

## FIERCE BATTLES IN NORTHERN POLAND BETWEEN THE NEMEN AND VISTULA, PETROGRAD SAYS

### British Victory in Northern France May Force Enemy to Evacuate La Bassee — Aviators Destroy Railway Junctions at Menin and Courtrai and German Reinforcements Held Up — Austria Unwilling to Pay Price Germany Would Give Italy to Remain Neutral.

London, Mar. 11.—The arrival of the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich at Newport News, removing for a time at least another menace to British shipping, and the success of the British troops in the region of La Bassee, are, for the moment, the most interesting topics of discussion in the British Isles. Whether the Prinz Eitel Friedrich will be interned, or will again set out for the high seas, it is considered here that her career as an armed cruiser must come to an end, for should she be allowed to sail after repairs, it is believed that cruisers of the Allies, on the watch, will account for her.

The possible action of the American government with regard to the sinking of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich of the American ship William F. Frye is also being much discussed, and the general view is that if the United States allows German warships to sink American ships, with food supplies for England, that government can hardly protest against the Allies' prohibition of foodstuffs for Germany.

Of the British victory in Northern France there is no news beyond the official reports. It is believed, however, that while no great amount of ground has been captured, the improvement in the British position brought about by it is of the greatest importance, and, if pressed further, might compel the Germans to evacuate La Bassee and perhaps other points, which make their line so strong at present.

Equally important was the success achieved by British aviators in destroying the railway junctions at Menin and Courtrai. These are one of the German main lines of communication, and their destruction will delay the arrival of new contingents of troops, which are reported to be again concentrating in Belgium for another attempt to break through to Calais and Boulogne.

According to Dutch reports these troops have brought with them a large number of boats for the passage of the canals and rivers, and, for the

first time in months they include cavalry units.

There has been some fighting in Champagne, but on the whole the French seem to be satisfied for the present, with the progress they have made in that region. In the Vosges the battle for Reich Ackerkopf has been resumed. These, however, are small affairs, in comparison with the battles which are in progress in North Poland, between the Nemen and Vistula rivers. The Germans apparently are falling back in the north, but are fighting a rear-guard action, which has reached the importance of a pitched battle, and are taking a few prisoners with them.

The Germans are again in Angostowo forest, on the East Prussian border, which has been the burial place of so many German and Russian soldiers. The Germans have brought up more guns, but of a lighter calibre, to bombard Oswowitz, while further to the south, in the neighborhood of Ostrolenka, they claim to have defeated the Russians. The battle on the roads from Khorjelo to Przasmyz, along which the Germans hope to reach and pierce the Russian fortress line, still continues.

The weather having turned colder, the ground in North Poland has hardened, which will greatly facilitate the movement of troops. This is said to be the first time in history that the weather has favored an army attempting to invade Russia.

Reports from Tenedos say that the Turkish artillery in the Dardanelles grows weaker daily, and that the last bombardment by the Allied warships badly damaged the forts at Chanak Kalesi. Two big cruisers spent the night in the Straits, projecting the vessels engaged in mine-sweeping.

Despatches from Rome indicate that the German Ambassador, Prince Von Bülow, has renewed his negotiations with the Italian government with the object of securing the continued neutrality of that country, in return for territorial concessions in Austria. Austria, however, is said to be opposed to making any such concessions as would satisfy Italy.

### ABANDON SUBMARINE WAR?

A despatch to the Daily Express from the Hague says:

"A secret report has been sent from Cuxhaven to the Admiralty at Berlin that twelve submarines have failed to report at their base, eight of them being among Germany's newest boats."

"The naval council will meet today or tomorrow, under the presidency of Emperor William, to discuss whether or not it would be better to abandon the submarine war."

### Must Have More Than Germany's Promise

Britain's reply to U. S. suggestion that foodstuffs be allowed to enter Germany expected soon—Proposals are considered inadequate—Unwilling to trust Germany's unsupported word.

