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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## FOURTH WAR BUDGET IS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Very Little Interest is Shown by the General Public Despite the Fact That New Taxation Will be Heaviest in the History of Britain

MCKENNA ASSUMED WAR LASTS FINANCIAL YEAR

Tax on War Profits is Increased—Increased Taxes on Cocoa, Coffee, Matches, Mineral Waters—All Amusements to be Taxed and Increased Duties on Motor Licenses—Budget Gives Every Assurance of Britain's Financial Ability to Continue the War With Unabated Vigor

LONDON, April 4.—The Commons met shortly before 3 o'clock to hear the fourth Budget speech of the war, and the second since McKenna took over the Chancellorship. There was a full attendance of members, and the galleries were well filled, chiefly by business men, who had direct interest in the new taxation proposed. Despite the fact that the new taxation will make the annual bill of the people of Britain the largest in the history of the country, and that there is in plain view a national debt of £1,559,000,000, with a debt charge which will double the annual expenditure and taxation for a generation, the general public took but little interest in the occasion. McKenna said that generous allowance would have to be made for the difficulty of framing exact estimates in view of such questions as shortage of tonnage and restriction upon foreign trade. He had assumed the war would last during the whole financial year. The actual expenditure during the past year was £1,559,000,000, of £31,000,000 below the estimate, said the Chancellor. Britain's Allies had been assisted to the amount of £264,000,000 her dominions to the amount of £52,000,000.

The Chancellor was able to open his speech in a cheerful strain, as the figures published on March 31st showed that the revenue exceeded the estimates by £31,000,000, while the expenditure had been over-estimated by almost the same figure. The Treasury, consequently, was £62,000,000 better off than it was expected at the end of the last financial year.

McKenna said that the maximum income tax would be five shilling in the pound. The Chancellor estimated the revenue at £2,069,000,000, and the deficit at £1,323,000,000. He said the deficit would be made up by borrowing.

There were over one hundred questions to the Ministers on the question paper, so it was late in the afternoon before the Chancellor rose. He is a clear and concise speaker. Although his speech was filled with figures, which would have staggered the assemblage before the war, the members followed his exposition of the financial situation with the deepest interest.

The Chancellor said he proposed putting a tax on amusements, including theatres, moving picture establishments, football matches and horse races. The tax on these would be graduated accordingly to the charge for admission. A tax of one penny on railway tickets costing between 9 pence and one shilling, with a penny tax for each additional shilling; an additional tax of half a penny on sugar. This, it was calculated, would produce a revenue of £7,000,000. There would be increased duties on motor licenses, which are trebled on those below sixteen horse-power. These taxes would produce £800,000. The tax on war profits is increased by from 50 to 60 per cent., and would amount to nearly £65,000,000.

The Chancellor said it had been decided not to resort to any general tariff measures; that it had been preferred to deal with the importation of luxuries by stopping them altogether. Other taxes, he announced, were an additional duty imposed on cocoa from three and a half pence to six pence a pound; upon coffee and chicory from 2 pence to 6 pence a pound, these taxes yielding £2,000,000; a match

## Lively Firing on Macedonian Front

Artillery Fire in Progress on Macedonian Front—Villagers in War Zone Advised to Leave.

LONDON, April 4.—A Salonika correspondent to the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says there was lively artillery fire all day on the Macedonian frontier. Firing still continues.

General Sarrail has gone to the front and all villagers in the war zone have been advised to leave.

## German Attack South of Douaumont Repulsed

PARIS, April 4.—A powerful German attack against the first line of the French south of Douaumont was repulsed to-day. The Germans were driven back in the direction of Chaufour Wood, which lies to the north-west. French artillery concentrated their fire on the retiring Germans, who, according to the official statement issued at the War Office to-night, suffered considerable losses. On the west of the Meuse a German attack against Haucourt, failed.

## Little Gained By "Drys" or "Wets"

Complete Returns in Illinois Election Show Little Advantage to Either Side—Some 400 Saloons Are Wiped Out in Some Sections While in Others the "Wets" Win

CHICAGO, April 5.—Practically complete returns to-day from points where the Local Option question was voted on in Illinois indicate that little advantage went to either side as a result of yesterday's elections. Prohibition victories show that between 350 and 400 saloons were eliminated, which towns won by the liquor forces, which the "dry" column will open territory that had more than 250 saloons at the time of the 1912 "dry" victories.

