

OUTER FORTS OF THE DARDANELLES REDUCED

The Great Allied Fleet Completes First Part of Task.

Has Hard Work to Do 'Ere Constantinople Falls

London Cable.—The reduction of all the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles by the Anglo-French battleship squadron is announced in a statement issued late to-night by the Official Press Bureau. The allied fleet was able to attack the Turkish forts at close range. Rapid developments in the situation are expected, as the Admiralty states that the operations are being continued.

The statement issued by the Press Bureau says: "The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that, the weather moderating, the bombardment of the outer forts of the Dardanelles was renewed at eight o'clock this morning (Feb. 25). After a period of long-range fire the squadron of battleships attacked at close range. All the forts at the entrance to the straits were successfully reduced and the operations are continuing."

AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT.
The combined Anglo-French fleet, which consists of 32 ships, has been bombarding the positions at the entrance of the straits intermittently for more than two months.

The feat is regarded in official circles here as one of the most important accomplishments of the allied powers since the beginning of the war, and predictions are freely heard now that the fall of Constantinople will come before long. Naval experts, however, admit that this is merely the first step in a stupendous task, and that enormous efforts will be required to force a passage of the rest of the straits, which are lined with strong forts and modern defensive works for a distance of forty miles on both sides. Furthermore, the Turkish fleet, which, under such conditions, is not to be despised, is supposed to be stationed in Nagara Roads, at the narrow part of the waterway, and extensive mine fields have been planted at strategic points.

The allied fleet is under command of Vice-Admiral Carden, and is the strongest aggregation of warships on the allied side with the exception of the British home fleet. It comprises vessels of all classes, including submarines and destroyers, and has a strong detachment of aeroplane and sea-plane conveyed by the aeroplane ship, Ark Royal.

The strongest units under the British flag are the battle cruiser Inflexible, which carries 12-inch guns, and the battleships Agamemnon, Cornwallis, Vengeance and Triumph. Under the French flag are the battleships Suffren, Gaulois and Bouvet. In addition to bombarding the Dardanelles the fleet has also paid some attention to the Turkish forts on the Island of Tenedos, in the Aegean, and it is said that seven warships did considerable execution there yesterday.

A PORT FOR RUSSIA.
One of the most important changes in British foreign policy in the past hundred years was announced this afternoon in the House of Commons by Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, when he stated in reply to a question from the floor of the House that England is willing to abandon her traditional opposition to Russia's acquisition of a "warm water" port, and will support the intention recently expressed by M. Sazanoff, the Russian Foreign Secretary, to the effect that Russia intends permanently to occupy Constantinople.

Close upon this momentous declaration came an announcement that the Anglo-French fleet, the medium through which Russia may eventually accomplish the extension of her sphere of influence, had reduced the Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles and a despatch from Salonica saying that the Ottoman Government was so much alarmed at the progress of the attack that crown jewels and the Government records had been removed to the interior. Previous advices have stated that the Ottoman archives had been taken to Adrianople.

Another despatch tending to show the success of the movement against the Turkish capital came from Copenhagen, where messages had been received from Petrograd announcing that Russian merchants had concentrated vast quantities of wheat and rice in the harbors along the Black Sea waiting for the moment when the allied warships open up the straits. The proposed loan of \$50,000,000 by Great Britain to Russia depends in a measure on the marketing of the crops of cereals in the southern Russian provinces.

LAND OPERATIONS ALSO.
Athens informs London that Constantinople is threatened not only from the sea, but likewise by land, and that Russian transports on the Black Sea are about to embark an army for an invasion of Turkey and the reduction of the capital. Turkish submarines in the Bosphorus are said to be showing activity in preparing to meet this latest danger.

PROVISIONS RUNNING SHORT.
The Morning Post has received a despatch from a correspondent in Constantinople, dated February 17, in which he says: "Owing to the bad local coal, the cruiser Goeben now only makes 16 knots, and the Breslau 22 knots. Two of the after-guns of the Goeben are out of action, and her rudder is out of gear. The Turks

FIRST CONTINGENT ACTED LIKE HEROES

Ontario Brigade Did 48-Hour Turn—Had Many Wounded.

