

The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 1.

The Session Opens

"Legislature opened without ceremony," was the announcement of some of the anticipatory evening papers. As a matter of fact the opening was not short of one jot or tittle of its ceremony. The gliding on the lieutenant-governor was as gorgeous as ever. He had as big a salute as ever, altho the lanyard of the thirteenth gun broke, and the next gun-crew had to take up the rotation. There were fewer clericals perhaps, and not quite so many visitors, the ladies leaving many empty spaces, while the galleries were entirely closed, even the press room being locked up, presumably thru fear that some of the newspaper men were about to blow up the government. The speaker's gallery was denuded of chairs which might have concealed bombs, and a troop of nurses were allowed in to stand up and admire his honor's gold embroidery. The speech from the throne was commendably brief and said all that was necessary. The ceremonial in this connection was in no way abridged. Col. Caldwell is quite as courtly as any of his numerous predecessors, and there was a gallant array of officers to support the dignity of the crown. The premier was in his place, slightly paler than usual, and Mr. Rowell sat opposite, not much redder. Mr. Allan Studdholme, leader of the third party, was also present, still slightly uninvited.

Among the gossip after the proceedings, which lasted exactly 12 minutes, the question of woman's suffrage came up, having received a great jog from the discussion at Ottawa. It will be strange if Ontario is the last of the provinces to take up this modern and necessary step. The war has brought it to the front as no other question has been. The work of women in Great Britain and elsewhere in all lines of work in which they compete, has shown them to be the equal of men. They are employed in manufacturing and in some ways are preferred to men, they are taking part in the public services and doing it well. They have shown executive ability equal to any man's in the departments which they have undertaken, especially in hospital work, in charity work, both in the field and at home, and in the organization of financial aid.

Men who object to women in politics object for the same reason they object to the extension of the franchise to various classes of men. All franchise extensions raise awkward questions, but if this were a reason for limiting the franchise, most of us would have no vote. There are no more women adapted to politics than there are men, and a woman will not rush into the political field merely because she has a vote. But the possession of a vote will tend to stimulate her intelligence, and this alone is sufficient reason to adopt woman's suffrage. It may do no more in this direction than it has done for men, but both men and women display all degrees of intelligence, and there is no contention that can be made about one that does not apply to the other.

Equality of political treatment for one's father and mother, or for one's son and daughter, ought to look reasonable, but there are some people who have no reason in matters political. These may be ignored. The great mass of both men and women are reasonable and they should receive equal treatment on the grounds of its reasonableness.

Today's Parade
There should be a great turnout of citizens today to see the huge military parade. Even in military countries the sight of 15,000 men in one body is an uncommon one. Many must remember the crowds and the enthusiastic cheers with which the South African contingent was greeted when it paraded the city previous to its departure. No such enthusiasm has been displayed publicly for the front of the troops leaving for the front during the present war. The feeling is too deep for cheering or any of the usual manifestations of sympathy.

Est the men would like to see their folks out on the line of march. If we can do nothing else we can show them what we think of them by our presence. It is to be hoped also that everything possible will be

done to attract the young men still out of uniform to see their friends and comrades in line. None but cowards could stand aside and let these marching thousands pass away to death or glory and not desire to be of them and with them. What is life worth if our ideals, our traditions, the great historic standards for which the empire exists, the freedom we have set before the world, to practice ourselves, and to make possible for others, even for the Kaiser-corrupted German, our brave men are going out to fight—what would life be worth if all this were to go down in a welter of defeat merely because we had not the red blood or the race instinct in us to stand up for our kind?

"Th women have a great responsibility in this matter, and they can exert much influence with the men they meet. It is for the sake of the women and children that all war is eventually fought, and when the cause is so just, and the call so true, can any man with a man's heart stand back?

Submarine Quibbles

Relying on the quibble that vessels armed at all are vessels armed for attack, the German Government has determined that it will sink all enemy vessels it meets whether carrying passengers or not, and settle the point whether they carry arms afterwards. It will be difficult to prove that a vessel has not arms on board when she lies at the bottom of the sea, and her drowned passengers will give no testimony. This is what Germany expects the United States to swallow without demur. Little Holland, with 600,000 men ready to jump into war if necessary, is not so treated by Germany, as two Netherlands citizens pointed out in Toronto yesterday. When demand was made for payment for the sinking of two Dutch vessels, instant response was made by the Kaiser.

