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The Toronto World

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TWO CENTS

GERMANS DECIDE TO ATTACK PETROGRAD

AUSTRIANS TO STOP FIGHTING FOR GERMANY

Kaiser May Resort to Violence to Coerce Partner.
EMPERORS QUARREL
Serious Conflict Arises Between Vienna and Berlin Courts.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Further evidence of the growing strain in relations between Germany and Austria...

The despatch refers to the meeting between Emperors Charles and William Feb. 22, and says there seems little doubt that a serious conflict has arisen between the two nations...

Great Stir in Austria.
The internal situation of the dual monarchy is such that the Vienna government, in order to avert a catastrophe, has been obliged to distinguish by means of public declarations its own policy from that of Germany...

An official note of the 15th had announced that Austria for her part would continue to consider the war as terminated with Russia and would abstain from taking part in the operations planned by the German command...

Without a doubt in his speech on Feb. 19, Seydler pleaded his fidelity to the alliance. But more and more Germany runs the risk of seeing Austria and after her Bulgaria and Turkey, take a positive attitude and, practically withdrawing from the struggle, witness as spectators the continuation of hostilities.

BRITISH AVIATORS RAID TREVES AGAIN

Heavy Aerial Fighting at Front—Enemy Machines Downed.
London, Feb. 27.—An official statement on British aerial operations tonight says:
The weather was fine Tuesday, but a strong west wind greatly favored the enemy in the air fighting. Four tons of bombs were dropped on large railway sidings at Courtrai, a railway junction midway between Douai and Valenciennes, two airbases north of Douai and billets.

The fighting in the air was severe, and there were many combats between the enemy's scouts and our reconnaissance, bombing and fighting machines. One enemy machine was brought down by gunfire, another was forced to land inside the British lines, and twelve others were brought down. Eight of our machines are missing during the night, more than half a ton of bombs were dropped on barracks and railway stations at Treves. The same night nearly one and one-half tons of bombs were dropped on an airbase near Metz. One hostile machine was brought down. All of ours returned safely.

BRITISH SINKINGS HAVE INCREASED

Eighteen Gons, Fourteen Over Sixteen Hundred Tons.
London, Feb. 27.—Eighteen British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine in the past week, according to the British admiralty report tonight. Of these, 14 were vessels of 1600 tons or over, and four were under that tonnage. Seven fishing vessels also were sunk. The losses to British shipping in the past week show a considerable increase over the previous week, when the vessels destroyed numbered 15, 12 of them over 1600 tons. In the preceding week, 19 merchantmen were sent to the bottom.

NO BASIS OF PEACE IN GERMAN SPEECH

Balfour Declares Attitude of Chancellor Hertling Towards Belgium Unsatisfactory.
SEEK BROAD SETTLEMENT
Final Fate of Russian Provinces Rests With Conference.—Negotiations Foolish.

London, Feb. 27.—Foreign Secretary Balfour, replying today to the speech of Count von Hertling, the German imperial chancellor, regarding the doctrine of the balance of power, said that until German militarism had become a thing of the past and there was in existence a hall or court armed with executive powers making the weak as safe as the strong, it would never be possible to ignore the principles underlying the struggle for the balance of power.

Mr. Balfour told the house of commons, which he was addressing, that he was unable to find in Von Hertling's speech any basis for fruitful conversation or hope for peace. The chancellor's attitude concerning Belgium, said Mr. Balfour, was completely unsatisfactory and his lip service to President Wilson's propositions was not exemplified in German practices.

"I am convinced that I should be doing an injury to the cause of peace if I encouraged the idea that there is any use in beginning these verbal negotiations until something like a general agreement is apparent in the distance and until the statement of all the countries see their way to that broad settlement, which, it is my hope, will bring peace to this sorely troubled world."

WOMEN GATHERING FOR CONFERENCE

Members of Government Will Give an Outline of War Needs and Advise Assistance.
Ottawa, Feb. 27.—From all over the Dominion women are gathering in the capital for the conference with the government tomorrow. Expectations are that when the conference opens there will be between fifty and sixty women present.

It was intimated tonight that the ladies would be formally welcomed by the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire. Afterwards, at the opening morning session, the German members of the government will give an outline of war needs and indicate along what lines assistance can be most effectively rendered by women. In the afternoon, and on Friday, the women will meet together to formulate suggestions for submission to the government. The conferences will be held in the railway commission rooms.

ATTEMPT TO BLOCK HELD APPOINTMENT

Management Committee of Board of Education Discusses Matter.
WARM DEBATE
In Meantime, Question is Held Over Until Next Meeting of Board.

Miss Frieda Held's chances of actual appointment to a position on the staff of teachers of the Toronto Board of Education, received a heavy—possibly a knockout blow yesterday afternoon.

Trustee McTaggart, chairman of the management committee, checkmated the supporters of Miss Held by securing a letter from the board's solicitor, giving the legal opinion that the re-appointment at the board meeting was "irregular and of doubtful validity."

Trustee Hodgson and Mrs. Courtice said it was the first they had heard of it. Mrs. Courtice offered to read over the evidence to those who did not attend yesterday, at any time, before the meeting of the board of Thursday.