## New French Gun Is a Winner

PARIS, April 5.—The French have now ready for use their new 16-inch guns, which are able to fire a more devastating shell than the German 17-inch gun.

tax of four pence per thousand, yielding £2,000,000; mineral waters, four pence per gallon when prepared with sugar, and eight pence per gallon for other sorts, producing £2,000,000.

The Chancellor anticipated a reduction in beer revenue of £3,000,000 and in spirits revenue £2,000,000. The recently imposed taxes on tea and tobacco would continue throughout the financial year. The question of further taxation on these commodities would then arise, and in any case, he said, the existing taxation would be continued. By the present scale of taxation, continued the Chancellor, the Government was making ample provision for services after the war, and when peace came the country would have considerable margin for a reduction in taxation. The figures proved Britain's ability to continue the war with unabated vigor.

Edwin Samuel Montagu, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, replying to various points raised in the debate said, he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer was entitled to congratulate himself on the fact that his proposals had been received with such gratifying assent by the Committee.

## Naval Battle Reported off The Cattedgat

Terrific Cannonade Heard For Two Hours on Monday—One German Torpedo Boat Damaged Was Towed Past Helsingborg

COPENHAGEN, April 5.—A naval engagement of some kind took place on Monday about noon off the Cattedgat, according to despatches received here from Kullen, Sweden. The despatches say: Terrific cannonade was heard from the sea for two hours, and that later a German torpedo boat badly damaged, was towed past Helsingborg.

## States Not Pleased With British Reply

Washington Executive Not Satisfied With Reply Re Protest Over Seizure of Mail Matter And The Taking of Naturalized Citizens of Steamer "China"

WASHINGTON, April 4.—In absence of conclusive evidence as to recent submarine attacks on ships carrying Americans, President Wilson and his Cabinet to-day postponed decision as to the course to be pursued by the United States. Cabinet members agreed that some steps should be taken to stop endangering Americans, but these steps will not be determined until additional information in the cases of the Sussex, Englishman, and Manchester Engineer is received. Officials expect that Ambassador Gerrard will be in a position to report definitely within a week, whether Germany denies attacking the Sussex and other vessels.

Britain's reply to American protests against mail seizures, and the detention of passengers on the steamer China, were also laid before the Cabinet. Neither reply was satisfactory. Further steps in the China case will be taken soon.

LONDON, April 5.—George W. Smalley died here yesterday. He was a well-known journalist and war correspondent.

## Cargo Owners Must Change Their Defense

Their Legal Advisers Reach Conclusion That British Order in Council of March 30 Last is Definitely Retroactive—The Prize Court Will Try American Cases To-morrow

LONDON, April 5.—Representatives of the owners of conditional contraband cargoes awaiting adjudication by the Prize Court must at the last moment entirely change their defense, as their legal advisers have reached the conclusion that the British Order-in-Council of March 30th last is definitely retroactive.

Since Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, informed the State Department at Washington in a Note dated Feb. 10th, 1915 that the British Government did not apply the doctrine of continuous voyage to conditional contraband, except goods consigned to order or to an unknown consignee, or a consignee within enemy territory, millions of dollars worth of conditional contraband has been shipped from the States to neutral ports.

On account of the unfinished case of a Swedish vessel, the Prize Court to-day postponed the consideration of American cases until to-morrow.

## Something Big Expected

NEW YORK, April 4.—A news agency despatch from Amsterdam says that Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg will take an important step in the international situation at to-morrow's sitting of the Reichstag, the Berlin newspapers stated to-day.

## OFFICIAL

FRENCH

PARIS, April 4 (via St. Pierre).—In the Argonne we shelled the German works, especially in Montfaucon and Malancourt districts. The Germans did not attack. The Vaux-Douaumont front is now re-established by our counter-attacks. Our batteries were particularly active battering at the enemy positions in this district. The enemy only replied faintly. East of Le Pretre Wood a strong German reconnoitering party was dispersed. In Alsace our batteries managed to shell enemy convoys travelling on the road from Thann to Mulhausen.

GERMAN.

