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TWELVE PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 17 1915—TWELVE PAGES

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Senate Reading Room
Jan 16—17388
SENATE P.O.

40 BRITISH AND FRENCH AIRCRAFT RAID GERMAN BASES

BRITISH WIN FIGHT WITH GERMAN MASSES ON WAY TO CALAIS

Another Huge Force Collected in Flanders by Kaiser Fails to Make Progress—French Captured in Brilliant Dash Two Miles of Trenches in Champagne Region.

BERLIN, Feb. 16.—Admiral Behncke of the marine department has made a statement to Lieut. Commander Walter R. Gherardi, naval attache of the American embassy at Berlin, which is given out officially as the best exposition of the situation with respect to Germany's declaration of the waters around the British isles as a war zone. Admiral Behncke's statement follows:

"In waging this commercial warfare, England had in view the subjugation of Germany by starvation. Germany had in every way sought to bring the attention of the neutral powers, and all others, to the necessity she was under to obtain food for her civilian population. No results could be obtained from her efforts.

Bring England to Terms.

"Since the shutting off of food supplies had now come to a point where Germany had no longer sufficient food to feed her people, it became necessary for her to bring England to terms by the exercise of force. Germany knows that by the use of the submarine, England can be placed in a position where food will be lacking. She has the submarine force with which to do it; her life as a nation and the lives of her people depend upon putting this campaign into action, and she must do so.

"The difficulties lying in the way of this campaign have been largely credited with the care which it is desired to give to neutral ships and to the lives of those on board all commercial ships, whether neutral or belonging to the enemy.

Objects to Armed Ships.

"First, it cannot see merchant ships with guns for self-defence, England adopted a policy against which Germany strongly protest. The United States took the British point of view. It is not possible for submarines to approach British merchant ships and make examinations without exposing themselves to gunfire or bomb attack, against which a submarine boat would be helpless.

"Second, England has advised her merchant fleet to fly neutral flags, to cover up names and change stacks, to escape the consequences of their nationality. This plan was designed to bring Germany into conflict with other nations.

Will Stand by Decree.

"Germany does not wish in the slightest degree to harm American or other neutral ships, or their cargoes, unless carrying contraband of war. She is, however, in a position where her life depends upon her putting into effect the only means she has of saving herself. She must and will use this means.

"In spite of the great effect the admiralty staff feel the use of submarines will have in bringing the war to a rapid close, the admiralty do not wish to put it into effect to the detriment of neutral commerce and the rights of nations on the high seas. They have therefore stated that if Great Britain will abide by the Declaration of London, without modifications, or by the Treaty of Paris, whereby food supplies necessary for the civil population can be freely brought into Germany, the whole matter of submarine blockade will be dropped by Germany."

Suggests U. S. Convoys.

Admiral Behncke said that Germany was prepared to suggest to the U. S. an even freer and safer method of passage for American ships bound either thru the channel or to English ports, namely, that several American warships should assemble in some port on the southwest coast of Ireland, and when communicated with by wireless by an American merchantman one of them should proceed to the place indicated and convoy the merchantman thru that portion of the sea which Germany, following the example of Great Britain, has declared to be dangerous.

"Of course," said the admiral, "ships under convoy, by the rules of international law, are not subject to search, but the country to which they belong is upon its honor, as it were, to see that they do not carry contraband of war."

Patricias Praised For Fine Bearing

Sir John French Pays Magnificent Tribute to Regiment of Canadians.

MEN SEVERELY TRIED

After Desperate Fighting of Yser, Soldiers Had to Face Winter Campaign.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Field Marshal Sir John French, in a despatch issued tonight, pays a remarkable tribute to the work and fighting qualities of the Princess Patricias.

The field marshal, speaking of general operations, says: "The troops composing the army in France have been subjected to as severe a trial as it is possible to impose upon any body of men. The desperate fighting described in my last despatch had hardly been brought to a conclusion when they were called upon to face rigors and hardships of a winter campaign. Frost and snow have alternated with periods of continuous rain.

"The men have been called upon to stand many hours together almost up to their waists in bitterly cold water, only separated by one or two hundred yards from a most vigilant enemy. Although every measure which science and medical knowledge could suggest to mitigate these hardships was employed, the sufferings of the men have been very great.

Appear Like Soldiers.

"In spite of all this they presented at inspections to which I have referred a most soldier-like, splendid, though somewhat war-worn, appearance. Their spirit remains high and confident, their general health excellent, their condition most satisfactory.

