

## FRANCE'S AWFUL FINANCIAL PLIGHT REVEALED IN FIGURES; INSISTENT ON GERMANY PAYING

### Industrial Germany Primed for Move to Seize World Trade Before the Throttled French and Belgian Industries Can Recover—German Factories Ready to Start up.

By George W. Wickersham.  
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Paris, Feb. 21.—With the departure of the president, and the announcement of a renewal of the armistice on terms which appear to have brought Germany, for the first time, perhaps, to an actual realization of her defeat, comparative calm reigns in Paris. No one anticipates any momentous events, during the absence of Wilson and Lloyd George, but a deal of work will be done in preparation of matters to be submitted when the big five resume operations.

The League of Nations, having been transferred to the western side of the Atlantic, public attention this side is now centered upon the vital subject of finance. Finance Minister Klotz submitted a statement yesterday to the commission on budgets and fiscal legislation, which gives some suggestion of the actual situation confronting France.

"Before the war," he said, "the total budget of public expenses were, in round figures, 5,500,000,000 francs. The budget, under consideration for the coming year, will substantially exceed 15,500,000,000 and may amount to nineteen or twenty billion francs."

On the other hand, he pointed out, that while during the course of the war the government incurred tremendous indebtedness, yet all but 30,000,000,000 of the money raised were expended in France, and announced that the government had in preparation a bill imposing taxes upon capital distributed over a sufficient number of years so that the entire charge should not be paid by the present generation.

Minister Klotz further announced the following as the financial programme of the government:

- 1.—Demand from the enemy, the entire amount of the money raised, to be paid for certain creditors a priority on account of the character of the debt requiring guarantees of payment; the formation of a financial section in the League of Nations; maintenance of a policy of international understandings as close as possible.

- 2.—Not to demand more from the French taxpayer than is necessary to meet the requirements of the budgets in the immediate future; establish a tax on capital with payments distributed over a sufficiently large number of years.
- 3.—Opposition to all unproductive expenses.
- 4.—Continuation of appeals for credit on progressively lowering rates of interest.

The more serious statement of this programme reveals the serious nature of the French financial situation. It also accounts for the French insistence upon the payment by Germany of a subsequently large indemnity to restore, in some measure, the immense losses caused to France by the destruction of the textile and other industries in the invaded regions. An exact estimate of this cost has not yet been presented. Until the computation of that amount, based upon some businesslike appraisal, shall have been laid before the appropriate committee of the peace conference for consideration, it is idle to speculate upon the amount of the claims.

There is great merit in the contention that the cost of replacing the destroyed industrial properties of France, Belgium, Serbia, Rumania and to a certain extent, Italy, should be given priority over any indirect or war cost claims in behalf of any other nations. The justice of this priority is particularly apparent in the case of France and Belgium. Old estates in a region of France which before the war, Captain Tardieu states, contributed nearly twenty-five per cent. of the total tax levy of the republic, is a wilderness, which can only be restored by the expenditure of millions of dollars and a gradual building up and re-establishment of organizations, requiring time, large capital and governmental backing.

In the meantime the factories, mills and other productive works of Germany are ready to resume business as soon as the embargo is lifted and raw materials become available. The German people are already planning to have themselves established in a commanding position in the commercial world long before France and Belgium are prepared to resume, even in a limited way, the exportation of the products of those industries in which they have so long been pre-empted.

The failure of President Wilson to appreciate this situation, or in any event to give expression to a sympathetic consideration thereof, in a measure accounts for the change of sentiment toward him on the part of the French people. Unless France can secure the payment of a large sum of money from Germany, her financial outlook is gloomy, and nothing but the continued aid of the United States can save her from financial ruin. The same is true, in severely less degree, of Belgium.

The fact that the French Finance Minister can seriously propose to the Chamber of Deputies a financial tax, so large that it does not name the rate in announcing the project, upon the accumulated wealth of the nation affords some idea of the immensity of the problem before the government of the republic.

Reports from many German sources indicate, on the contrary, that the Germans have no idea of paying a considerable indemnity and are looking to President Wilson to save them from their position. The current newspaper press of Germany emphasizes the differences existing between the president and the French.

Several German newspapers recently published articles bearing the heading "Wilson against Foch."

The German contentions are that the United States made war, not upon the German people but upon the Kaiser's government. They say they have overthrown that government, and established a republic and do not perceive why they should not be at once received into the society of nations.

I have talked, recently, with several well informed Americans just returned from different parts of Germany, and they all agree in the foregoing summary of the German attitude. They say the Germans maintain that the French are vindictive and intend to crush them.

