this bigger Alsace-Lorraine being the war more of the Allies.

If any representatives of any belligerent country, he said, were ready to listen to him, he was ready to listen to them.

"Bigger Alsace-Lorraine."

Which, Balfour said, the conversation which took place between the French premier and foreign minister, had with the Russian emperor in 1918 regarding Alsace-Lorraine, which France would demand were not known to Great Britain until very much later. They had no intention of bearing, he said, did not pledge Great Britain and the British Government never gave the least encouragement to any such notion. Mr. Balfour said an extended Alsace-Lorraine was not a subject which had ever been contemplated seriously, and he did not think it ever was a fixed party of the foreign policy of the French Government, or any length of time.

The foreign minister also said the four powers over the Austro-Hungarian empire's border were not interfered with by the demand of France for an extension of territory beyond her boundaries of 1870.

Mr. Balfour said there was no evidence now or at any time that German Government circles contemplated the possibility of "what we should regard as a reasonable peace—a peace which would secure the freedom of the world and freedom for those who are in danger of German domination."

Premier Asquith, who followed Mr. Balfour, said that while in his judgment there has not been and could not be any contraction, so there should not be any expansion of the clear aim and purpose for which Great Britain had entered, and was prosecuting the war, and desiring to bring it to a successful issue.

OTTAWA PUPILS WILL BE FARMERS THIS SUMMER

Ottawa, May 15.—Fully 100 Ottawa Collegiate Institute pupils have registered their names with Principal Douglas as willing to go out and help the farmers during the summer months. A special examination was held at Easter, and those who passed it were recommended for junior matriculation, and the department of education inducted this move.

The pupils who passed will be given their certificates when they furnish a statement that they have put in three months' service on the farm.

U. S. PREPARES TO SEND FIVE MILLION TROOPS TO FRANCE

London, May 15.—American preparations on the western front are amazing in their immensity and plans are being made to care for five million American troops, Harry E. Brittain, secretary of the English branch of the Pilgrims' Club, told the Royal Colonial Institute last night. If the Germans do not give in, he added, the number of American troops will be increased to any amount necessary.

Sir Charles P. Lucas, former head of the Dominion's department of the colonial office, said he wondered if the Germans realized what the entry of America into the war meant. It meant, he said, not only the accession to the allied powers of many millions of fighting men and the addition of vast resources, but also the coming in of the only one among the great peoples of the world who have seen and carried through a war of the magnitude of the present one.

TEUTONS PLAN A HEAVY BLOW AGAINST ITALY

New German Domination Means Greater Effort by Austrian Forces.

PRUSSIANIZE THE ARMY

Vienna Anxiously Awaits Details of Alliance Arranged Between Central Powers.

Washington, May 15.—Austria's latest acquiescence to German domination foresees greater Austrian participation in the military effort, according to Rome news. The Italian government, in an official dispatch to the Italian embassy, assumes that his effort will be directed at Italian fronts, while the Italian Nationality from the withdrawal of Austrian artillery from France as an indication that Italy may expect a new attack.

MAY PRUSSIANIZE AUSTRIANS.

Zurich, May 15.—Publication of the contents of the military agreement arrived at by the German and Austrian emperors at their conference is awaited with intense anxiety in Vienna, according to a dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung from the Austrian capital. The most important question is whether the agreement is so complete that the Austro-Hungarian army will be permeated with the Prussian spirit, as were the armies of the South German states after 1866. In this event, it is added, the alliance would be pended as a reasonable peace—a peace which would secure the freedom of the world and freedom for those who are in danger of German domination."

SWISS POLICE SEIZE BOMBS ENEMY INTENDED FOR ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

Washington, May 15.—Revolutionary documents and bombs and firearms of German origin, destined for distribution in Italy have been seized recently by the Zurich police, said an official dispatch today to the Italian embassy. The munitions were found in chests consigned to Gino Andriani, editor of the anarchist newspaper Machete, who has been under arrest, charged with espionage in Switzerland since last November. The report said also that Andriani's brothers and three others suspected of implication in the plot escaped to Germany.

STEAMER DOCKED WITH MEN FROM THE FRONT

A Canadian Atlantic Port, May 15.—A steamer bringing 645 members of the Canadian expeditionary force, 40 officers and 605 N. C. O.'s and men arrived here this morning.