The whole dispute about the arming of merchant vessels is a pretext of Germany's invention, and were Germany in the same position as Great Britain is, there would be no suggestion of treating the old rules of maritime warfare differently. What annoys Germany is the immense loss she has suffered in submarines. If the submarine campaign had been a success there would have been no complaints about British vessels carrying weapons. Nor do we have any specific instances given by Germany of armed vessels of the merchantile service ever having done the dreadful things which Germany appears to fear.

Had any or many German submarines been sunk by gun-fire from British merchant ships there might have been grounds for complaint, but the chief objection of Germany from this side of the question is that British vessels have attempted to run down German submarines. Why should they not if they have the opportunity, and the submarine seems to be going to take an opportunity without warning to sink the merchant vessels?

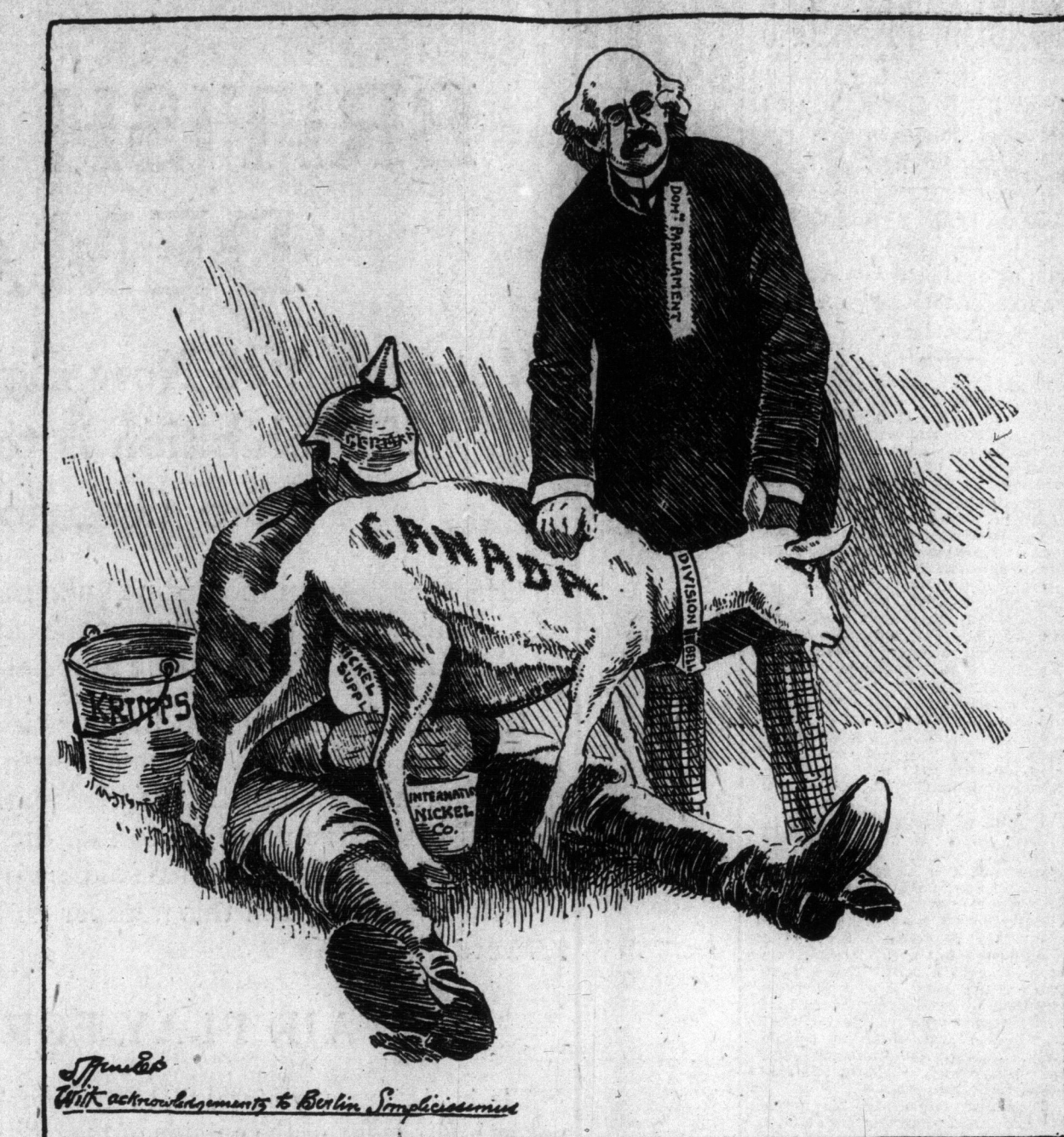
The whole German campaign is drawing to a new phase of frightfulness. Twelve o'clock in Berlin is six o'clock in Toronto, and it may be at time of writing that renewed efforts will be made by the German submarines to astonish humanity. Germany can scarcely do more than she has already done in sheer cruelty and blood-thirst. We shall not be surprised at anything the Kaiser attempts, but we should be very much surprised if any of his diabolical designs brings him much success.