"Reinforcements have arrived from England with remarkable promptitude and rapidity, and they have been speedily drafted into ranks and most of the units I inspected were nearly complete when I saw them. In appearance and quality the drafts sent out have exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and I consider the army in France is much indebted to the adjutant-general's department at the war office for the efficient manner in which its requirements have been met in this most essential respect.

"With regard to these inspections the fine appearance presented by the 27th and 28th divisions, composed principally of battalions which had come from India is praised. Included in the former division was Princess Patricia's Royal Canadian Regiment.

"They are a magnificent set of men and have since done excellent work in the trenches," concluded the report.

NOTED AUTHORITY ON SCRIPTURES IS DEAD

Rev. Thomas Kelly Cheyne Passed Away in London.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Rev. Thos. Kelly Cheyne, a noted authority on scriptural writings, died last night.

Thomas Kelly Cheyne, who was born in 1841, was for many years Oriel professor of interpretation of Scripture at Oxford. He was Canon of Rochester from 1885 to 1908. He was the son of the Rev. T. H. Horne, author of the once popular theological testbook on the "Introduction to the Polyscriptures." He was a member of the Old Testament Revision Company in 1884, and was the author of many theological works.

SHIP PURCHASE BILL PASSED BY CONGRESS

Canadian Press Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The government ship purchase bill, as an amendment to the Weeks naval auxiliary bill, was passed by the house at 1.20 o'clock this morning by a vote of 215 to 121.

Men! Here Are Some Strong Inducements to Buy a Fur or Fur-lined Coat.

Conditions are all in favor of a purchase right now. At Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, they are making a clean sweep of every fur and fur-lined coat in the store, and with a war tax on fur skins, the indications all point to fur garments being dearer next season. Below are a few of the uncommonly cut prices to clear stock this month: Men's fur-lined coats, with Persian lamb or otter collars, black Russian rat linings, finest quality English beaver shells, beautifully tailored, at $75, $85, $90; another line with otter collars, muskrat linings and English beaver shells, clearing at $27.50, $35, $40, $50, $57.50 and $65; men's coon skin coats, finest full furred skins, clearing at $57.50, $65, $67.50, $75; another line extra full furred, great value at $80 and $85. Fur caps, gauntlets and driving robes priced away below cost to clear this month.

ANOTHER BIG ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Bank of England Calls for Tenders for Hundred Millions.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb 16, 8.10 p.m.—The Bank of England, it was announced today, will receive tenders for treasury bills amounting to £20,000,000 ($100,000,000), on February 23. They will be dated Feb. 27 and will be payable, one-half in six months and the remainder in 12 months.

CORNER TO INVESTIGATE MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Breslau Resident Dies Under Circumstances and Medical Evidence Will Be Secured.

Special to The Toronto World.

BERLIN, Ont., Feb. 16.—A coroner's jury was empanelled tonight by Coroner Dr. F. H. Kalbfleisch to enquire into the death of Charles Weller, of Breslau, 39, who died Saturday night after an illness of ten weeks.

The inquest was adjourned for a few days to allow an analysis to be made of the stomach and other internal organs. The coroner told the jury that it was possible that a motive for murder could be established.

PUSH OFFENSIVE IN EAST PRUSSIA

Germans Continue Attacks on Russian Fortified Positions on Niemen River.

STAND MADE AT LYCK

Russians Engage in Heavy Fighting in Carpathian Mountains With Success.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Military movements of the first importance are taking place especially along the eastern line. The German offensive, strongly supported by fresh troops, is being pushed with great vigor both along the East Prussian frontier and in Poland, north of the lower Vistula. The Russians now have evacuated East Prussia, except for a small area near Lyck, where they are opposing the German advance, and also are apparently falling back in north Poland, for the Germans today announced that they have occupied Plock and Bielsk, which the Russians recaptured from them a short time ago.

While the Germans claim that they have inflicted heavy losses on the retiring Russian armies, military men here, and the newspaper correspondents in Petrograd, refer to the Muscovite movement as a strategical retirement to the fortified line which lies along the Niemen river thru Kovno, Grodno, and Lomaz and thence southwest to the fortress of Novo Georgievsk.

Heavy fighting also continues in the Carpathians and Bukowina. In Bukowina, the Russians are falling back, but they continue to hold the Carpathian passes further west and are putting up a stubborn resistance to the Austro-German offensive in that region. Here the fighting is taking place in deep snow, and both sides are suffering severely.

The large number of troops that the Germans are using in the east, it is believed by military observers here, will prevent for some time any attempt by the Germans to break the deadlock in the west.

BRITAIN STOPS EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK FOOD

Shortage of Forage in Germany Leads to Taking of Drastic Action.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Recent additions to the list of prohibited exports of Great Britain include many of the sort which might be of use to belligerents in feeding live stock. All sorts of beans, fish, meat, oilcake, offal corn, and a score of other products which might be used by countries at war with Great Britain in the care of cattle, horses and other animals, are now in the prohibited list.