Northern France Cable—via London Cable.—"I am able to state definitely that the Canadian troops have been in action. They conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry and steadiness, and were under heavy shell and rifle fire for hours."

The infantry brigade was first in action. Its casualties were not heavy. The regiment repulsed a determined attack. The machine gun section is doing good work, but has had a number wounded.

The Rifles distinguished themselves, but are reported to have lost a number of men. They captured a German trench. Only 25 men are reported unhurt out of a full company. The Canadians entered the trenches under cover of darkness, marching in single file over a road shattered by bursting shells. Their behavior was a credit to Canada, and the British soldiers are proud to fight beside them. From now on the Canadians will regularly take their share of the fighting.

The Ontario Infantry brigade, the Toronto Regiment and machine gun section and the Queen's Own Rifles apparently are the units referred to in the foregoing despatch.

TWO DAYS IN TRENCHES.
Definite information of the exploit of the first Canadian expeditionary force since its entry into the war zone in France was received in Toronto yesterday, and was read amid great applause by Lieut.-Col. Ponton, of Belleville, to the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade, now in session in the Assembly Rooms of the Toronto Board of Trade.

According to the message the Canadians have held with great valor and success the first line of trenches within a hundred yards of the Germans, and after a continual vigil lasting over two days are now bivouacked in the rear, where they will enjoy a few days' rest before returning into the arena again. It was stated that the Canadians covered themselves with glory under their baptism of fire, and that there were few casualties. The excellent marksmanship of the gunners also brought credit upon the Canadian artillery corps.

The message was received yesterday afternoon by Lieut.-Col. Ponton from Mr. McLaren Brown, son of Postmaster Adam Brown, of Hamilton, European manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who quoted from a letter sent to him from Lieut. R. D. Ponton, a son of Lieut.-Col. Ponton.

The cablegram, which was dated Thursday morning, read as follows: "I have just received a cheerful letter from Richard (Lieut. R. D. Ponton) from France, dated Feb. 21st. He is quite well and occupied the first line of trenches with the Canadians, which were within one hundred yards of the Germans, during the past 48 hours. The behavior of the Canadians was splendid and they returned O. K. to their billets for a few days' rest after their baptism of fire. All are very fit, and only slight casualties occurred in the Canadian infantry. These were principally caused by the German snipers. The Canadian artillery proved quite equal to the occasion."

Continuing, the speaker drew attention to the great wheat belts in Northern Ontario and the West, and suggested that the unemployed problem would be solved by the back to the farm movement. He was in favor of the Government granting assistance to such people as would be able to develop into successful farmers, Canada, he declared, should be the source of food supply of the Empire.

After a great deal of discussion it was decided to leave the motion over so that it could be dealt with by the executive. It was the feeling of the meeting that something should be done to get the farmers and manufacturers together in a special convention to discuss the problem before the Boards of Trade expressed any unanimous opinion on the question.

A resolution was also passed asking that the commercial laws of the various provinces should be modified and made uniform throughout the Dominion in an effort to render the carrying on of business less complicated and to make the collection of debts and the realization upon the assets of insolvent and dishonest debtors less difficult.

President A. J. Young, who presided over the convention, in his address declared that from a commercial point of view Ontario was sound. He deplored the great war, which has destroyed so much life and property, but was glad to say that the Ontario business men had not been overcome by any panic and that they had rallied to the Empire slogan of "Business as Usual."

ANNUAL BANQUET.
"As to the man, however high up he may be, who would use his position as a Government contractor to supply inferior material or to obtain an excessive profit, if there is any criminal law in the country he should be put behind the bars and kept there as an example to others."

This vigorous declaration by Mr. N. W. Howell, leader of the Ontario Opposition, at the banquet of the Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario in the Toronto Board of Trade rooms, brought an instant and emphatic endorsement. The delegates rose and cheered the sentiment. Mr. Rowell referred to the case of the faulty shoes as lacking the very first principles of patriotism. He declared that it was a mistake to suppose that Germany exhausted. He praised the manner in which the businessmen had met the situation in Ontario. The war, he declared, had stimulated manufacturers and farmers.