Wars are not won by attacking merchant vessels, and it is only a petty kind of piracy to indulge in such outlaw practices as Germany proposes. If Germany had the naval power it would be the real source of British power at which the Kaiser would strike. The British navy, however, is not afraid of the German submarine campaign, and the war will not be vastly affected one way or another by submarine attacks on merchant vessels.

We believe that the date set for a renewal of submarine warfare of the German variety was intended to synchronize with the big effort made upon Verdun, but the fall of Erzerum made it necessary for the Kaiser to start something to show his people that he was still in the ring, and the Verdun attack was precipitated ahead of schedule. It was certainly anticipated in England and in France, and the military critics have been made, as the military critics point out, advances can always be made if a nation is prepared to pay the price.

France has prudent generals who prefer to save their men even at the loss of a few miles of ground. The Kaiser, who is not a democrat, but an out-of-date feudal and aristocrat, and knows nothing of the value of men's lives, is willing to pour the hordes of the German armies into any position which his not otherwise military plans require. He did the same thing at Ypres in the fall of 1914, and those who read the wonderful account in "The Undying Story" will understand what a hopeless task he has set himself. The French had

AS MANY CANADIANS VIEW IT



not found themselves then. The British scarcely existed. Yet the flower of the German army withered before them in those terrible days. Now that the French are at their bravest, and the British at their brightest, the fiercest efforts of the German armies are destined to melt into misery.

The dreadful butchery may prolong itself for weary months to come, but that will be merely because the allies are not able to bring all their available force into the field as soon as they ought. The men who slack at home, the fellows who are more interested in themselves than in anybody else or the great nation which their apathy disgraces, are more responsible than any others for prolonging the war. The Kaiser is still determined to impose his will on the world. The free nations are just as determined that he shall not impose his will on any, but those Germans who now uphold him. Even these are changing their minds.

GERMANS STOP ONSET AGAINST VERDUN LINE

Hun Infantry Made Attacks During Day and Began to Entrench.

BOMBARDMENT WEAKER

Pierce Local Fighting Still Rages in Woerw With French Holding Own.

(Continued From Page 1.)

In Champagne today, while French batteries shattered hostile organizations in the region of Hill 193. The Germans exploded a mine, and the French occupied the crater at a point west of Maisons de Champagne.

The French guns active.

The German front between Soissons and Rheims today, making important points target, French reports the prevalence of great artillery activity today in the regions of Senones and Ban-de-Sapt in the Vosges and the driving of the enemy from some captured trenches at the east of Seppois by a counter-attack.

A Paris despatch, bearing yesterday's date, but delayed by the censor, says that the German attacks are extending westward in Champagne and eastward in the Vosges.

The Temps refers to the skill with which the Germans have organized their offensive, saying:

"This great operation has been admirably carried out by our adversary. In a region naturally very difficult, where bad weather is rendering communications precarious, he has been able to send food supplies and munitions even to the most advanced line of combat."