Rumors of a shortage of forage in Germany, and the strict government supervision there of possible food for domestic animals have doubtless been responsible for the extension of the prohibited articles in Great Britain.

Canadian Casualties

Canadian Press Despatch.

OTTAWA, Feb. 16.—The following casualties in the Canadian expeditionary force were announced by the militia department tonight:

Killed:

Feb. 13.—Pte. F. H. Norris, 4th Battalion, by train, near Bucby, France. Next of kin, Mrs. E. H. Norris, No. 9 Marlin road, Walworth, London, Eng.

Accidentally killed — Corp. John Thomas McMaster, First Battalion, at Gare d'Orleans, Nantes (no date given). Next of kin, Thomas McMaster (father), Hespeler, Ont.

Deaths:

Jan. 23—Pte. Basil Lees Inderwick, 17th Battalion, at Salisbury Infirmary, from inflammation of brain. Next of kin, Mrs. Inderwick, care F. W. Hall Perth, Ont.

Feb. 15.—Pte. Thomas E. Trull, 3rd Battalion, at No. 1 Canadian General Hospital, Netheravon, from meningitis. Next of kin, T. E. Trull, Oshawa, Ont.

Fear for Liner's Safety

Special to The Toronto World.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 16.—Anxiety is felt concerning the Scandinavian-Amerika liner Oscar II., which left New York Feb. 4, and was signaled 410 miles west of the coast of Scotland Friday. There has been no news of her since. She should have reached here today.

BRITAIN TO REFUSE OFFER OF KAISER

U.S. Ambassador Page Presented Proposal of Germany Yesterday.

READY TO RETALIATE

Proclamation Declaring Blockade of German Coast is Impending.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 10.20 p.m.—Great Britain received today, thru Walter H. Page, the American ambassador, Germany's offer to withdraw her threat of a submarine blockade against Great Britain if the British navy would permit the free movement of foodstuffs to the civil population of Germany.

There is no expectation here that the offer will be accepted. In fact, Great Britain already is preparing to retaliate against Germany by placing under more stringent control ships destined to German ports, and a proclamation momentarily is expected declaring a blockade of the German coast, or, at any rate, the prohibition of foodstuffs destined for Germany. The cabinet, with its naval and military advisers, considered this question today, and it is understood the decision is awaiting the formal confirmation of the privy council, from which all proclamations emanate.

Ships Move Freely.

In the meantime British and neutral vessels are moving as freely as usual, with the exception of those belonging to a few Dutch lines, which have reduced their number of sailings. The Norwegian and Danish insurance companies have given instructions that steamers insured by them shall have their national colors, the names of the ships and the country of their origin, painted conspicuously on the sides of all vessels.

Holland and Italy, like the United States, have protested to Germany against her sea war zone threat, and have asked Great Britain to make free use of neutral flags. Similar representations are expected to be made to the two countries tomorrow in a joint note by Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

DECIDED FOR WAR SEVEN YEARS AGO

Remarkable Speech Made by Kaiser According to William Le Quex.

REVELATION FROM GOD

Saw in Invention of Count Zeppelin Instrument for Conquering World.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—A remarkable speech, stated to have been made by the kaiser at a secret council meeting in Potsdam in June, 1908, at which the German Emperor announced his decision to go to war, forms a chapter of William Le Quex's new book, "German Spies in England," published today. The author says that he has obtained a report of the proceedings from a German of high position, holding pro-British views, who was present at the meeting. The kaiser began by declaring: "After long hours of fervent prayer, light has at last come to me. The outlook is, I admit, dark, but we need not despair, for God, our great ally, has given into our hands the means of saving our empire from the dangers which are threatening its happiness and wealth. You know what I mean. It is that wonderful invention which His Excellency Count Zeppelin was able, thru the grace of the Lord, to make for the safeguarding and glory of our beloved fatherland. In this invention God has placed the means at my disposal to lead Germany triumphantly out of her present difficulties and to make once and for all good the words of our poet, 'Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Allies.' Yes, gentlemen, Germany over everything in the world, the first power on earth, both in peace and war, that is the peace which I have been ordered by God to conquer for her and my wish is that I will conquer for her with the help of the Almighty."

SPANISH MINISTER.

Canadian Press Despatch.

VERA CRUZ, Feb. 16.—The Spanish minister, who left Mexico City several days ago by order of General Carranza, was transferred from the United States battleship Delaware to the steamer Maria Cristina today and departed for Havana. The transfer was made outside the harbor.

