

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1915

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 81 QUEEN STREET,
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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Please Send In Your Subscriptions.

The question of the German blockade of the British coasts, quite naturally attracts considerable attention in London. Thus far, however, no very serious consequences have resulted. Some three or four freight steamers have been sunk, but nearly all their crews have been saved. The British Government are evidently awaiting results before putting into motion any drastic movement of retaliation. This may be inferred from what the Premier said in the House of Commons a few days ago. He pointed out that the much discussed retaliatory plan of Great Britain, though still tentative, was much broader in scope than previously suggested, in that it was a matter for the consideration of all the Allies, concerning which a joint note from the Allies might be expected. The statement was likewise made in the House that the British Government might deem it necessary to alter the decision whereby cotton up to the present has not been classed as contraband.

According to an article published in the New York Times, the German Empire has already commenced to wince under the pressure being applied both on land and on sea. The Kaiser's army may display unprecedented bravery in battle, they may overrun Bukovina and drive the Russians out of Poland, they may even gain successes against British and French troops in the western fighting area, which will give Berlin cause for noisy and ostentatious celebration, but all of this is of little moment compared with the practical admission of official Germany that the food question has already become one of major importance, and that the British threat of blockading German ports will have the effect of producing, if not actual starvation among the civil population, a condition closely akin to it.

"The sinking by Germany of merchant ships is simply an extension to the sea of her war against non-combatants on land," said Victor Augagneur, the French minister of marine. "The French government has absolute confidence in the naval situation," continued M. Augagneur, "and is not intimidated by the German blockade." When the steamer Amiral Ganteaume, bearing women and children refugees, was torpedoed and twenty lives were lost, great indignation was felt throughout the civilized world, but we now regard the sinking of merchant vessels with a certain calm. Germany did not wait until Feb. 18 to begin torpedoing."

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—At the opening of the Commons Sir Robert Borden read the following message received by the Duke of Connaught from the Colonial Secretary, and dated February 16:—"Your ministers will be glad to know that the whole Canadian Contingent are doing well at the front, having safely crossed over to France." The announcement was heartily applauded.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The private members had their innings again in the Commons this afternoon. They will not have many more days to themselves and they made the most of their opportunity. Most of the time was taken up with a discussion of two impor-

tant public bills. One was an amendment to the Railway Act moved by Mr. J. E. Armstrong of East Lambton proposing that steamship companies should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Railway Act. The bill met with considerable opposition. Mr. Edmund Bristol, of Centre Toronto, gave a short but pointed speech on the subject showing the difficulties in the way. His arguments were impressive and carried considerable weight. It was finally decided to send the measure to the Railway Committee for consideration. Hon. Frank Cochrane announced that the revision of the Railway Act will not proceed this session so that it is doubtful whether Mr. Armstrong's measure will get much consideration, if this bill is disposed of. The debate on the bill of Mr. Robert Bickerdike to abolish capital punishment was resumed, Hon. G. J. Doherty making a lengthy and closely reasoned argument against the proposal of the member for St. Lawrence. Mr. Doherty said that in 1864, a committee of British statesmen had considered this problem and had almost actually decided as to the wisdom of abolition. It was clear then that names of the highest repute and arguments of great weight could be quoted on both sides of the question. Personally he was convinced that the measure should not be passed into law at the present time at all events. Mr. Bickerdike has shown absolute sincerity in his arguments, but he had given an interpretation to the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" which could hardly be accepted. Surely no one could argue that it would be wrong to take life in self defence. Surely no one would say that our soldiers now fighting in the battlefields of Europe were violating this commandment. Mr. Bickerdike's argument seems to imply that a man had a more absolute right to his life than he had to his liberty. Of that Mr. Doherty was not certain. Mr. Doherty contended that the maintenance of this penalty is the deterrent on the people. The execution of one innocent man is a lamentable thing but against it should be set the safety of all the people of the state. The bill of Mr. Bickerdike was defeated. Mr. George McCroney introduced a bill amending the criminal code. The bill makes it a crime for a seller of real estate to use money which he has received from the second purchaser for any other purpose than securing a title. Mr. Doherty said it was not proposed to introduce any amendments to the criminal code this year. A number had been suggested and he proposed a special committee to consider them. This was agreed to by the House. A bill amending the Railway Act as far as capitalization was concerned, moved by Mr. W. F. MacLean, was sent to the Railway Committee.

Progress of the War.

Paris, Feb. 18.—The official statement issued tonight says: In Champagne, in the region of Souain, Perthes and Boesjour, the enemy delivered an attack on the night of Feb. 17-18, then on the morning of the 18th, two very violent counter-attacks along the whole front, for the purpose of recapturing the trenches lost by him on the 16th and 17th. These two counter-attacks were completely repulsed, our troops driving back their assailants at the point of the bayonet. In maintaining these gains we have taken three machine guns and several hundred prisoners. According to the declaration of these prisoners, the German regiments engaged suffered very heavy losses, reaching in some cases one in four, and in other cases one-half of their effectives. On the heights of the Meuse, in the vicinity of Eparges, where, on Feb. 17 we gained some ground, this ground has been retained, notwithstanding a counter-attack by the enemy. In Lorraine, in the region of Xon, we delivered an attack which enabled us to occupy and capture the village of Norroy, and occupy the whole position. It is untrue that the Germans have, as announced in their communication, evacuated Norroy. They have been driven out of it. In Alsace supplementary details show that the southern peak of the Sudel farm, conquered by us on Wednesday, constituted a formidable organized redoubt. There we took a bomb-thrower, five machine guns,

some hundreds of rifles, shields, bombs, utensils, barbed wire entanglements, thousands of cartridges and sacks for holding earth."