BERLIN, April 4.—Strong French positions south-west of Douaumont and in Callette Wood, north-east of Verdun have been taken by German troops. The War Office announced to-day the recapture by British of a mine crater at St. Eloi south of Ypres, which the Germans had been occupying. There is also recorded in the official statement, that Britain's refusal to release the thirty-eight Germans, Austrians and Turks taken from the American steamer China, near Shanghai, was received to-day at the State Department. The British Note is understood to insist on the right of the Government to seize enemy subjects returning to take part in the war. This, it is understood, the United States is prepared to vigorously dispute. The intention of the State Department is to demand the unconditional release of the prisoners, according to many precedents.

## VERDUN NEVER WILL BE TAKEN

General Cadorna so Expresses His Belief to a Correspondent of the Petit Journal—Italian Commander is Highly Pleased With What Britain and France Have Accomplished

PARIS, April 5.—"Verdun will never be taken; this is the sincere and positive opinion of General Cadorna," said a member of the Italian General's staff, to a correspondent of the Petit Journal.

"General Cadorna," he continued, "returns to Italy from his visit to France full of enthusiasm for France, for what she has done, and for what she is now doing. What we saw on the French front is simply magnificent. France and Great Britain have heaped all along the line at innumerable depots so many men and such a quantity of guns and munitions that nothing that the Germans could now do, it seems to us, could possibly catch the Franco-British higher command unprepared."

## Dutch Vessel Is Torpedoed

Schooner 'Elsina Helfa' Sunk Yesterday in North Sea—Inquiry Will Be Held at Rotterdam.

THE HAGUE, April 4.—It is officially announced that the Dutch schooner 'Elsina Helfa' was torpedoed yesterday in the North Sea. The crew were saved.

An inquiry will be opened when the crew reach Rotterdam.

## Two More Victims of German Subs

Spanish Steamer 'Vigo' Sunk—'Bendow', a British Liner Also Sunk With Loss of One Life

LONDON, April 5.—The Spanish steamship 'Vigo', 1,137 tons, has been sunk in the Bay of Biscay by a German submarine. The crew, who were set adrift in a boat, were picked up by a British steamship and taken to Gibraltar.

Lloyds also report the sinking of the British steamship 'Bendow', with a loss of one of her crew.

## Big Jump in Norwegian Insurance

Owing to Large Number of Norwegian Ships Destroyed War Insurance Rates Increase One Hundred Per Cent

LONDON, April 5.—The Norwegian steamer 'Aren' has been sunk in the Cattedgat, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Copenhagen. The crew were saved. The correspondent adds, that as a result of the destruction of a large number of Norwegian ships, it has been decided to increase the rates of Norwegian war insurance one hundred percent. The 'Aren' was a vessel of 1,118 tons.

## Married Men Urge Universal Service

Deputation Call Upon Earl Derby And Place Suggestion Before Him—Would Form Committees Over Country and Help Recruiting Officers to Round Up Slackers

LONDON, April 4.—Earl Derby has approved of a suggestion, placed before him by a deputation from the National Union of attested married men, that members of the Union organize themselves into county committees to assist local recruiting officers in tracing single men, and helping to secure the services of such men for the Army. This was officially announced to-day, following a meeting of the deputation from the Union with Lord Derby yesterday.

The deputation further urged upon Lord Derby the desirability of pressing upon Premier Asquith the question of universal service as not only necessary, but just.

Lord Derby promised to lay the views of the deputation before the Premier, if the deputation found itself unable to secure an interview on the subject with some other member of the Government.

## Holland Closes Her German Frontier

ROME, April 4.—Wireless reports from Zurich state that Holland has closed her German frontier and massed all her available forces there.

## Resolved Maintain Neutrality

President of Dutch Chamber Says Holland's Move Was a Pure Precautionary One—Government Acted Upon Certain Information—Present Time Not Opportune to Make Facts Public

THE HAGUE, April 5.—At the opening of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament, after a preliminary secret session in committee, the President of the Chamber read a brief statement declaring that the recent suspension of furloughs of army officers and men, was a precautionary measure, as Holland is firmly resolved to maintain her neutrality, and there is a possibility of it incurring increased danger, owing to the course of the war.

The suspension order, he added was not in consequence of the present political entanglement, but was decided upon on account of certain information which had reached the Government, and which the Government does not judge it opportune at the present moment to make public.