SUDBURY LAUNDRYMAN MYSTERIOUSLY CLUBBED

John Williams Attacked Yesterday as He Entered His Laundry.

SUDBURY, Feb. 16.—As John Williams opened the door of the Sudbury steam laundry this morning at six o'clock, he was struck on the head several times with an iron bar and seriously injured. His assailant has not yet been apprehended and no motive is known as nothing in the laundry was missing. Williams will likely recover.

THREE NATIONS PROTEST TO BELLIGERENT POWERS

Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Governments Take Action Re Danger Zone.

COPENHAGEN, via London, Feb. 16, 11 p.m.—The Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Governments have agreed, following negotiations with Stockholm, to make representations to the British and German Governments—to the former on the dangers threatening Scandinavian shipping thru the use of neutral flags by British ships, and to Germany on the dangers that will result from the enforcement of her military zone around the British Isles.

The notes of the three governments will be identical.

BUDGET DEBATE IS POSTPONED

Some Time Before Party Differences on Party Question is Settled.

APPOINT COMMITTEE

Special Body Will Investigate Charges Respecting Boots of First Contingent.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Feb. 16.—The attitude of the opposition at today's sitting of the house clearly indicated the result of this morning's caucus. They were not ready to go on with the budget debate, and it may be some time before the differences within the party on the tariff question are adjudicated. On the other hand, Sir Wilfrid Laurier seemed in fighting trim when he discussed the recent cabinet changes, and the Liberals, in committee of supply, united in demanding greater economy in the future expenditure of public money.

Upon the motion of the prime minister, a special committee was appointed to examine into the charges respecting the boots furnished the first Canadian contingent. The committee, which will have power to send for persons, papers and records, consists of Sir J. A. M. Aikins and Messrs. McCurdy, Middleboro, Rainville, MacDonald, Lemieux and Nesbitt.

Sir Robert Borden, in moving the adjournment of the house over tomorrow (Ash Wednesday) asked that government orders have precedence hereafter on Thursdays and Wednesdays. He cited the example of the British Government, which had taken every day for government business.

It was agreed that Thursday and Friday of this week should be private members' day, and that beginning with next week the government orders should have precedence upon every day except Monday. This practically defers the resumption of the budget until next Tuesday.

The house then went into committee of supply upon the estimates for civil government. Hon. William Pugsley quoted from a recent speech of Prof. Short of the civil service commission to show that the Civil Service Act was not being strictly lived up to. He also complained that the government was multiplying officials. Since October, 1911, there had been in all the departments 2115 dismissals and 1076 appointments.

Solicitor-General Meighen objected that the statement was an unfair one, because it took no account of many vacancies occasioned by death, resignation and superannuation.

Mr. Pardee (West Lambton) said the customs department had enormously increased its staff upon the ground of largely increased customs revenue. Would the tariff be decreased now that the revenues were falling?

ALLIED AERIAL FLEET ALONG BELGIAN COAST MADE EFFECTIVE RAID

Thirty-two British Aircraft Dropped Bombs at Zeebrugge, Ostend and Middelkerke While Eight French Aeroplanes Prevented German Airmen From Making Counter Attack—"Good Results Obtained" Is Official Assurance.

Canadian Press Despatch.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 11.50 p.m.—The air wing of the British navy today made another massed attack on the German positions along the Belgian coast in an effort to destroy or damage the submarine base at Zeebrugge, the guns at Ostend and Middelkerke, and the aerodrome at Ghistelles.

According to the official report, good results were obtained. Forty machines were utilized today as compared with 34 in last week's attack.

FORTY AEROPLANES IN ACTION.

The official statement concerning the air raid says:

"The air operations of the naval wing against the Bruges, Ostend and Zeebrugge districts were continued this afternoon. Forty aeroplanes and seaplane bombarded Ostend, Middelkerke, Ghistelles and Zeebrugge.

"Bombs were dropped on the heavy batteries situated on the east and west sides of Ostend, on gun positions at Middelkerke, on transport wagons on the Ostend-Ghistelles road, on the mole at Zeebrugge to widen the breach damaged in former attacks, on the locks at Zeebrugge, on barges outside Blankenberghe and on trawlers outside Zeebrugge.

FRENCH AIRMEN AIDED.

"Eight French aeroplanes assisted the naval machines by making vigorous attacks on the Ghistelles aerodrome, thus effectively preventing German aircraft from cutting off our machines. It is reported that good results were obtained.

"Instructions are always issued to confine attacks to points of military importance and every effort is made by the flying officers to avoid dropping bombs on any residential portions of towns."

ALL RETURNED SAFELY.