Although there were a large number of extra officers on duty, it was found impossible, to keep the crowds in line without the use of ropes. All sorts and conditions of people made their way to the scene, and many were where the dead statesman's remains repose amid a veritable garden of flowers, palms and evergreens. Disabled soldiers, returned from Flanders' fields, hobbled in on crutches, men and women in all walks of life, and little children maintained an unbroken line for fifteen hours. They came from all parts of the vast Dominion. New Brunswick in the far east, was represented by its first citizen, Hon. William Pugsley, lieutenant-governor of the province, and from the western prairies came Hon. Frank Oliver of Edmonton, the ever faithful friend of the departed statesman. Both were prominent members of the late Laurier cabinet.

## M. Clemenceau Considered Out of Danger and Condition Good

Paris, Feb. 21.—M. Clemenceau spent a short time in his garden this morning. He had luncheon at midday and his appetite was good. After luncheon he rested for a while and then received General Petain at two o'clock. During the morning M. Clemenceau requested to see Inspector Decaudin, who sat beside the Premier's chauffeur when Cotin made his attack. The Premier received Decaudin in his ante-chamber, shook his hand vigorously and congratulated him on the courage he had shown.

Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, went to the Premier's residence today to transmit to him a despatch from Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary of State on behalf of Pope Benedict.

This afternoon the Premier's visitors included Major-General Mordeac, head of the military cabinet of the Ministry of War, Victor Borot, the French Food Minister, and Captain Rene Fonck, the French "ace of aces."

Dr. Florant, whose name headed today's morning bulletin, is M. Clemenceau's personal physician. Dr. Florant recently had one of his legs amputated. His visit to the Premier today was the first time he had been out since the operation. When leaving M. Clemenceau's residence, Dr. Florant declared that, with his intimate knowledge of the Premier's temperament, he considered M. Clemenceau's condition as excellent.

"I consider M. Clemenceau out of danger," he said. "As for the extracting of the bullet, this need not be thought of, at least at the present."

For lunch M. Clemenceau ate soup, vegetables and a baked apple, and drank mineral water. This has been his menu for many years.

## SAD, SILENT, IMPRESSIVE THROUNGS PAY HOMAGE TO THE DEAD

### Thousands Walked in Reverent Procession Past the Bier of Sir Wilfrid Laurier Friday—Estimated That 75,000 People Will be at Funeral Today.

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—A party of thousands walked in reverent procession past the bier of Wilfrid Laurier today. From early morning until late in the afternoon, women and children stood in line for hours waiting their turn to take a last look at the face of the departed statesman. They passed through the chamber of death at the rate of two thousand an hour, a sad, silent, impressive throng, some pausing long enough to cross themselves, some holding children so that they might look upon the face of the illustrious dead. It was a strange and profoundly affecting scene. Even a woman who had once failed to deter the people from paying homage to the dead chief. Notwithstanding the weather conditions the throng increased instead of diminishing. The populace assembled in the streets leading to the parliament building, and the Dominion Police maintained order with great difficulty.

Although there were a large number of extra officers on duty, it was found impossible, to keep the crowds in line without the use of ropes. All sorts and conditions of people made their way to the scene, and many were where the dead statesman's remains repose amid a veritable garden of flowers, palms and evergreens. Disabled soldiers, returned from Flanders' fields, hobbled in on crutches, men and women in all walks of life, and little children maintained an unbroken line for fifteen hours. They came from all parts of the vast Dominion. New Brunswick in the far east, was represented by its first citizen, Hon. William Pugsley, lieutenant-governor of the province, and from the western prairies came Hon. Frank Oliver of Edmonton, the ever faithful friend of the departed statesman. Both were prominent members of the late Laurier cabinet.

Leading Conservatives also paid sincere homage to the great Liberal leader. Party was forgotten beneath the shadow of death.

So great was the multitude tonight that several women fainted. Many close friends of the distinguished statesman have entered the place where his body reposes for the purpose of seeing the beautiful floral tributes, but they would not look upon the face of the dead, preferring to remember the grand old chief as they saw him in life.

Dear friends of the former prime minister express the hope that this will be the last state funeral. They would have been better pleased if the obsequies had not been of such a public nature. The whole procedure has given them offence. Sir Wilfrid, they say, should have gone to his last sleep, not in the gold braided tunic, satin brocade and white silk stockings of the Windsor uniform, but in the civilian clothes in which he appeared in parliament, upon the streets and the pilgrimage to the country.