London, Mar. 11.—The British reply to the American note, suggesting that Great Britain allow all foodstuffs to enter Germany, in return for Germany's abandonment of her submarine warfare on merchant vessels and her policy of mining the high seas, is expected to be forthcoming at an early date.

While the contents of the reply are not known, it is possible, as the results of inquiries in authoritative quarters, to indicate some points likely to carry weight with the British government and to emphasize Sir Edward Grey's reply.

There is a strong feeling in Downing street that the "quid pro quo" put forward in the American note does not go far enough. Officials of the Foreign Office point out that since the opening of the war Great Britain has only once interfered with the supply of food destined for Germany, and then only after the German government, by assuming control of all foodstuffs, had abolished the old distinction between the civil and the military population.

Proposals inadequate.

High German authorities have repeatedly denied the British claim that to cut off supplies of food from civilians is a legitimate act of war. Great Britain, it is insisted, never adopted this view until the Germans, by their own act, made it impossible any longer to draw the line between non-combatants and armed forces. Furthermore, it is added, Great Britain is now invited by the United States to forego a clear belligerent right, on the understanding that Germany will abstain from committing two—but only two—of many crimes against both law and humanity.

Authoritative spokesmen of the British view say stress on the "inadequacy" of this proposal, from two standpoints they ask, first, what guarantee is forthcoming that Germany will keep to her agreement? Supposing, they urge, that an understanding were reached on the lines suggested by the United States, would the United States secure its strict observance?

It is asserted by them that Germany has violated so many compacts and conventions in this war that British statesmen are disinclined to trust her unsupported word for anything.

Secondly, they urge that the two offences specified in the American note—submarine warfare on merchant vessels and the mining of the high seas—are far from being the only, or even the worst, offences of which Germany has been guilty. The claim is set up that she has bombarded undefended towns, dropped bombs on places inhabited solely by civilians and sunk both British and neutral ships, as though that were the ordinary legal way of disposing of them.

Britain Has Adhered to Hague Conventions.

Great Britain, it is pointed out, has indulged in none of these practices, and such mines as she has been compelled, in self-defence, to lay have been laid in strict accordance with the Hague conventions.

The policy of the Germans, which arouses the most indignation among the directors of the British government, is her continued alleged persecutions of the Belgians, millions of whom, it is declared "would be at this moment in a state of semi-starvation but for American generosity and assistance."

Reforms affected by the Civil Service Act of 1908. He added that appointments to the outside service are now made "after careful inquiry as to the character and capacity of the individuals selected."

### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES MARK OPENING OF THE N. B. LEGISLATURE

### TWO FROM THIS PROVINCE IN CASUALTY LIST

Ottawa, March 11.—Another extensive list of casualties among the members of the Princess Patricia's and several other battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France was issued tonight by the Militia Department.

Among those in the list are:

**PRINCES PATRICIAS.**  
KILLED IN ACTION.  
Feb. 28—Private James Tate. Next of kin, D. Tate, Melrose, Guyville County, N. B.  
**DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED.**  
Sergt. Osborne Thomas Kelly, (formerly 12th Battalion), at No. 1 General Hospital, Havre, gunshot wound in thigh. Next of kin, Mrs. Kelly, Kouchibouguac Beach, Kent County, N. B.  
**SEVERELY WOUNDED.**  
March 1.—Private Carl E. Smith. Next of kin, Mrs. C. E. Smith, No. 160 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N. S.  
**SLIGHTLY WOUNDED.**  
Feb. 28—Private Arthur O'Keefe. Next of kin, Mrs. Bridget O'Keefe, Campbellton, N. B.

Largest Attendance in Years — Khaki-Clad Officers in Guard of Honor Give Added Military Touch — Premier Clarke's First Session as Leader of the Government — Eloquent Addresses.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, March 11.—With the largest attendance of spectators gathered in the historic halls of the Provincial Parliament buildings for many years, a staff of khaki clad officers, on active service, as a guard of honor and with the military ceremonies more imposing than usual New Brunswick's first war session of the legislature was opened this afternoon with all the time-honored rites.

