

The Herald

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New Government
In New Brunswick

In consequence of continued ill health, Hon. George J. Clarke has resigned the Premiership of New Brunswick and a new Government has been formed, with Hon. James A. Murray as Premier. Premier Murray was Commissioner of Agriculture in the Clarke Government, and he continues in the same office in the new Ministry. Hon. Messrs. Baxter, Attorney-General, Landry, Provincial Secretary and Smith, Public Works, continue. Hon. A. R. Slipp is Commissioner of Lands and Mines, in succession to ex-Premier Clarke, while Hon. H. I. Taylor and A. P. Culligan are members of the Executive without portfolio. The Legislature has been dissolved and a general election ordered. Nominations will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17th, and polling on Saturday, February 24th.

Germany's Desperate
Plunge

As will be seen elsewhere in this day's Herald, the Kaiser has served notice of the inauguration of unrestricted submarine warfare. Are we to assume that this is the last desperate throw of the dice? Is this an acknowledgment to the world that the German war lord has lost all hope of gains by his armies, and that in a fit of rashness and desperation he lets loose the only weapon left on which he may hope to effect serious damage on the enemy's forces? It looks like a last desperate plunge.

Germany's official notification of its latest hellish resolve was addressed to the Government of the United States, and Great Britain received its first intimation thereof from Washington. Did Germany think President Wilson would not resent, even this proclamation of murder and piracy? Wilson seemed to have gone so far to meet the wishes of the Germans in their hypocritical peace talk, that the Kaiser may have concluded the President would stand anything. It will be remembered, too, that Count Bernstorff, German Ambassador at Washington, had entered into an agreement with President Wilson, some time ago, in reference to the operations of submarines on neutral ships. But Germany tore this agreement to ribbons, and immediately told Wilson what was done. It was a daring and desperate stroke, and whatever ideas the Kaiser entertained in the matter, it proved too much for the President, and he gave way. President Wilson has done what a great many believe he should have done a couple of years ago; he handed the German Ambassador his passports.

Although the President has taken the extreme step of breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, he still seems to entertain some hope, most vain we should think, that his country will be kept out of active hostilities. This may be gathered from expressions in his speech before Congress on this question. "God grant," he said, "that we may not be challenged to defend them (these rights) by acts of willful injustice on the part of the Government of Germany." What reason can any one have to hope that Germany will refrain from "acts of willful injustice" in the conduct of this war. The President has kicked the German Ambassador out; what can he expect?

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 1.—Sir Thomas White's resolution calling for legislation authorizing the government to borrow \$100,000,000 to meet maturing obligations of the Dominion, to carry on public works and to meet expenditure for general purposes, was adopted in the commons today and the bill based upon it was introduced. The finance minister during the discussion intimated that a considerable portion of any money which might be borrowed under the provisions of the bill would be obtained by domestic loan. He said he would like to float all loans in Canada but pointed out that the condition of exchange might make it desirable to borrow in the United States. He told the house that Canada's revenue for the present fiscal year would be sufficient to pay all ordinary and capital expenditures of the country and sixty or seventy million dollars of the principal of its war expenditure. He estimated that during the coming year it would be necessary to borrow \$250,000,000 on this side of the Atlantic to meet war expenditures and additional sums to establish credits for Great Britain in the Dominion. Balancing the advances made by Canada to the Imperial government to pay for munitions manufactured here, against the sums owing by Canada to the Imperial government for supplies for the Dominion's troops overseas, he concluded that Great Britain was now indebted to Canada to the extent of \$18,000,000.

Mr. J. H. Rainville of Chambly Vercheux was elected, upon the nomination of Sir Robert Borden, at the opening of the house to the office of chairman of the committee of the whole and deputy speaker. The prime minister in proposing Mr. Rainville's name said he had had experience as a member of the house for a period of nearly six years, had a knowledge of the rules of the house and possessed the qualities of promptness of decision, courtesy and tact, which were so necessary to the successful discharge of the duties of the office. The prime minister read a telegram received from the British ambassador at Washington announcing that the German ambassador had informed the secretary of state of the United States that all Germany's pledges respecting restrictions on submarine warfare were withdrawn from Feb. 1st.

War Savings Certificates

The new War Savings Certificates which have been created by the Government to encourage thrift and economy and to give everyone an opportunity to assist in financing our war expenditure, are now on sale at every bank and money order post office in Canada. The \$25 certificate sells for \$21.50, the \$50 for \$43, and the \$100 for \$86.

As an investment these certificates offer many attractive features—chief of which are the absolute security and the excellent interest return. For every \$21.50 lent to the Government now, \$25 will be returned at the end of three years. There are two other features which are especially interesting to small investors. First, the certificates may be surrendered at any time if the buyer should need his money; and second, each certificate is registered at Ottawa in the buyer's name, and if lost or stolen, is therefore valueless to anyone else.

But while they are excellent from an investment standpoint, the certificates should appeal strongly to Canadians, because they offer to those who must serve at home a splendid opportunity for a most important patriotic service. The person who honestly saves to the extent of his ability and places his savings at the disposal of the Government by purchasing these certificates, may feel that he is having a direct share in feeding, equipping and munitioning our Canadian soldiers, who are so nobly doing their part.

The "Stanley" under control of the Marine & Fisheries Department, left Georgetown for Halifax, via Pictou on Monday.

Progress of the War

Paris, Feb. 1.—(Official)—Patrol encounters occurred at various points along the front, especially east of Rheims and in the region of Altkirch. Adjutant Magon yesterday brought down his fifth German aeroplane. Last night our aerial squadrons bombed the railway station and enemy storehouses at Marigny and Verannes and also some barracks east of Noles. One of our aeroplanes armed with cannon fired fifty shells upon barracks of the enemy at Meuil, St. Nicaise and at Berly on the Somme.