London, Feb. 21.—The first serious attacks by British and French fleets and aeroplanes and seaplanes on the Dardanelles, which commenced Friday and continued Saturday, were attended by success. For the first time in the European side of the Straits were silenced Friday and only one fort on the Asiatic side was firing in the evening. No warships were damaged. No official report of the bombardment is yet issued by the Admiralty. The bombardment must have been the most serious ever undertaken in the view of naval experts. No less than eight battleships and armored cruisers took part, these warships having a total of thirty 12-inch guns and six 10-inch guns which outranged the guns of the forts. Early on Friday morning this fleet included the British battle cruiser Inflexible, which had just returned from Falkland Island, where she took part in the battle, which sank Von Spee's squadron, opened fire on the forts at Cape Helles and Kun Kalesi at the entrance to the Straits. When these forts had been damaged the battleship force closed in and engaged the forts with six, seven, and nine-inch guns which it is believed must have poured an enormous rain of shells on the Turkish positions. Besides bringing Turkish ships on her knees the Allies in attempting to force the Dardanelles wish to free large stocks of grain held in Russian warehouses and which the Allies wish to get out to relieve the market of the world and also to provide Russia with necessary credit to pay for war material bought abroad.

Paris, Feb. 19.—A daring fight made the night of Feb. 8, by an aviator—who brought down six projectiles in the vicinity of Ostend, is recounted in a note given out by the War Office this afternoon. The aviator left his station at 9.40 p. m. in a violent west wind. His first projectile landed on what appeared to be a pile of munition and supply wagons near Middelkerke.

Roosevelt Speaks.

In the New York Independent, Theodore Roosevelt thus writes: Under my direction, as President, the United States signed the Hague Conventions. All the nations engaged in the present war signed these Conventions, although one or two of the nations qualified their acceptance or withheld their signatures to certain articles. This, however, did not in the least relieve the signatory Powers from the duty to guarantee one another in the enjoyment of the rights supposed to be secured by the Conventions. To make this guarantee worth anything, it was, of course, necessary actively to enforce it against any Power breaking the Convention or acting against its clear purpose. To make it really effective it should be enforced as quickly against non-signatory as against signatory Powers; for to give a Power free permission to do wrong if it did not sign would put a premium on non-signing, so far as big, aggressive Powers are concerned.

I authorized the signature of the United States to these Conventions. They forbid the violation of neutral territory, and, of course, the subjugation of unoffending neutral nations, as Belgium has been subjugated.

They forbid such destruction as that inflicted on Louvain, Dinant and other towns in Belgium, the burning of their priceless public libraries and wonderful halls and churches, and the destruction of cathedrals such as that at Rheims.

They forbid the infliction of heavy pecuniary penalties and the taking of severe punitive measures at the expense of civilian populations.

They forbid the bombardment of cities including the dropping of bombs from aeroplanes—of unfortified cities and of cities whose defences were not at the moment attacked.

tended to live up to its obligations, and that our people understood that living up to solemn obligations, like any other serious performance of duty, meant willingness to make effort and to incur risk.

If I had for one moment supposed that signing these Hague Conventions meant literally nothing whatever beyond the expression of a pious wish which any Power was at liberty to disregard with impunity, in accordance with the dictation of self-interest, I would certainly not have permitted the United States to be a party to such a mischievous farce.

President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, however, take the view that when the United States assumes obligations in order to secure small and unoffending neutral nations against hideous wrong, its action is not predicated on any intention to "make the guarantee effective. They take the view that when we are asked to redeem in the concrete promises we made in the abstract, our duty is to disregard our obligations and to preserve ignoble peace for ourselves by regarding with coldblooded and timid indifference the most frightful ravages of war committed at the expense of a peaceful and unoffending country. This is the cult of cowardice. That President Wilson and Mr. Bryan profess to and put it in action would be of small consequence if only they themselves were concerned. The importance of their action is that it commits the United States.

Elaborate technical arguments have been made to justify this timid and selfish abandonment of duty, this timid and selfish failure to work for the world peace of righteousness, by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan. No sincere believer in disinterested and self-sacrificing work for peace can justify it, and work for peace will never be worth much unless accompanied by courage, effort and self-sacrifice. Yet those very apostles of pacifism who, when they can do so with safety, scream loudest for peace, have made themselves objects of contemptuous derision by keeping silence in this crisis, or even by praising Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan for having thus abandoned the cause of peace.

They are supported by the men who insist that all that we are concerned with is ourselves escaping even the smallest risk the twilight follow upon the performance of duty to any one except ourselves. This last is, however, a very exalted plea. It is, however, defensible. But if as a nation we intend to act in accordance with it, we must never promise to do any thing for anyone else.