Since the last session the Legislative Chamber had been cleaned and renovated and some necessary improvements made. Lt. Governor Wood officiated at the opening, garbed in his Windsor uniform and was preceded to the speaker's dais by the usual procession of dignitaries. An added touch of interest in the decoration of the chamber was found in the draping in flags of the seat allotted Major Percy A. Guthrie, junior member for the County of York, who is with the First Canadian Contingent. Major Guthrie's absence was also feelingly referred to by Premier Clarke and the mover of the address in reply to the speech from the Throne.

Today's opening was also of more than ordinary interest from a political viewpoint as it marked the first occasion on which Hon. George J. Clark had faced the Legislature in the capacity of leader of the government. While showing the effects of his recent illness the premier was in good form and when Mr. J. L. Stewart, M. P. for Northumberland, offered some slight criticisms of the speech from the Throne the premier was ready with his spirited reply, which while courteous, as are all Mr. Clark's utterances, yet showed plainly that while the Government is ready and anxious to meet any legitimate criticism which may come to them, it is not the intention to tolerate any nonsense. There was more than a little comment that the leader of the Opposition, Mr. L. A. Dugal, who figured to some extent in the public eye during the past few months did not have a word to say in the debate on the speech, but left it to Mr. Stewart to exercise this privilege. This was regarded as the more surprising for the reason that Mr. Man Friday Carter was on the job as usual and according to report had been closely closeted with Mr. Dugal during the morning. It is expected, however, that during the session Mr. Dugal will favor the members with one of Mr. Carter's hand-picked speeches.

The address in reply to the speech from the Throne was moved by Mr. B. Frank Smith, who it will be remembered scored such a signal victory over Mr. Carvell's man Simms in the recent bye-election in Carleton County. Mr. Smith's address will compare favorably with any heard in the legislature for a long time. He had a complete grasp of his subject and made his points with the skill and precision of an experienced parliamentarian.

Arthur Culligan, of Restigouche County, seconded the speech in a well thought out address and after Mr. Stewart had had his little say and the premier had replied the address was passed and the House tomorrow will settle down to the regular legislative business of the session.

O. M. Melanson took his seat as acting speaker in the absence of Speaker W. B. Dickson who is confined to his home with serious illness, and acquitted himself well.

Hon. Mr. Clarke referred to absence, through illness of Mr. Rainford, Clerk of the House, and expressed sympathy of the House with that official in his illness, and moved that in his absence the Clerk Assistant be appointed acting clerk in his stead, and that Mr. G. H. Flewelling, senior engraving clerk, be appointed clerk assistant.

Hon. Mr. Landry brought down returns of bye-elections in St. John and Carleton Counties, also financial returns of Counties of Charlotte Kings, Northumberland, Restigouche and St. John, and towns of Newcastle, Chatham and Dalhousie.

Hon. Mr. Clarke moved for leave of absence for Hon. W. B. Dickson, Speaker of the Assembly, on account of illness, and in doing so expressed great regret which the House felt at the absence of that gentleman for whom each and all had the highest regard.

### GENERAL ELECTION PROBABLE

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 11.—That there will be a general election at an early date is the prevailing opinion in the lobbies of parliament today. Members on both sides seem to be agreed that no other meaning can be taken from the way in which the Minister of Finance replied yesterday to the amendment proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Wilfrid's amendment, which deplored the increase in the barriers against British trade with Canada, was a trick amendment, for the barriers have not been increased. On the other hand British manufacturers have now a still greater preference for Canadian goods than they had before, but the amendment was a challenge. It was in effect an announcement that the Liberal party was going to make this its campaign. On this issue it would fight the government.