Sir Adam Beck told the story of the Hydro system, and appealed for support in the great new scheme of Hydro-radials. He reviewed its history from its birth, when it was strongly opposed, until the present, when many "do not care if it duty on coal is raised 7½ per cent, ad valorem, or 70 per cent, you still have your white coal as free as the air." Sir Adam pointed out that instead of great industrial centres there would be hundreds of smaller centres, which was the proper course in building up a great country.

"Give us help in the radial scheme and we will show Canada, and the Empire what the people can do in developing a country."

Hon. F. G. Macdormand, representing the Ontario Government, declared a man could do good service by using Canadian goods. He did not want manufacturers to take advantage of the war to enhance prices. The farmington responded to the appeal by increasing the fall wheat acreage by 100,000 acres.

Mr. L. H. Clarke, proposing the toast to Hydro railways spoke of the fight that Sir Adam Beck had in promoting his scheme. Other speakers were Mr. Arthur Hewitt, Mr. J. C. Marriott and Mr. A. J. Young. President J. W. Woods, of the Toronto Board of Trade, presided.

GREAT BATTLE AT STANISLAU.

London Cable.—Telegrams from Budapest report fierce fighting around Stanislaw, Galicia, says Reuter's Venice correspondent.

"The Russians are said to be hurling reserves after reserves into the fighting line, and to be defending their positions with the greatest of stubbornness. The chief struggle is proceeding on the heights around the town, where the Russians have concentrated with the object of stopping the advance of the Austrian right, which threatens their whole front."

"In the Carpathians near Wyszkow large Russian forces are making continuous attacks with fresh reserves." According to a despatch received from its correspondent in Germany by the Evening News, the Russians have turned in Bukowina, and have recaptured Sadagora, on the railroad, four miles south of Czernowitz. The Austrians, it is said, are pushing their troops north towards the Russians, and an engagement is expected. If that is true, the Russians have retraced their way over a considerable stretch of territory in Galicia. They were last reported north of Kolomea.

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Herta, on the Rumanian frontier, declares that the Russian retreat in Bukowina has been finished and that probably they will begin an advance in a few days.

The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent says: "It is obvious that the Austrians have been given a much weightier task than that of recovering Bukowina. The attempt is being made by every available man and gun to bring the Russian army to a decisive engagement. If in this the enemy could get the upper hand, it would be abie, while Russia was putting fresh armies in the field, to transfer large numbers to the western front and force a general engagement there. It is, in short, an attempt to resume the initiative which in the German military text-books is given so much importance."

MORE KULTUR

Germany Will Sequester All Belgium Business.

Paris cable.—A despatch from Berne, Switzerland, reports an announcement by the Wolff Agency (an official German news agency) that Germany is to turn all business enterprises in Belgium over to her own subjects and those of her ally, Austria.

The announcement is that at Brussels, Gen. Von Bisping, the military governor, has directed the sequestration of business enterprises in the kingdom, owned by subjects or citizens of nations with which Germany is at war. The effect of this will be to close all banks, shops, factories and other business enterprises conducted by Belgians even in Brussels itself, where the Germans have never been opposed. It will affect the business of Antwerp and other cities in a similar way. It will serve shortly to increase vastly the number of persons dependent upon the outside world for subsistence.

WALES AT FRONT

Heir to Throne Was On the Firing Line.

London Cable.—A Daily News special correspondent writing from somewhere in France describes a visit of the Prince of Wales to the firing line. A major led the way and immediately behind was a short, slight figure clad in regulation khaki. He was wearing a "British warr" with the collar turned up and a Sam Brown belt with revolver, etc. His boots were covered with the familiar mud and he looked a keen young officer. Following were two or three staff officers. The major explained the nature of the defenses from this point, and then from a spy-hole pointed out the German lines about 500 yards distant, with our front line of trenches between. Meantime occasional bullets cracked overhead. The Prince of Wales was actually on the firing line. He listened eagerly to the explanations of the various officers, and after a stay of a few minutes his party returned.

CUT WHEAT ALLOWANCE.

London Cable.—A despatch to the Daily News from Rome says: "An Imperial ordinance was issued by Vienna Wednesday, fixing the daily consumption of wheat at ten ounces and of flour at seven ounces per person. The Hungarian Government has ordered the municipalities to requisition all available flour, and to allow only thirteen pounds per person per month."