Tomorrow's funeral will be the most imposing ever held in Canada. Special trains, bearing thousands of people from all over the Dominion, began to arrive in the capital tonight, and it is estimated that between 50,000 and 75,000 persons will take part in, or witness the burial of the man who had won the hearts, not only of the people of this continent, but who, on account of his wise statesmanship, had been honored abroad.

## ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE BAVARIAN MINISTER AUER

### Shooting Took Place During a Session of the Landtag While Auer Was Alluding to the Assassination of Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian Premier—He is a Member of the Majority Socialist Party.

Munich, Feb. 21.—(By The Associated Press)—Perr Auer, Bavarian minister of the interior, has been shot during a session of the Landtag, while Auer was alluding to the assassination of Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian premier, and the minister of the interior in the left side, and Deputy Osel was killed and two other officials were seriously wounded.

The shots were fired from the public gallery and caused a panic among the deputies.

Herr Auer is a member of the majority socialist party. He first came into prominence last November, at the time of the revolt in Bavaria, taking the portfolio of minister of the interior in the new cabinet.

The following month, when the period of unrest in Munich became grave, Auer was compelled, at the points of revolvers of revolutionists who visited his home at night, to resign his post. He was given two minutes in which to do this. In his written resignation Auer declared that he was surrendering to force. This did not satisfy the revolutionists, who then shot Auer, the Bavarian premier, and a statement that his resignation was voluntary.

A short time afterwards the minister and the council of the people of Bavaria, expressed its anger over the forcing of Auer to relinquish his position, and declared that his resignation was not voluntary, and the minister remains a member of the government.

The document was signed by Kurt Eisner, as minister-president. Auer was the recipient of many expressions of sympathy from throughout Bavaria, as a result of the incident.

Last December seventeen prominent

## Canadian Pacific Springs Big Surprise in Plans to Shift Ocean Fleet to Portland

### Assurances Have Been Given That Proper Facilities for the Unloading of Transatlantic Steamers Are to be Provided by Federal and State Aid—C. P. R. Would be Heavy Contender for Traffic With the G. T. R. by Using Portland Port.

Special to The Standard.

Portland, Me., Feb. 21.—Much surprise was caused here, this afternoon, by the announcement that, now that assurances had been given that proper facilities are to be furnished for the unloading of trans-Atlantic steamers, by the erection of a new State pier, the expense of which is to be borne, equally, by the Federal and State governments, the Canadian Pacific Railway had come forward with a proposition to the Maine Central Railroad, which, if accepted, will bring the finest steamships in the Canadian trade to Portland. A great deal of genuine satisfaction is felt here, for it has brought about a situation that this city, and in fact the better part of New England, has long looked forward to the coming of the Canadian Pacific.

About two years ago the Canadian Pacific suggested to the Maine Central Railroad that some sort of wharf or pier facilities might be provided for. At that time the Maine Central officials did not feel that they were in a position to provide docking facilities for trans-Atlantic vessels, and the negotiations were dropped.

Now that the Canadian Pacific will secure a State pier, at this port, it is ready to come to Portland, and the big Canadian railway system will surely be welcomed.

In the erection of a state pier here the Canadian Pacific lines will have a connection with the Maine Central at Newport, Vt., or possibly Cooksboro, Que. Railroad men say that it would be rather an easy matter to make connections for a through service at either point. Should the connection be made at Newport the trains over

the Canadian Pacific bound for Portland, would come down to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, over the Boston and Maine Railroad and thence over the Maine Central to Portland.

The Canadian Pacific has been anxious to get part of the export business from this port and the big stumbling block has been the lack of proper piers where their ships might dock. The only docks of sufficient size, and provided with sufficient depth of waters, are owned by the Grand Trunk Railway.

The Allan Line, which sent ships to Portland for many years and maintained a regular service between this port and Glasgow until about four years ago, was purchased by the Canadian Pacific, and, since that time, the Allan Line has not sent a ship to Portland. The ships of the line being transferred to Halifax, St. John and other ports.

Portland, it is pointed out, has many advantages as an export port over Halifax and other Canadian ports on the Atlantic coast. This port is only 297 miles from Montreal, while the distance from Montreal to Halifax is 577 miles and there is a long rail "haul" of 482 miles from Montreal to St. John.

Inland freight rates are 50 cents per ton higher to Montreal from Portland, than from Montreal to Portland from inland points on export business.

In years past the grades in the White Mountains, especially Crawford Notch, would be an obstacle for heavy freight trains, but railroad officials say that this obstacle has been overcome, now, as larger and more powerful locomotives have been provided and any difficulty from this source is not considered serious.