Nobody knew better than Mr. White what was meant, and his reply was virtually an acceptance of the challenge. His words were watched and weighed with unusual care by his political opponents and the members on his own side as well. He delivered a fighting speech. He fought not only in defence of the policy of the government with regard to the raising of the duties of war, but he carried the sword into the enemy's country.

For some days the party truce has been a thing of the past. The opposition members have thrown it to the four winds of heaven and it was only a matter of time when one of the members of the government would cut across the truce.

Mr. White took up the challenge of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and made a special attack upon the Liberal policy and tactics which have prevented Canada taking her proper place alongside the other Dominions of the Empire in the naval activities of the war.

This is now political war to the knife. There is no turning back and the members seem generally to be of the belief that it must be settled at once upon the hustings.

So far there is no indication from the government as to what its intentions are, but it is significant that party men today are figuring out how they will fare in the various provinces if an election is ordered.

The Conservatives have a majority in the present house of about 40. This should be increased to between 60 and 70 without any difficulty. Such men as Carvell, of Carleton, Pugsley of St. John, Carroll of Cape Breton, South, D. D. MacKenzie of Cape Breton North, E. M. MacDonald of Pictou, and Copp of Westmorland, are regarded here as certain of defeat whenever the government goes to the country, whether it be next month or next year. Ontario will hold its own, so will British Columbia and if the Liberals make gains in Quebec on the bilingual issue, although it has nothing to do with federal politics, it will only arouse the British vote in the west sufficient to more than counterbalance it.

Why the Liberals should attempt to force an election is difficult to understand. They have nothing to gain and everything to lose by plunging the country into a political battle while a war is in progress.

It will be no surprise if there is a general election in June.

### DEBATE ON THE BUDGET CONTINUED

Ottawa, March 11.—Before the budget debate in the Commons today Mr. Geo. Kite, of Richmond, moved the adjournment of the House in order to discuss what he described as the unsatisfactory condition of the mail service in Nova Scotia. He gave a number of instances of delay in the delivery of letters, including personal correspondence. An important letter which he had addressed to W. F. Carroll, M. P., relative to organization work, had not been delivered for days. In another case a gift from a friend to a poor widow remained in the local post office for four weeks, although the mail had been called for every day.

Mr. Kite was not disposed to blame the present postmaster general. He had inherited the present conditions from Mr. Kite, who had been replaced by an untrained man.

W. F. Carroll corroborated what Mr. Kite had said in regard to the delay in the delivery of letters passing between the provinces.

Not Advisable to Jump at Conclusion.

Hon. T. Chas. Cosgrain thanked the member for Richmond for bringing the matter to his attention. He invited Mr. Kite to come to his office and discuss the matter at any time, if he had further particulars to lay before the department. Officials could not, however, be dealt with without being given an opportunity of being heard, but an inquiry would be made.

Mr. Cosgrain closed with the declaration that it would be his earnest endeavor to give the country as good a postal service as possible.

Sir Robert Borden said it was not fair to jump at the conclusion that when things go wrong it was due to intention or design. He recalled the circumstance that six years ago he had mailed a letter in Halifax to Ottawa. The letter was three weeks in reaching its destination, having travelled to Vancouver and back.

He did not, on that occasion, jump at the conclusion that this was the work of the Liberal partisans. He believed that the apertions cast upon the postmasters of Nova Scotia to be (Continued on page 2)

### OROMOCTO INDIAN MISSING, BELIEVED HE WAS MURDERED

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, March 11.—From reports reaching here tonight it would appear that Queens County has a mysterious case on its hands which it is believed will speedily result in a charge of murder being laid against an Indian named Nash. The supposed victim is Edward Sacobie a well known Indian residing on the Indian Reserve at Oromocto.