Yesterday, Hon. P. E. Blondin made a statement in denial of reports of his alleged utterances during the Dorchester by-election. The minister read the affidavit first published as to his remarks and a subsequent explanation of the same attributed to Felix Duguet who was described as his lieutenant. He then went on to say "First of all, as for Mr. Durocher, I beg to state that he did not act as my secretary or lieutenant and that during the whole campaign I had no connection whatever with him. I never spoke to him concerning the matter referred to in the report which I have just read. I never authorized him to make any statement for me, and I was never informed by him or anybody else of the statements reported as made by him on my behalf. I have enquired from Mr. Durocher, about the correctness of the statement, and he denies, and authorized me to deny to this House, the last part of that report, namely, the part which relates to conscription."

"As to the statement itself, to wit, that I advised people to cross the boundary, which, I am informed, was freely commented on by the Honorable Members for Assiniboia (Mr. Tardif), St. John (Mr. Pugsley) and Westmoreland (Mr. Copp). I must say that there is not a single particle of truth in that report. The facts concerning the matter are very plain to you. I was replying to a speech in which my opponents had strongly endeavored to show that conscription was coming by means of the National Service Cards, which meant nothing but conscription, and that very soon coercion would be used by the Borden-English Protestant Government against the Catholic French-Canadians and that very soon armed soldiers would come and force the husbands and sons to go to war."

"These are the very notes that are still fresh on the paper on which I wrote them when preparing my answer."

Mr. Blondin, "I can swear to it. I can bring into this House 150 affidavits of men worthy of confidence which I am afraid will make the whole Liberal party blush. My answer to these arguments was that the National Service cards did not mean anything of the kind and were only a mere appeal to the patriotism and good will of every citizen whose duty it was to sign them; that if conscription had to come it would come openly; that this Government could not promise or declare that conscription would never come, as it would be cowardly on the part of the Government to make such a declaration or promise. I said that it might come but that for the present there was no question of conscription, and the Government did not by the National Service cards intend any coercion of the people and that the best proof of this was that the stretch of 4,000 miles of frontier had been left unguarded and open. And this I said in order to show the stupidity of the contention of my opponents. I may add that any other construction of my words is purely and simply gross misrepresentation."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked the Minister to supplement his explanation by giving the name of the Liberal speaker he had referred to.

Mr. Blondin replied that the Liberal speaker was Mr. Danjou, a lawyer from Rimouski.

Paris, Feb. 2.—French trenches south of Leintrey in Lorraine were attacked last evening by Germans. The attacks failed. There were artillery actions last night at Louvemont, north of Verdun and at Metzeral in the Vosges. A German aviator dropped five bombs yesterday on Dunkirk. The damage was small and there were no victims.

Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 2.—Artillery and reconnoitering activities of a lively sort are reported in today's army headquarters statement in many sectors of the Franco-Belgian front. The artillery duel was particularly sharp between the Ancre and the Somme, while in the Guedecourt sector of the Somme front an operation by a British force resulted in the German lines being entered.

With the British Armies in France, Feb. 3.—German raiders who made two attacks yesterday morning against British trenches south of the Ypres salient looked for all the world like the famous Klu Klux Klan crusaders of reconstruction days in the southern States of America. They were clad in white sheets fashioned into a sort of smock, wore white hoods and masks and sought thus to cross the snow covered No Man's Land without detection. The raiders came over in two waves only to be hurled back with heavy loss in killed and wounded. They swept into a perfect storm of machine gun fire and there were crimson splashes in the snow wherever one of the strange white figures fell. There was a ghastly aspect to this affair throughout. It was attempted at the misty hour when the late winter moonlight fades into dawn. After an all night vigil in the front line trenches soldiers' nerves are apt to be jumpy as the morning approaches. On this occasion there had been the usual preliminary German bombardment and something was expected but not the ghastly apparitions which eventually greeted the gaze of the sentries as they peered in the dimly half light into the barren stretch of white separating their trenches from those of the enemy. Regardless as to whether they were ghosts or Germans the sentries knew that the proper thing to do was shoot and there came a crackle of rifles all along the line. One Irish officer stood and let go with his revolver, then the machine guns chimed in and the first wave of the first line was breaking when the second came over. Two Germans managed to plunge into a British trench but they got out so quickly that they left behind them an unused can of dynamite, many grenades and rifles. One of the two died in the British wire entanglements as he was attempting to retreat. The officer commanding the portion of the trench under attack, reports to-day that while some of his troops had been under fire for the first time he had difficulty in restraining them from pursuing the retreating ghosts. An incident shows that the humane spirit had not vanished in this war occurred recently when some German prisoners appeared behind the British lines with British gas masks along across their shoulders. Inquiry developed that the British Army authorities had ordered this precaution so that the prisoners may have the same protection from gas attacks from their own lines as their captors enjoyed.

Paris, Feb. 4.—The following communication was given out here today: "There were no important developments last night with the exception of patrol encounters in the sector between Louvemont and Chambré, Verdun front and in region of Badonvillers."

The Dominion Parliament is expected to adjourn today until April 19th.

It is now learned that the engines of all the German and Austrian Steamships, interned in New York harbor, as well as probably elsewhere, have been deliberately destroyed by their German crews. This was done in anticipation of the break in diplomatic relations; so that these ships would be no good to the United States. The loss is placed at \$30,000,000.

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Paris, Feb. 2.—On a question of privilege in the Commons

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