## ELEVEN PERSONS LOSE LIVES IN HOTEL FIRE

### Fire in Boarding House at St. Joviet Causes Death and Heavy Damage.

Montreal, Feb. 21.—Eleven persons are believed to have been burned to death while another will probably die as the result of a fire which destroyed a boarding house at St. Joviet, on Wednesday morning. A verdict of accidental death was returned by Coroner Labelle, of St. Jerome, after an inquest held on the bodies of five persons recovered.

The victims so far identified are: Abundus Coupal, proprietor of the boarding house; Miss Leason, a servant; Jean-Baptiste Thibault, Antoine Loquard and Lelord Fasse, boarders. Three other bodies, which were not identified were also recovered, but the names of these persons do not answer to the roll call.

Mrs. Coupal, wife of the proprietor, was severely burned and will probably die. She escaped by jumping from a second-story window into the snow. Her child, one year and a half old, also threw from the window before jumping and saved his life. Two other men also jumped from the window and, stark naked, ran to the C. P. R. station, where they borrowed clothing and immediately left the place for their homes in other villages. They were not called to attend the inquest.

It was shortly before three o'clock in the morning when the fire was discovered and the neighbors ran to try and save the building, but it was too late. The three-story wooden building was a mass of flames and it was quickly destroyed.

Coroner Labelle, in his inquest, found that the fire had probably started in the morning when Mrs. Coupal, despite her weak condition was able to give a few details of the affair. She had gone to bed and was awakened by the smell of smoke.

## LABOR CONFERENCE AT HALIFAX

### Eight Thousand Women's Names Added to Voting List—Property Owners Can't Collect for Damages from Recent Riots.

Halifax, Feb. 21.—The voters' list for Halifax City, on which Provincial elections are held, previous to the revision now finished, numbered 13,000 names. During the past week the names of more than 8,000 women were added. This will make a total of 21,000. The registration closed yesterday.

The property owners who suffered loss by this week's rioting are not likely to obtain compensation from the city. This opinion is based on a claim for compensation, as a result of the riot more than a year ago, when attempts were made to set fire to the City Hall. Last December the solicitor for the Pallister estate sent a claim to the city for the damage done to property belonging to that estate, broken plate glass, which was smashed during the riot. The claim was submitted to the city solicitor who gave the following opinion: "In respect to the above claim, all I have to say is that the city is not liable for damages occasioned by riots."

The same rule holds now.

A labor conference will be held in Halifax next week. The conference will be devoted entirely to discussion of any matters that will benefit the welfare of the working man. Possibly a Provincial Federation of Labor will be formed, and it may be decided to form a Nova Scotia Independent Labor Party. A representative from each labor organization in the Province will attend the conference, which will extend over three days.

London, Feb. 21.—(Canadian Associated Press from Reuters)—Princess Patricia of Connaught bade farewell today to the famous battalion of Canadian light infantry which bears her name, and of which she is the Colonel-in-Chief.

The battalion which only arrived in England from Belgium a fortnight ago was inspected by the Princess at the Canadian camp of Bramshott, near Liphook. The men had with them the colors which the Princess worked with her own hands and presented to them when they left Ottawa for France, and which they carried through many engagements. The men were in fighting kit and looked extremely smart on parade.

After inspecting and addressing the men, the Princess fixed to the colors, which were presented to her by an officer on bended knee, a laurel wreath in metal inscribed:

"To the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from the Colonel-in-Chief in recognition of their heroic services in the great war, 1914-18."

The battalion marched past its Colonel-in-Chief to the inspiring strains of the bag pipes. It is noteworthy that the colors, presented by the Princess, were the only ones carried in action by British troops in this war.

## PRINCESS BIDS FAREWELL TO FAMOUS REG'T

### London, Feb. 21.—(Canadian Associated Press from Reuters)—Princess Patricia of Connaught bade farewell today to the famous battalion of Canadian light infantry which bears her name, and of which she is the Colonel-in-Chief.

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## HEALTH BOARD FOR KINGS MEETS

### Organizes the County Into Six Health Districts—Susex to be Headquarters.

Hampton, Feb. 21.—The Board of Health for Kings County met here today and organized for the work of the year. Dr. Melvin, Provincial Health Officer, and Dr. Brown, Inspector, were present. All members of the County Board, with the exception of Q. W. Wetmore, who was ill, were present. It was voted to make Susex the headquarters of the Board, and the first Wednesday of June an December, the regular meeting times. A. E. Person was chosen secretary. The county will be divided into six health districts, with an inspector in charge of each district.