Sacobie on Tuesday night left the Reserve and crossed over the Queen's County line going to an Indian camp where he became engaged in a brawl with Nash. The revival of a feud arising out of a tribal election was the cause of disagreement between the two men and blows were given and received. The fight occurred in Nash's shack and as far as known the only witnesses of the encounter were a negro named Fred McIntyre and a fourteen year old Indian boy.

While a coherent story of the happening has not yet been received it was learned tonight that in the fight Sacobie either went out of the shack or was thrown out after being badly beaten. Since that time he has not been seen and has not returned to his home on the Reservation.

On Wednesday morning the little Indian boy saw traces of blood in the light snow outside of the shack. The trail led through the woods to a patch of bare ground where quite a pool of blood was found. There was, however, no trace of Sacobie. Today, Indians from the Reserve becoming anxious as to the whereabouts of their compatriot went to the camp accompanied by dogs. The dogs followed the scent of an Indian and a toboggan back over the Sunbury County line for about three-quarters of a mile. The trail then led to the river and they followed it out on the ice to a hole where it ceased. It is presumed that Sacobie in his weakened state started for home and half dead from the beating he had received stumbled into the hole. In the meantime Nash has disappeared.

The facts of the case were communicated to Attorney General Baxter at Fredericton tonight and acting at once he instructed that a search be at once made for Nash, who when found will be arrested on suspicion of murder. The negro McIntyre, who witnessed the fight between the two men is expected to be an important witness in the case.

Sacobie is about 40 years of age and on the Oromocto Reserve, where he lived, was regarded as an inoffensive character. It is reported that there had been bad blood between Sacobie and Nash for some time arising originally from an election held by the Indians on the Oromocto Reservation. Nash, who lived in the camp where the fight occurred, is about 25 years of age and a man of powerful physique. The case has aroused keen interest here.

### CAREFUL INQUIRY BEFORE APPOINTMENT

Ottawa, Mar. 11.—Premier Borden, in reply to a question by Mr. E. B. Devlin in the House of Commons this

afternoon asked the Halifax platform, and the pledge of all civil service appointments on merit rather than as a reward of party service, said that the steps taken to implement that pledge had been "the public steps which have been taken by the Prime Minister."

Sir Robert said that following his advocacy of civil service reform, as enunciated in the Halifax platform, the Laurier government had, a few months afterwards, introduced the

### HALIFAX MAN HEARS SON WOUNDED IN FRANCE

Halifax, N. S., March 11.—Ald. Charles E. Smith received a despatch from Ottawa today stating that his son, Carl E. Smith, had been seriously wounded in fighting in Northern France. He is 25 years of age, a member of No. 2 Company, Princess Pats, which regiment he joined at Edmonton. He was wounded on March 1. No further particulars were given.

Major Guthrie's Vacant Seat.

Hon. Mr. Clarke said members of the House would notice that there was a vacancy at one of the desks, which was fittingly decorated with the national emblem. Until the outbreak of the war that seat had been occupied by a young man who by reason of his ability and good qualities had commended himself at an age when it is given to few men to attain to legislative honors to the electors of the County of York. Since he had become a member of the House he had conducted himself with great marked ability and credit as had met with the approval of all sections of the people in the province. He need not say that he was referring to Major Guthrie. When the call to arms came one of the first men in Canada to volunteer was Mr. Guthrie. Although a man so young in years, he had already taken a most prominent place in his profession, and was making good in it. With opportunity to make a speech, which, no doubt, was now bubbling over, very rarely had there ever been heard in this legislature more eloquent speeches in moving and seconding the address than those which had been delivered by the honorable members for Carleton and Restigouche.

Carleton County was well known as a home of red hot politics, and it was also gaining a reputation for producing the best of political orators in this province. The former representative who was succeeded by the hon. member who had moved the address, was recognized as one of the ablest political speakers in this province, and it was evident that he was succeeded by an honorable gentleman in his respect as perfectly capable of wearing the mantle which he had cast off.

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Hon. Mr. Clarke introduced a bill to Municipal Grants to Patriotic Fund.