The correspondent of the Berlin newspapers who were permitted to visit on Sunday the ground gained by the Germans in the Verdun conflict, describes the effect of the German artillery fire on the Village of Haumont as having left a unique picture of fantastic destruction. The same was true of the Town of Brabant.

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The French artillery was so overwhelmed by the German guns that it was frequently unable to make itself dangerous. The French long-range guns were doing their best to keep Fort Douaumont smothered in a rain of shells after five attempts by the French to recapture it had failed.

The City of Verdun had suffered little. The fires that had broken out a few days previous had all been extinguished, except a big blaze in the western end of the town. Villages between Fort Douaumont and Verdun were burning fiercely. The weather was changeable, there being a mixture of sunning and snow.

The Tagliche Rundschau's correspondent declares that the weakness of the artillery fire from the Verdun forts was astonishing.

DURABILITY AGAIN DEMONSTRATED.

The great durability of the Gerhard Heintzman pianos is well known and has been frequently demonstrated. The following letter regarding the purchase and shipping of a Gerhard Heintzman piano to far off China will nevertheless be read with interest:

"Canadian Presbyterian Mission, 'Changtehbo, Honan, China.'
Jan. 4, 1916.
'Gerhard Heintzman, Ltd.,
'Toronto:
'Dear Sirs—I wish to inform you that the piano purchased from you and which you shipped to me last June arrived in good condition, unharmed, without a scratch, and the tone is perfect. Many thanks for the care taken in the packing and shipping of the instrument.
'Yours truly,
'(Signed) "M. Logan."

ALLIES MASS BIG ARMY AT PORT OF BORDEAUX

Fresh Forces Collected at French Seaport to Be Ready for Emergencies.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—The entente allies have massed from 500,000 to 1,000,000 fresh troops at Bordeaux to be ready for emergencies, according to passengers who arrived here today from France aboard the steamship Rochambeau. None of these soldiers, it was asserted, have been near the battle lines in any of the arenas of the war. They are said to comprise a part of Lord Kitchener's new army, and drafts from the French colonies.

FALL PROVED FATAL.
GUELPH, Ont., Feb. 29.—Mrs. Michael Kurpinsky, 140 Ontario street, met with a fatal accident last evening. She was reaching up to a shelf above the collar stairs, and losing her balance, fell head foremost to the bottom. She failed to regain consciousness and died at 8 o'clock this morning.

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TURK ARMY DECIMATED BY RUSSIAN VICTORY

Corps of Three Divisions Reduced to Size of Brigades.

MUCH BOOTY CAPTURED

Erzerum Only Stronghold in Asia Minor and Armenia.

(Continued From Page 1.)

a steep mountain, protected not only by frost but by wire entanglements and other defences, and assaulted the fortress after an artillery preparation. The assault on the forts and principal position lasted from Feb. 11 to Feb. 15, inclusive.

"After we had taken the forts on the left flank of the principal Turkish line of defence, extending 40 versts (27 miles), the fate of the forts in the centre and on the right flank, and, after the fall of the second line forts and the principal defensive position was decided Feb. 18 after short attacks. These fortifications, which were full of Turkish dead, remained in our possession.

"During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or taken prisoner with all their officers." On the left flank alone we took 137 artillery pieces of various calibres in good condition. In the defence works of the central fortress we took another 125 pieces.

"The exact number of Turkish prisoners is 235 officers and 12,758 men. Muslim Army Shattered.

"It is possible to estimate the force of the blow which we dealt the Turkish army by the fact that some of their army corps of three divisions now number only from three thousand to five thousand men, with a few guns. All of the remainder have either fallen into our hands or perished in the fighting or from cold.

"The Turkish prisoners captured in Erzerum or in the pursuit complain bitterly that their headquarters staff was concentrated in the hands of the Germans, who during the assault on the fortress were the first to abandon the fortified positions, causing panic and disorder among the already shaken Turkish troops."

Your Chance—The West is Calling.
Homeseekers' excursions to Western Canada at low fares via Canadian Pacific each Tuesday, March 7 to Oct. 31 inclusive. Particulars from any Canadian Pacific agent, or W. B. Howard, District Passenger Agent, Toronto, Ont.

