

# STRENGTH OF OUR EMPIRE HELD FIRM UNDER TEST SIR ROBT BORDEN SAYS

## Events of Past 6 Months Mark New Stage in Nationhood—Premier in Mighty Speech Declares Government Ready to Throw Doors Wide Open For Investigation in Connection With Getting Contingents Ready—Speech By W. G. Weichel, German-Canadian Member, Stirs Parliament—Says German-Canadians Ashamed of Violation of Belgian Neutrality.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—"I am fortunate to live under the Union Jack. I am proud that I am a Canadian."

With these inspiring words a German, the scion of a race that is endeavoring to destroy to the uttermost the Great British Empire, within whose realms he has made his home, rose in his place in the Commons today and moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne. W. G. Weichel, the German Conservative member for North Waterloo was the young orator who made history by so doing. It was an epoch making speech. It told the Fatherland that the nation of the Kaiser had lost the sympathy of the German Canadian.

Here are his own words: "German Canadians are proud of their history and their traditions, but they are not proud of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium nor of Louvain. German science is one thing; German militarism is another. This is a fight for liberty and future existence and for the eradication of militarism. "Wherever the Union Jack floats liberty and justice prevails. There is no servitude under our flag. The die is cast. The empire must win."

The scene was one never to be forgotten. The galleries were crowded with a picked audience, picked because no one could get past the guards unless provided with a special ticket and the chamber itself was filled. All the ministers were in their places and General Hughes in his service uniform kept alive the reminder that war was with us.

### Cannot Forget Fatherland, But Believes in British Institutions

The deep significance of Mr. Weichel's well weighed words stirred the house, and while the members were in no mood for wild cheering, yet generous applause greeted the young German from both sides. It is not often that Sir Robt. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the same time, perhaps less often still do Hon. J. D. Hasen and Hon. Wm. Pugsley exhibit the same sentiments on the same occasions, but they were all at one today when Mr. Weichel was making his historic speech. It is a fight for liberty, was his cry. Canada and the Empire are in the right. This war was not desired by Great Britain. We are fighting in a just cause, and there shall be no faltering. Once and for all we take issue with those who believe that might is right. German-Canadians are loyal to their King and Empire. I am not here to make an apology for German-Canadians. They cannot forget the land of their fathers, but they believe in British institutions.

It was thrilling, this rare spectacle and men were touched to the core as they listened to his brave words. Sir Wilfrid Laurier made an apt remark when he stated that no better justification of Britain's attitude could be heard than Mr. Weichel's speech. But the Liberal leader of today is not the Liberal leader of yore. He has lost his grip. His old eloquence has gone. The fluency of yesterday has become halting speech. He gropes for words to express his meaning. The British volunteer system of army raising. He assured the Prime Minister in one breath that he did not desire to do anything to embarrass the government, and in the next breath he warned the government that there had been errors of judgment and mistakes in connection with Canada's fighting forces. One moment he said they were not disposed to be critical, the next he talked of fraud.

Sir Robt. Borden in a mighty speech courted investigation. He declared the government ready to throw their doors open wide. If there was fraud they would find it out. If the specifications for boots, for instance, had not been what were suitable for European warfare, it was because they had taken the specifications which had been laid down by Sir Wilfrid's own government.

The Prime Minister, having delivered the welcome to investigate, went on to deal with the war situation. No man in the Empire is better seized of the importance of passing events. No man realizes better what the outcome must be for the Empire and the nations that are at war. "Germany by its blockade," he emphasized, "has made a declaration of war on the whole world."

"Fighting in the cause of liberty we do not doubt the issue," was one of his strong statements that drew the applause of the whole house.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—At the opening of the House Mr. William Gray of London; Mr. A. B. Cogg, newly elected Liberal member for Westmorland, in succession to the late Hon. H. R. Emeryson, and Mr. Samuel J. Donaldson, who succeeds Judge James McKay, in Prince Albert, were introduced.

Mr. W. G. Weichel, M.P. for North Waterloo, in his address in reply to the speech from the throne, after referring to the patriotic part played in recent events in Canada by their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Mr. Weichel spoke of the Armageddon of the nations now in progress. Never had the world witnessed such awful carnage, such ruthless disregard of others' rights. Referring to the silent victory of the British navy, British subjects throughout the world had reason to be thankful to these men, who had seen that

### DANZIG CUT OFF FROM REST OF THE WORLD

No Communication by Telegraph With German Naval Base Since Sunday.

London, Feb. 9, 3.10 a. m.—The Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent considers significant the fact that since Sunday all telegraphic communication with Danzig (near the mouth of the Vistula river and bordering on the Baltic Sea) has ceased. Danzig is a base of a great part of the German fleet, and all the neutral steamers lying in the harbor there have been prohibited from sending out telegrams or letters. All timber shipments between Denmark and Danzig also have been stopped, according to the correspondent.

### LT. GOVERNOR OF QUEBEC PASSES AWAY

Death of Sir Francis Langlier Yesterday After Protracted Illness.

