

PROFITS OF BUSINESS CONCERNS TAXED TO HELP FINANCE THE WAR---YOU CAN HELP END THE WAR ALTOGETHER BY ENLISTING---JOIN THE 125TH BATTALION THIS WEEK

RUSSIA, REGENERATED, MARKING TIME UNTIL WEATHER ALLOWS HER TO DRIVE

Whole Machinery of Government Has Been Overhauled, Corrupt and Inefficient Office Men Weeded Out, and All Formalities Known as Red Tape Reduced to a Minimum.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Petrograd, Feb. 16 via London.—The beginning of a tremendous, if not a spectacular, regeneration of internal Russia is strikingly apparent to any observer of Russian affairs...

THE GREAT CHANGE An Associated Press correspondent who left Russia when its military fortunes were at the lowest ebb, with an inadequately provisioned and munitioned army and inefficient management...

RED TAPE ABOLISHED Official bribery has been seemingly to a great extent weeded out. Grants found to be retent and engaged in intrigues, who had held up the whole machinery of army equipment and provisioning...

Under these conditions, with a large supply of ammunition and therefore the possibilities of a successful offensive in the near future, the Russian staff appears inclined to mark time for a few weeks until weather conditions allow the army to exert its new power to the fullest advantage.

TROOPS ARE BETTER

A great factor in the increased strength of the Russian army is the character of the new troops, which are vastly superior in intelligence and training to those with which Russia started the war...

The Duma, the sessions of which will be resumed a week hence, is expected to carry forward progressive reforms aimed principally at perfecting Russia's internal reformation.

ECONOMIC REFORMS The creation of a new system of co-operative societies, which purports to eliminate the present excessive profits by reducing prices of ordinary commodities to the normal level...

TRANSPORTATION TROUBLE The question of transportation is of great economic importance, as the present shortage of provisions and the inflated prices are not symptomatic of any real economic difficulties...

The cardinal aim of the Duma will be to establish greater harmony between itself and the government.

PROFITS OF BUSINESS CONCERNS TAXED TO RAISE MONEY SO AS TO CARRY ON THE WAR

25 Percent of All Profits Over 7 Percent—In Some Cases 10 Percent—Must be Given to the Government—New Proposals Take Effect From August 4th 1914, and Last For Three Years.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 16.—The feature of the war budget introduced in the House yesterday afternoon was the business tax. The announcement of this new taxation measure electrified Parliament and awoke it to enthusiasm.

The speech when it came, however, was short and businesslike. Sir Thomas White began at 3:35 and finished at 4:30, reserving, as is customary, the taxation announcements until the last.

The industrial tax covers every form of industrial, financial and public service activity. It includes, but does not single out, munitions plants except to the extent that the exemption on earnings of non-corporate concerns capitalized at less than \$50,000 does not apply in the munitions industry.

ALL BUSINESSES COVERED. As anticipated previously the tariff changes are very few, numbering only two, an increase in the duty on apples from 40 cents a barrel to 90 cents, and a duty of one-half cent per gallon on petroleum fuel oil.

The machinery for collecting the taxes and assessing profits is left entirely in the hands of the Finance Minister.

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AMERICAN CLUB AT TORONTO WENT UP IN A BLAZE; ONE MAN IS DEAD

P. S. Hairston, Mining Broker, Who Owned a Farm at Oakville, Was Suffocated as He Was About to Escape—Night Watchman Badly Hurt and Captain Minard, 97th Battalion, Slightly Burned.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—Starting with an explosion on the top floor of the building, fire completely destroyed the premises at 17 and 19 Wellington street west, occupied by the American club between three and four o'clock this morning.

NO TIME TO GIVE ALARM So sudden was the outbreak of flames, that no one had time to give the alarm to those who were asleep in the building.

INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO INVEST IN DOMINION BONDS AND DEBENTURES, thus taking a part of the next domestic war loan. They escape the tax on profits.

WHAT MANUFACTURERS SAY. Mr. John Muir, general manager of the Ham and Nott Co., says: "We have only one criticism to make and it is this: Take the case of an incorporated Co. with \$200,000 capital, 7 per cent is allowed on that. If they have an accumulation of \$50,000 profits not allowed on that. On the other hand a company may have \$200,000 capital with a lot of watered stock and 7 per cent is allowed on that as well."

WATCH THE MERCURY CLIMB FOR THE BRANT BATTALION!

managed to escape out the rear doors and windows.

HAD TO JUMP. Captain Minard was sleeping on the top floor of the building, when he was awakened by the smoke and the noise of the fire.

SLID DOWN A ROPE. Mr. Soller, manager of the Standard Drug Company, London, Ont., also was sleeping on the top floor. He escaped from the building by sliding down a rope to the first balcony and jumping to the sidewalk.

So far there is only one death from the fire which destroyed the American club, 17 Wellington street west, early this morning.

Edward Johnston, night watchman of the Merchants' Bank next door to the club, while watching for fire from the steps of the bank, was struck by falling bricks from the chimney.

HEAVY LOSS. The building was completely gutted and the loss is estimated at \$50,000. The roof fell in and the front entrance is somewhat damaged, but the walls are intact.