While the British airmen were dropping their bombs on the gun positions, the supply trains and barges and the trawlers used in mine laying and mine sweeping operations, eight French airmen attacked the Ghistelles aerodrome, thus preventing the German airmen from making any attempt to cut off the British machines.

The official report makes no mention of the airmen engaged, so it is presumed that they all returned safely.

The day was bright and clear, conditions being more favorable than last year for a raid.

STEAMER DULWICH LOST BLOWN UP YESTERDAY

Sunk Off Cape Antifer—Seven of Crew Landed at Fecamp, France.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 11.15 p.m.—A despatch to Lloyds from Fecamp, France, says the British steamer Dulwich, Capt. Dudley, bound from Hull for Rouen, was blown up yesterday evening, 25 miles off Cape Antifer by two successive explosions.

The despatch says that seven men of the steamer arrived in Fecamp last night. They reported that none of the men on board the steamer had been injured, and that all of them could have made their escapes in the lifeboats.

The Dulwich was a vessel of 3289 tons and was owned by the British Steamship Co.

C. P. R. SUES FOR DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF EMPRESS

Fate of Three Million Dollar Action Depends on Question of River Currents.

Canadian Press Despatch.

MONTREAL, Feb. 16.—On the question of currents in the St. Lawrence River, it is understood, largely depends the fate of the C. P. R. Co.'s $3,000,000 suit against the steamship Storstad, for sinking the Empress of Ireland, and the C. P. R. sought in the admiralty court today show that the up-current caused the upward bound Storstad to ram the Empress, which was going down stream, both vessels having supposedly been standing still in the fog just prior to the collision. The C. P. R. finished its side of the case today, when Pilot Bernier of the Empress, between Quebec and Father Point, testified to the phenomenon of upward currents in the river. He was positive that the Empress' steering gear was working well the night of the collision.

Will Call on U.S. For Investments

Eight Hundred Million of British Capital Loaned to America in Eight Years.

RUSSIA GETS BACKING

More Than Five Billion Dollars Will Be Needed Before Next Year.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—It is practically definitely settled now that England will ask for another war loan of £450,000,000 to finance her from July 1 to the end of the year, but it is more than possible that the loan will be divided into two parts and issued July 1 and Oct. 1.

This was made clear by David Lloyd George's speech on allied finance in the commons yesterday, but one of the most interesting parts of his highly informative speech referred to where the money was expected to come from. The chancellor said: "We could pay for our huge expenditure on the war for five years out of the proceeds of our investments abroad."

"The question arises where to find a market for these investments. Not France; not Germany. But a glance at the tables shows that England in the last eight years invested £172,605,275 in American securities, and this being the investment in eight years is only a tithe of the total English investment in American securities. But this is not all."

To See Russia Thru.

The chancellor also said: "France could carry on the war for two or three years at least out of the proceeds of her investments abroad. France will require between 300 and 400 million pounds more before the end of the year, and France and England together will have to supply Russia with at least £100,000,000, for," the chancellor said, "we gave a guarantee to Russia. She need not hesitate a moment in giving orders for any purchases necessary for the war from fear of any difficulty in raising money for payment."

Five Billions Required.

More than a thousand million pounds is what the allies will require for finance to the end of the war, and, if the chancellor's words are prophetic of the means for raising money, America is the only great country left where a market can be found for realizing on investments. On the other hand, if there were no opposition to loans by warring countries being placed in America, that country might be saved from becoming the dumping ground for foreign investors. It is pointed out here that the great balance of trade in favor of America is now rapidly growing, but all this advantage will be lost if America is required to hand back in the next six months all the money invested there in the last twenty years.

Foe Seeking to Envelop Russian Wings in Poland

Czar's Troops Fought Stubbornly Against Numerically Superior Forces of Enemy—Russians Make Progress on Left of San.

Canadian Press Despatch.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 16.—The following official statement from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was made public tonight:

"In the region of Augustowo (northern Poland) our troops on Feb. 15 stubbornly fought numerically superior German forces, who were attempting to envelop both our wings.

"A German column is advancing from Grajevo (across the East Prussian border in Poland from Lyck) to Osesowetz.

"Between the Vistula and the Pilica River the enemy has reached the front of Plock-Racionz."

"On the Bzura we have repulsed attacks of little spirit by the enemy near the Zylin farm. In the other positions on the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading.

"In the Carpathians the situation is virtually unchanged. Our troops have made progress on the left bank of the upper San. We captured several officers and 600 soldiers. We also repulsed successfully stubborn German attacks near Kosiuwka and Wyszkow.

"In Bukowina, the enemy has captured Nadworna, across the Sereth River.