Trustee Edmunds said the trustees from Ward Seven did not want Miss Held in any case.

Trustee Hanbury retorted with warmth: "If Miss Held's appointment to Caelion school is sustained by the board you can't prevent it. You may as well understand that this board is under majority rule, and three or four men can't prevent it."

BURGULARS MAKE AWAY WITH MUCH CLOTHING

Break Into Home of Dr. Norman Allen on Carlton and Ransack Second Floor.
Cups won in athletic contests and much clothing were stolen from the home of Dr. Norman Allen, 108 Carlton street, last night. Dr. Allen was busy in his surgery all evening and shortly before 10 o'clock he went upstairs, where he found the lights all turned on. On inspection he found that a great deal of his clothing, much of the clothing of Mrs. Allen, who is at present in Atlantic City, and many prizes for athletics won by his son, who is now overseas, had been taken. The maids occupy quarters on the top floor and they had heard nothing.

On Feb. 26 three German airplanes were brought down by our pilots. Our bombing squadrons dropped 4600 kilos of explosives, notably on the railway stations at Metz, Seurs and Warmeriville. "Eastern theatre, Feb. 26.—A raid by British troops in the region of Lake Butkova resulted in the capture of some prisoners. Enemy reconnoitering detachments were repulsed by Serbian troops near Sokol. On the right bank of the Cerna our aviators bombed the Cestova station."

JAPS CONTEMPLATE SIBERIAN CAMPAIGN FOR WAR MATERIAL

United States May Send Joint Expedition to Vladivostok.
NEGOTIATIONS SLOW
Washington at First Found Proposition Not Wholly Acceptable.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Japan has directed inquiries to the entente powers and the United States Government to test their feeling towards a proposal to institute joint military operations in Siberia to save the vast quantities of war supplies stored at Vladivostok and along the Siberian railroad.

It is understood that so far as America is concerned, the proposition when first broached was not wholly acceptable, the exchanges on the subject, which are still in progress, may result in modifying the government's attitude.

The principal matter of concern to the allies is the danger that the stores shall fall into the hands of the Germans.

While the entente governments incline favorably to a joint campaign with Japan in Siberia they are faced with the obstacle that practically none of them have any troops or ships available for an Asiatic campaign. This statement does not apply to America, which not only has some powerful cruisers with large crews and marine contingents now in Asiatic waters, but in addition has about 29,000 troops in the Philippines and two full battalions, about 800 strong, in China and on the railroad where they could be sent into Siberia.

PHANTOM EXPLOITS OF CRUISER WOLF

Germany Announce Destruction of Warships Still Remaining Afloat.
LOSSES OF HUMAN LIVES
Berlin Admiralty's Claims Receive Contradiction From British and Jap Officials.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 27.—The text of a statement on the cruise of the raider Wolf reads: "The Wolf, in the execution of the tasks allotted to her, destroyed at least 35 enemy mercantile vessels or vessels plying in behalf of the enemy, having an aggregate of at least 20,000 gross registered tons, or so badly damaged them that their further use is out of the question for a long time to come."

"These consisted chiefly of large and valuable English steamers, the equivalent replacement of which is not possible for a considerable time. Several of these were loaded with English troops and transports, and their sinking therefore, caused a corresponding loss of human lives. "Further warlike measures of the auxiliary cruiser resulted in the sinking of a Japanese ship of the line, the Haruna, of 28,000 tons displacement, and either an English or Japanese cruiser, the name of which could not be ascertained, was badly damaged."

GERMANS TO TAKE PETROGRAD ADVANCE IN RUSSIA PROCEEDS

MUST SURRENDER BELGIUM BEFORE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
Lord Robert Cecil Lays Down Indispensable Condition for Settlement of War—Britain to Avoid Enemy Traps.

London, Feb. 27.—In a debate in the house of commons today on the speech of the German chancellor, Lord Robert Cecil said that as trustee for the empire the government must take reasonable precautions to avoid enemy traps. That was essential.

"There must be no humbug about Belgium," Lord Robert continued. "Certainly, Belgium is not the only issue, but it is a test, and before we can consent to enter into negotiations we must be perfectly satisfied that the central powers mean to restore Belgium absolutely and do their best to repair the greatest international wrong committed for centuries."

CANADIANS MAKE RAID ON SECTOR NEAR LENS

Troops of Dominion Inflict Casualties on Germans Without Losses to Themselves—Artillery Activity at Front Proceeds.

London, Feb. 27.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France tonight says: "A successful raid, in which several casualties were inflicted on the enemy, without loss to ourselves, was carried out last night by the Canadians near Lens."

ATTACK ON KAISER PRECEDED STRIKE

Pamphlets Circulated in Berlin Accused Emperor of Cowardice.
MILITARISM BLAMED.
Circulars Declared Curse of Cain Rested on Head of Germany.

London, Monday, Feb. 11.—(Correspondence).—Some of the pamphlets which were secretly circulated in Berlin during the recent strikes consisted of savage attacks on the German Emperor, a fact which was admitted and deprecated recently by the German press. One of these pamphlets, smuggled out of Germany, was reached The Liverpool Daily Post, which gives a literal translation, which in part follows: "When will peace come? It will come when Germany is ready for it, and the time is approaching."

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