LIVED AT OAKVILLE. The dead man is P. S. Hairston, a mining broker, who owned a farm at Oakville, twenty miles west of Brantford, and had an office in the Traders' Bank Building. He originally came from Dallas, Texas. He was suffocated by smoke as he was about to leave his room by means of a rope.

Senator Root Makes Hot Speech Against President

By Special Wire to the Courier.

New York, Feb. 16.—In a speech filled with caustic criticism of the Wilson administration, especially in respect to its foreign policy, former United States Senator Elihu Root, as temporary chairman of the Republican state convention, sounded here last night, what was regarded as the keynote of the Republican national campaign.

Continuing Senator Root said: "We have not been blindly stumbling along the road that, continued, will lead to inevitable war. Our diplomacy has dealt with symptoms and ignored causes. The great decisive questions upon which our peace depends is the question whether the rule of action applied to Belgium is to be tolerated. If it is tolerated by the civilized world this nation will have to fight for its life. There will be no escape. This is the critical moment of defence for the peace of America."

At the public opinion of the world.

was to remain silent on that, neutral upon that, then all talk about peace and justice and international law and the rights of man, the professed of humanity and the spread of liberty is idle patter—mere weak sentimentalism.

Parades Yesterday Through North Ward—Many Factories Also Visited—Arrangements Being Completed for School Children's March Thursday Night—Some of the Excuses Made.

Many Amendments to the Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Feb. 16.—No fewer than 15 amendments to the address in reply to the King's speech were being discussed in the House of Commons today. The majority of the amendments are unimportant, but others raise serious issues which promise lively discussion.

Yorkshire, has given notice calling on the government to announce the general terms on which it would be willing to enter into negotiations with a just and lasting peace.

Better men than you have made sacrifices to take their places in the ranks. If your British freedom means anything to you, get into khaki and fight for it.

TWENTY-FIVE MEN YESTERDAY; BRANTFORD IS RESPONDING TO THE CALL; THE RANKS OF THE 125TH BATTALION ARE BEING FILLED

Parades Yesterday Through North Ward—Many Factories Also Visited—Arrangements Being Completed for School Children's March Thursday Night—Some of the Excuses Made.

Brantford young men are responding splendidly to the appeal which is being made this week by Lieut.-Col. Cutcliffe, the officers and men of the 125th Battalion.

YESTERDAY. Twenty-five men were accepted in the ranks of the 125th on Tuesday, ten others being rejected as unable to meet the requirements of the medical officer.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS TOO. Parades of the entire battalion were held throughout the residential districts of the city yesterday afternoon and evening.

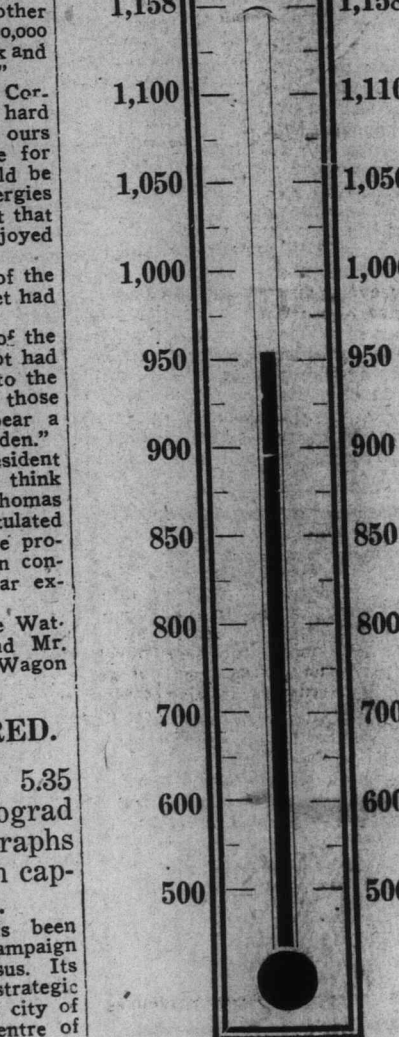
CHILDREN'S PARADE. Capt. Bingle, a member of the meetings and parades committee, conferred with pupils representing the various public schools last night. Details in connection with a parade of the children were completed for Thursday night, when it is expected that 400 or 500 school children will march through the streets with the battalion.

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ERZERUM CAPTURED. By special wire to the Courier. LONDON, Feb. 16, 5:35 p.m.—Reuter's Petrograd correspondent telegraphs that Erzerum has been captured by the Russians.

The capture of Erzerum has been the objective of the recent campaign of the Russians in the Caucasus. Its possession is of considerable strategic importance as it is the chief city of Turkish Armenia, and the centre of a system of roads.



FRANCE. Reels of authentic warfare. Films issued by the... & Company. Young Sisters.

THEATRE. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. MEL BARRYMORE. "Judgement".

THEATRE. TUESDAY. "of Elaine". AND THURSDAY. "From The Sky".

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. TO-NIGHT. Hamilton Elgar Choir. 150 Voices. Bruce Carey, Conductor.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Under New Management. Damaged Goods. Saturday Mat. and Night. Feb. 19th.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Under New Management. Damaged Goods. Saturday Mat. and Night. Feb. 19th. Plan at BOLES' DRUG STORE now open.

SKATING CENTRAL RINK. DARLING STREET. West of Y.M.C.A. Evening. Admission 10c. School Children after 4 o'clock, 5c. Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.