SPRINGTIME'S OPPORTUNITY.
Those who contemplate going west this spring will do well to bear in mind that the most fertile and prosperous sections, and all the business centres, of the great west, are reached by the Canadian Northern Railway. New equipment, new routes, new opportunities—a chance for all. Cheap fares during March and April. If interested, apply to any Canadian Northern agent, or write R. L. Fairbairn, general passenger agent, 68 King street east, Toronto, Ont.

SOLDIER INJURED.
Private J. Moreland, 127th Battalion, fell on the slippery sidewalk opposite 277 Yonge street, last night, and badly gashed his forehead. He was taken to St. Michael's Hospital in the police ambulance.

See Niagara Falls in Winter—See Bridge Now in Full Foreview.
\$2.25 Niagara Falls, Ont., and return; \$2.70 Buffalo and return from Toronto; Saturday, March 4.

The Toronto Bowling Club is running an excursion to Niagara Falls and Buffalo, Saturday, March 4, leaving Toronto 8.10 a.m. via Grand Trunk Railway. Do not miss this opportunity of visiting Niagara in winter. It has been well said that those who have viewed Niagara only in summer have but half seen it.

Return fare to Niagara Falls, Ont., \$2.25 and Buffalo \$2.70. Tickets are valid returning on all regular trains up to and including Monday, March 6. Secure tickets at any office, north-west corner King and Yonge streets, or Union Station ticket-office.

BRITISH TARIFF WILL UNDERGO BIG CHANGES

Chambers of Commerce Take Stand Against Continuance of Free Trade.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE

Dominions Will Benefit by Compiling Policy Directed Against Germany.

(Continued From Page 1.)

duce its requirements from its own soil and its own factories, rather than in the possession of values which may be exported and exchanged for products and manufactures of foreign countries."

The discussion of this resolution brought out that its chief significance lay in the enunciation of the principle that the country's interests in production were more important than exports and foreign trade, which hitherto have been the national reliance.

Another resolution, for reciprocal trading relations and tariffs, developed some opposition from the adherents of the traditional free trade policy, but finally prevailed with practical unanimity. It provides "first, for preferential trading relations between all British countries; second, for reciprocal trading relations between the British empire and allied countries; third, for favorable treatment of neutral countries; fourth, for restriction by tariffs and otherwise on all trade relations with enemy countries, so as to make it impossible to return to pre-war conditions."

Not For "Freeze Out."
The Bradford delegation urged absolute prohibition of further dealings with Germany, but this did not prevail.

Another tariff resolution urges the government to take steps to foster and safeguard British industries.

The debate on the tariff resolutions elicited an earnest warning from one of the London delegates against "adopting a policy of industrial warfare in this supreme moment of national settlement."

He maintained that such a policy would divide the world into two rival camps and might align America with Great Britain's commercial enemies.

The speaker was interrupted, and finally gave way to the overwhelming sentiment in favor of the tariff resolution. A standing vote showed less than a dozen delegates adhering to the old policy.

Other resolutions adopted provided for the government's immediate consulting with Canada, Australia and the other colonies on the problems arising as the result of the war, particularly with reference to a reciprocity agreement and the regulation of future trade relations with Germany and Austria; also for the immediate appointment of a minister of commerce and industry with cabinet rank to be chosen from the business classes.

Lesson Learned, Says McKenna.
Chancellor McKenna, in the course of his address, said:

"We have seen a nation which in time of profound peace deliberately planned its preparation for war, and we have found ourselves dependent upon that nation for many articles of our own trade. I do not think that as a nation we shall ever allow ourselves to be placed in that position again. There is an issue which once divided the nation and on which the opinions of most of us probably remain unchanged. But it does not follow, because we stand now as we stood before, that there is not a very large field for common agreement among us. Because trade is free it does not follow that the government should not assist our traders, and we are prepared to give the assistance of the government to the development of foreign trade in order that it may no longer be controlled by our enemies."

The sessions of the conference will continue thru Thursday. Mr. Bonar Law, secretary of the colonies, will be the chief guest of the chamber tomorrow.

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