The technical arguments as to the Hague Conventions not requiring us to act will at once be brushed aside by any man who honestly and in good faith faces the situation. Either the Hague Conventions meant something or else they meant nothing. If in the event of their violation none of the signatory Powers were even to protest, then of course they meant nothing; and it was an act of unspeakable silliness to enter into them.

If, on the other hand, they meant anything whatsoever, it was the duty of the United States as the most powerful, or at least the richest and most populous neutral nation, to take action for upholding them; when their violation brought such appalling disaster to Belgium. There is no escape from this alternative.

Financing The War.

London, Feb. 15.—In a statement explanatory of the arrangement made at the recent conference between the Finance Ministers of France and Russia and himself in Paris, David Lloyd George told in the House of Commons this afternoon that the expenditures of the allies on the war would be two billion pounds sterling (\$1,000,000,000), during the current year, of which Great Britain was spending more money than were her two allies.

The present war, Mr. Lloyd George said, was the most expensive in material, men and money that had ever been waged. Great Britain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer told the House of Commons could finance the war for five years out of the proceeds of her investments abroad. France was able to do so for about three years with something to spare.

Russia, he said, although rich in natural resources, was in a different position. Mr. Lloyd George said that it was decided at the conference of the Finance Ministers in Paris not to issue a joint loan.

The Chancellor said that Russia had increased her productivity from thirty to forty per cent. by suppressing the sale of vodka. Russia had had special difficulties in financing her purchases abroad, and the same thing applied to France.

"I am not sure we realize the strain upon this gallant country," the Chancellor declared. "She had a larger proportion in the field, and the enemy in occupation of the richest part of her territory. Nevertheless the confidence of the French nation strikes every visitor to Paris. There is to be seen a calm and sincere courage supposed to be incompatible with the temperament of the Celt. One hears the general assurance that the German army has as much chance of crushing France as of over-running Mars."

Each ally must bring its resources into the common stock. Mr. Lloyd George continued, war cannot be made under limited principles. The conference dismissed the idea of a joint international loan which would have frightened every Bourse. It has been decided that each country should raise the money it needed for purchases abroad, so far as conditions allowed. But if help were needed for purchase abroad, those who had means would help to the best of their power. The only joint loan would be with respect to the advances made, or to be made, to the smaller of the allied states.

With regard to Russian purchases, the Chancellor said it had been decided that the first £50,000,000 for this purpose should be raised in equal amounts on the Paris and London Markets.

Neutral Flags

London, Feb. 19.—The British reply to the United States note regarding the use of neutral flags by British merchant ships published tonight, concludes as follows: Great Britain has always, when neutral, accorded to vessels of other states at war, liberty to use the British flag as a means of protection against capture and instance are on record when United States vessels availed themselves of this facility during the American civil war. It would be contrary to fair expectation if now, when conditions are reversed, the United States and neutral nations were to grudge British ships liberty to take similar action. The British Government have no intention of advising merchant ships to use foreign flags as a general practice or to resort to them otherwise than for escaping capture or destruction. The obligation upon belligerent warships to ascertain for themselves the nationality and character of a vessel before capturing, sinking or destroying it has been universally recognized. If that obligation is fulfilled the hoisting of a neutral flag on board a British vessel cannot possibly endanger neutral shipping and the British Government holds that if loss to neutral ships is caused by disregard of obligation it is upon the enemy vessels and upon the Government giving orders that it should be disregarded, that the sole responsibility for injury to neutrals ought to rest.

New York, Feb. 15.—The X-ray examinations of cotton cargoes of outgoing British ships, which have been conducted by representatives of the British government for several months as a means of preventing shipment of contraband of war, revealed today that bales of cotton waste consigned aboard the White Star liner Celtic contained rubber. The Celtic is due to sail tomorrow for Mediterranean ports. The consignee was given by officials of the line as a firm in Genoa, Italy. The consignee, they said, was A. B. Newman, of this city.

The rubber was in the form of sheets and easily concealed. Each of the 118 bales in the consignment contained about four pounds. Officials of the White Star Line said that the office of the United States District Attorney had been furnished with the name of the consignee and consignee.

There will be sold by Public Auction at the Court House at Georgetown in King's County, on Monday the 22nd day of March A. D. 1915 at the hour of twelve o'clock noon, ALL that tract or parcel of land situate (1) 1/2 and being on Township Number Fifty-nine in King's County, adjacent to the said southern boundary of the said County, containing fifty acres of land, more or less, and being a part of a certain lot in possession of John McLean, deceased, following the course of the said Road, and being bounded on the North side of the said Road, and on the South side of the said Road, and on the East side of the said Road, and on the West side of the said Road, and being a part of a certain lot in possession of John McLean, deceased, following the course of the said Road, and being bounded on the North side of the said Road, and on the South side of the said Road, and on the East side of the said Road, and on the West side of the said Road, and being a part of a certain lot in possession of John McLean, deceased, following the course of the said Road, and being bounded on the North side of the said Road, and on 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