## Big Blaze at Toronto Does \$30,000 Damage

TORONTO, Ont., Mar. 28.—Fire, last night, did about \$30,000 damage to the building and stock of Brown and Stenton, stationers, of Bay Street. Adjacent buildings suffered from smoke and water. The cause of the fire is not yet known. One fireman was overcome by smoke, and another slightly hurt by falling debris.

## ALL HUN ATTEMPTS TO PRESS BACK THE FRENCH ARE FOILED

### Suggestion An Absurd One

Secretary For India Denied Statement That Advance Against Bagdad Was Ordered by Ignorant Politicians.

LONDON, April 4.—Austin Chamberlain, Secretary for India, yesterday denied the suggestion that an advance against Bagdad had been ordered by ignorant politicians against the advice of the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia.

### Serious Explosion in Kent Munition Plant

LONDON, April 4.—The following statement is given out. The Minister of Munitions reports with great regret that during the week-end a serious fire broke out in a powder factory in Kent which led to a series of explosions in the works. The fire was purely accidental. It was discovered at midday and the last of the explosions took place shortly after two in the afternoon. The approximate number of casualties is 200.

## New Defence Of London Successful

LONDON, April 4.—Answering a question in the Commons to-day, Mr. Tennant said it was impossible to establish with certainty who was responsible for bringing down Zeppelin L-15, which was wrecked during Friday night's raid and fell into the Thames Estuary. Tennant said he believed the hits had been made by different batteries. The Under Secretary said that the new arrangements for the defence of London and munitions establishments around the city from aerial attacks, had proved successful. More than one attack, he said, had been thwarted without the people of London being aware of it.

### Another Zep Pays An Early Visit

LONDON, April 4.—No damage was caused by last night's Zeppelin raid. The official statement says:—"A Zeppelin is reported to have crossed the East Anglian coast at three o'clock on Tuesday morning. The airship does not seem to have been long over the land, although several explosions are reported, and fragments of bombs have been discovered, but up to date no damage was caused, and no casualties have been reported."

Germany Meet Considerable Losses in Vain Effort to Force South Against French Region in Douaumont—French Rake Advancing Germans and Force Them to Retreat in Disorder

### ELSEWHERE WEST FRONT BOMBARDMENT

Great Britain Declines to Release the 38 Enemy Subjects Taken off an American Steamer in Chinese Waters—Contends the Right to do so as They Were Returning to Take Part in War

LONDON, April 5.—An attempt by the Germans to press farther south against the French in the region of Douaumont, north-east of Verdun, met with a repulse and considerable losses. In the same sector, north of Callette Wood, the French have continued their progress, driving back the Teutons. A German attack south of Douaumont was launched against the French first lines of defence, but the French raked the advancing Teutons with their curtain of fire, machine guns and infantry fire, forcing them to retreat in disorder north-west toward Chaufour Wood. An attack by the Germans on the town of Haucourt, north-west of Verdun, also failed, as likewise did an attempt to reach the French trenches near Soppoia, in the Vosges Mountains. Elsewhere along the Western front, there have only been reciprocal bombardments, and some mining activities on the line held by the British.

On the Russian front artillery activity of the Russians in the Lake region south-east of Dvinsk has increased, but in general, no important changes in the positions either of the Russians or the Germans have taken place. Great Britain has declined to release the thirty-eight Germans, Austrians and Turks, removed by British warships from the American steamer China, off the Chinese coast. The right of the British Government to seize subjects of enemy countries returning home to take part in the war, is said to be insisted on in the British Note handed to the American State Department. The American Government is expected to dispute this contention.

The new Russian War Minister, General Chouvaieff, announces that all his efforts will be directed to providing the Russian army with sufficient equipment to win the war. He declares that there must be more deeds and fewer words and that the reorganization of some departments are necessary.

Austria has informed Holland that no Austria-Hungarian submarine was responsible for the sinking of the Dutch steamer 'Tubantia'.

LONDON, April 5.—Sir Gerard Augustus Lowther died this morning.

HOTLY RESENTED  
"Did you see those autos skid?"  
"Sir, how dare you call me that."

## Public Notice!

THERE will be a Meeting of the Rate-payers of St. John's in the Casino Theatre on THURSDAY EVENING, the 6th instant, at 8.30 p.m., to consider the new Municipal Act reported to the Government by the City Commissioners.

E. P. MORRIS  
J. R. BENNETT  
J. DWYER  
M. J. KENNEDY  
W. J. HIGGINS.