Quebec, Feb. 8.—Sir Francis Langlier, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, died this afternoon at his official residence, "Spencerwood." His Honor had been ill for some months, his duties during the past month having been assumed by Sir Horace Archambault, as Provincial Commissioner. He began to sink rapidly this morning, and passed away in the presence of his family.

### THE EMPIRE WILL HAVE NEED OF EVERY MAN AVAILABLE

Parliamentary Sec. of War Office Says—Largest Military Budget in History of Great Britain—32,000 More Men Needed for the Navy.

London, Feb. 8.—The introduction of the largest military budget in the history of Great Britain shared the stage in the House of Commons today with a discussion of the activities of the official press bureau.

### GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE ELECTED

Montreal, Feb. 8.—Mr. G. Rochon, the government candidate in the by-election in Terrebonne county today, was elected over the independent Conservative candidate, Mr. J. A. Desbrières. So far as could be learned tonight Mr. Rochon's majority was 133, with three places to hear from, and doubtless these will increase his majority.

### WM. REDMOND GETS COMMISSION IN THE ROYAL IRISH REGT.

Dublin, via London, Feb. 9.—William Redmond, member of parliament for Clare, East, and brother of John Redmond, the Irish leader in parliament, has been commissioned an officer in the Royal Irish Regiment.

### BOMBARDIER WELLS AND FRANK MORAN SIGN UP

London, Feb. 8.—Bombardier Wells, the champion English heavyweight pugilist, and Frank Moran, the American fighter, today signed articles for a twenty round bout to be fought in London March 25.

### BOTH WERE TORPEDOED BY GERMANS

London, Feb. 8.—The British Admiralty publishes certified reports from the masters of the British steamers Tokomaru and Icarus, which it asserts prove that the vessels were torpedoed in the English Channel off Havre, January 31. The Tokomaru sank, but her crew was rescued by a trawler. The Icarus was towed into Havre in a damaged condition.

### RUSSIANS BEGIN AN UNEXPECTED OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT IN POLAND

Take Advantage of Withdrawal of Germans—Claim Successes at Various Points—Fighting for a Firmer Foothold in Carpathians Where Germans and Allies Have Made Some Gains—Germans Still Hope to Capture Warsaw.

London, Feb. 8.—Russia's unexpected offensive operations in Poland, from which the Germans apparently have been withdrawing some forces both to the north and south, furnishes the most striking feature of the military situation of the European continent.

### GERMAN CRUISER WRECKED OFF LOWER CALIFORNIA

The Japanese cruiser Asama ran on the rocks near Turtle Bay, off Lower California, and it is feared the vessel will be a total loss, although no lives were lost. American war ships were despatched immediately to aid the stricken vessel.

### DEADLOCK OVER THE SHIP PURCHASE BILL

Opposition Determined to Continue War on the Bill—Champions of Measure Refuse to Withdraw.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Administration forces of the Senate succeeded, late today, in forcing the Republicans and Insurgent Democrats back to the defensive in the fight over the government ship purchase bill.

### AWAIT REPORT FROM BRITISH AMBASSADOR

U. S. Taking no Action on Lusitania Affair Until Ambassador Page is Heard.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Informal discussion by President Wilson with his advisors of the German notification of the dangers to which neutral ships may be subjected in the newly prescribed war zones around Great Britain and Ireland, and the use by the British liner Lusitania of the American flag, foreshadowed today a diplomatic correspondence between the United States and both Great Britain and Germany respectively on these questions.

### C.P.R. DECLARES DIVIDENDS

Montreal, Feb. 8.—At a meeting of the directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway held today the following dividends were declared:

### WARNING TO GERMANY

Italian Paper Says Neutrals Will Insist on Examination of Ships Before Sinking Them.

Rome, Feb. 8.—The Tribuna, dealing editorially with Germany's sea war zone proclamation, declares that neutral countries will never submit to such "intolerable arbitrariness," and will insist that belligerents maintain the custom of boarding and examining ships before sinking them, the newspaper adds that Germany will be held responsible for the sinking of any vessels without this formality.

### CANADIANS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO BELGIANS

Montreal, Feb. 8.—Canada's contributions to the relief of Belgium up to the end of last week amounted to \$1,745,563, according to a statement compiled today by Mr. Hector Prud'homme, honorary treasurer of the Belgian Relief Fund.

### GERMAN BANKERS LOAN \$30,000,000 TO BULGARIA

Berlin via Wireless to Sayville, N. Y., Feb. 8.—The Overseas News Agency announced today that a syndicate composed of German, Austrian and Hungarian bankers had advanced \$30,000,000 to Bulgaria.

### TORONTO MAN KILLED BY SERVANT GIRL

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Charles A. Massey, son of the late C. Albert Massey, formerly Vice-president and General Manager of the Massey Manufacturing Company, residing at 169 Walnut street, was shot and mortally wounded on the steps of his own home by Carrie Davies, an 18 year old domestic, employed in the house. The girl, when arrested, gave as her reason, according to a statement of the police, that her act was in revenge for alleged approaches made to her by her victim. Mrs. Massey has been absent in Hartford, Conn., for some days.

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