## BAVARIAN PREMIER KILLED WHILE ON WAY TO THE DIET

Copenhagen, Feb. 21.—Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian premier, was shot and killed today by Lieutenant Count Arco Valley as Eisner was on his way from the foreign ministry in Munich to the Diet, says a Munich despatch. The shooting occurred in the Prannerstrasse, and death resulted from two shots fired from behind into his head.

Eisner's body was carried into the foreign ministry, where it lies in the porters lodge.

Soon after the shooting the judicial and police authorities arrived to investigate the assassination. There was great excitement in the streets of the city.

The Diet, which was holding its first session today adjourned indefinitely.

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## ALBERTA MINERS MAKE DEMANDS

### Want Certain Police Officials Removed, Under "Orders in Council" Under Which They Have Suffered.

Calgary, Alta., Feb. 21.—At today's session of District Number 15, miners' convention here, a resolution was passed calling upon the minister of justice at Ottawa to dismiss Detective Lebb and Police Superintendent Pennyfather of Lethbridge, for alleged persecution of miners in connection with searches for banned literature. It was further resolved to try to bring about a general strike in Canada as a whole, "unless these orders-in-council are removed under which we have suffered for so long."

The convention then entered into a closed session.

## ADDITIONAL TAX

### London, Feb. 21.—(By Canadian Associated Press)—The treasury stated in answer to a question in the House of Commons that an additional tax of two shillings on the pound in respect to dividends of securities not loaned to the government, more particularly investments in the dominions, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway, will lapse on April 15th.

## MOST UNUSUAL CASE

### Toronto, Feb. 21.—This is the most unusual case I have ever heard of. A Provincial Federation of Labor will be formed, and it may be decided to form a Nova Scotia Independent Labor Party. A representative from each labor organization in the Province will attend the conference, which will extend over three days.

## LLOYD GEORGE EMPHASIZES THE GRAVITY OF STRIKE AT THIS TIME

### Gives the Miners Some Plain Talk and Intimates That the State Cannot be Meddled With in These Trying Days.

London, Feb. 21.—The official report of Premier Lloyd George's speech to the Miners' Legislative Committee, Thursday, which was made public today for the first time, shows that the government, apparently, has no settled policy, as yet, about the nationalization of mines.

The premier, indicating his readiness to set a time limit for the Royal Commission's report on the question of wages, hours and other matters, said it was difficult to impose such a limit on the question of nationalization, because the discussion would involve the "future management and control of mines, whether joint control by employers and workmen, or whether nationalization, or the present system should be continued."

Mr. Lloyd George devoted himself, largely, to emphasizing the gravity of a strike at the present time, when the nation is crippled by the gigantic cost of the war, and its industries are virtually at a standstill. He said that moreover a conflict, under existing circumstances, would not, as formerly, be a conflict between miners and mine owners, but between the miners and the state.

The premier said he could conceive of nothing graver than such a conflict, because the state would be unable to surrender without abandoning its functions. Another serious reason against the stoppage of work, Mr. Lloyd George added, was the effect it would have on the distribution of food and the possibility of causing serious privations to the community.

For all these reasons the premier concluded, it was the earnest business of the government, as well as of the miners to find a way out of the difficulty. For the government to purchase a few weeks' peace by surrender, he declared, would only aggravate the trouble.

## STRIKE IN RUHR INDUSTRIAL REGION IS STILL SPREADING

### It Appears Increasingly Evident That Only a Small Minority of the Strikers Are in Sympathy With the Spartacans and Many Would go to Work if Permitted to do so.

Bélin, Thursday, Feb. 20.—(By The Associated Press)—The strike in the Ruhr industrial region is still spreading, but it appears to be increasingly evident that only a small minority of the strikers are in sympathy with the Spartacans, and that the majority of them would go to work if they were permitted to do so.

Marshal Foch is reported to have consented to the sending by the government of troops against Düsseldorf, which is in the neutral zone fixed by the armistice.

The Spartacans have cut the railway from Oberhausen, north of Essen, to Dorsten, to prevent the transportation of troops. They are also occupying all the roads by which soldiers could come to the region.

Armed Spartacans pass through all the trains in the Ruhr district and refuse to permit anybody suspected of being a government soldier to proceed further in the district. They have been expelled from the Elberfeld railway station by government troops, but at Balwan there was a refusal of these conditions, the Spartacans seizing the railway station and public buildings, and disarming the policemen.

The government is reported to be purposely refraining from local offensives against the Spartacans, since it is its desire to wait until an adequate number of troops is available to clean up the whole district thoroughly.

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