TROOPSHIP WRECKAGE DENIED.

London Cable.—The Chronicle says the steamer Jerveaux Abbey reached Hull yesterday, and the captain and crew totally deny a statement sent out by German wireless that they saw floating wreckage in the Channel from a British troopship.

FOR TETANUS

Rockefeller Institute Has Invention to Combat It.

New York Report.—Announcement was made to-day on behalf of the Rockefeller Institute of the invention of an apparatus and the discovery of a new method of treatment, both designed to reduce the mortality from tetanus among soldiers wounded on European battlefields. Twenty-five apparatus, it was said, had already been sent to Europe by the institute for use on the battlefield, and patents to the invention had been thrown open so that whoever wished might manufacture and use the apparatus.

The institute's investigators have found, it was said, that most of the deaths occurring among wounded men are due to tetanus, and that the present method of treating tetanus has drawbacks which make it impossible to save as many of the wounded as might be saved by a more available method.

An injection of a solution containing epsom salts into the membrane of the spinal cord is a part of the method of treatment, it is announced. To Dr. F. J. Mettzer, of the institute, is given credit for the new method. The belief is expressed that with this method of treatment and the use of the new apparatus—which is designed to aid in artificial respiration—many more lives will be saved.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Germany's Total Army is Almost 10,000,000 Men Says British Official.

BECKER FAILS

A German aviator wounded since British soldiers in South Africa.

The Canadian Pavilion at the Panama-Pacific Exposition was opened.

The Austrian Government is confiscating entire stocks of grain and flour in the monarchy.

Japan and China were said to be considering a compromise regarding the former's demands.

Inspector-General Lessard found astonishing progress has been made in the training of the men at Exhibition Camp.

Four men were killed and ten others badly injured in a rush of ice and water in the Ammonosec River, at Lisbon, N. H.

Unsavoury evidence was forthcoming in the investigation before Judge Dentola into the affairs of the Toronto fire department.

The Gold Medal of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, London, has been awarded to Willet G. Miller, L.L.D., Provincial Geologist of Ontario.

Edgar Grosz was sentenced at Peterboro by Mr. Justice Britton to nine months' imprisonment in jail for causing the death of Wm. O'Brien.

Charles Becker will not get a new trial on the ground that the negro Marshall's Philadelphia affidavit contradicts the evidence given at Becker's trial.

Major-General Sam Hughes claims the right under the Government bill to retain his portfolio if he goes on active service at the close of the session.

Flight Lieutenant Dawson C. Downington, of the Royal Navy Flying Corps, was killed Thursday in a fall from a biplane during a flight at the central flying school.

Alberta Legislature was formally opened, and received the report of a special commission recommending against giving university powers to Calgary College.

The Banque d'Hochelega purchased the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company's building, on a prominent corner in Montreal, for about \$700,000.

Alberta, with a population of 370,000, has already 10,000 men bearing arms with the Canadian expeditionary forces, according to Col. Crisshanks, D.C.O. District 13.

John Howe, aged 50, a prominent resident of the village of Merlin, near Chatham, is in a critical condition as the result of taking a dose of oxalic acid in mistake for salts.

An impressive ceremony in connection with the special convocation was held at the University, when 44 senior soldier-students were given their degrees without examinations.

Harry Green was hanged at Brandon, Man., for the murder on May 17 last of Thomas Hill. Green confessed to the crime before the trial and made no supplementary statement, meeting death unflinchingly.

Germany's total army of both trained and untrained men, consists of 9,588,000 soldiers, according to an announcement made by Under-Secretary of State for War Tennant in Parliament yesterday afternoon.

ITALIANS WARNED OF SPIES.
Rome Cable.—The Italian War Office has sent a confidential warning to officers and soldiers to beware of attractive, frail, French-speaking women, who are now crowding the garrison towns, and who were expelled from France by the Germans, and sent here purposely to do secret service work.

JAP. LOOTERS EXECUTED.
New York, Despatch.—Several Japanese soldiers were shot by their own officers for looting after the capitulation of the German fortress at Tientsin, according to Fraulein Rosa Garth, a Red Cross nurse, who arrived to-day on the steamer Comus with 37 women and children refugees from China.