

OFFICE FOR RENT

443 Yonge St. Cor. Carlton, \$125 per month, plus taxes. Three good display windows, and six-roomed living apartment; best location on Yonge, north of Shuter. Immediate possession. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King East.

The Toronto World

STORE FOR RENT

443 Yonge St. Cor. Carlton, \$125 per month, plus taxes. Three good display windows, and six-roomed living apartment; best location on Yonge, north of Shuter. Immediate possession. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King East.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MARCH 15 1916

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,908

ITALIANS GAIN SUCCESSES IN A NEW GENERAL OFFENSIVE BRITISH FORCES PERFECTLY ORGANIZED FOR COMING DRIVE Violent German Attack Northwest of Verdun Repulsed by French

BRITISH ARMY EQUIPMENT OF HIGH STANDARD

Tenant Points to Colossal Task and Fine Results Achieved.

EXPAND AIR DEFENCES

Size of Army Not Disclosed—No More Canadian Horses Needed.

LONDON, March 14, 5.05 p.m.—In introducing the army estimates in the house of commons today Harold I. Tennant, parliamentary under-secretary of the war office, explaining that it was not in the public interest to divulge figures, devoted his speech largely to a review of the enormous work involved in creating the army and what the government is doing with respect to the conflicting claims in the industrial and military fields.

With regard to air defence he announced that it was proposed to apply the scale of defence agreed upon for London for the whole country. The provision for aeroplanes was satisfactory and was ahead of the supply of engines and pilots. But the position was always improving in the matter of pilots. The shortage of engines had caused the government great anxiety from the outset, when Great Britain was behind France and Germany. But now, he said, the majority of the engines were of British manufacture.

Plenty of Horses. He mentioned that the purchase of horses in Canada and the United States would now cease, as Great Britain was able to provide for the wastage in horses, but mules would still be required.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

BRITISH PRISONERS TO BE FREED BY TURKS?

Negotiations for Exchange of Captives Are Now in Progress.

LONDON, March 15, 1.45 a.m.—Negotiations are in progress for the exchange of all British prisoners in the hands of the Turks. American doctors are in medical charge at Philippopolis of all the British prisoners in Bulgaria.

RENFREW PLANT IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Mysterious Blaze Caused Loss of Hundred Thousand Dollars.

RENFREW, Ont., March 14.—Fire of mysterious origin completely destroyed the plant of the Renfrew Machinery Co. tonight. It was first reported that the blaze followed the explosion of a lead pot in the hand of a workman, but officials of the company could not account for the cause and particularly the rapid spread of the flames, which enveloped the entire building in the space of five minutes. The loss is estimated at \$100,000 in addition to several important shipments ready to send away. Several workmen had narrow escapes.

This is the second fire of a serious nature within a week. Last Tuesday the plant of the O'Brien Munitions Limited, being damaged to the extent of \$100,000.

Two men who said they were Germans from Berlin, Ont., appeared in the police court at Pembroke, Ont., yesterday on suspicion of implication in an attempt to destroy a munitions plant on Sunday night. A Berlin despatch last night said the men, Bartscher and Zenker, were not known there.

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

VIOLENT ONSET BY FOE BEATEN OFF AT VERDUN

Attack on French Lines Between Cumieres and Bethincourt Fails.

BIG BATTLE RENEWED

After Lull of Four Days, Germans Again Become Aggressive.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, March 14.—Violent infantry fighting broke out again after a lull of four days on the French lines to the northwest of Verdun and west of the Meuse, today, with the Germans attacking the front of three miles which lies between Bethincourt and Cumieres, and being repulsed everywhere with serious losses. The only thing that they had to show for their effort, according to the French war office, was the gaining of a foothold in two points of the French trenches between Bethincourt and Le Mort Homme (Deadman's Hill). The infantry assault here was preceded by the redoubting of the violence of the German bombardment of these positions with shells of heavy calibre.

In the morning the only incident outside of the ordinary heavy bombardment was the shelling of a German railway commissaire force in the Hautremont Wood, west of Douaumont, across the river from the scene of the afternoon's encounter.

Marked activity by the artillery of both sides was noted during the day.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5)

CHANGES IN GRAIN ACT ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION

Western Liberals Think Board of Commissioners Will Have Undue Powers.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, March 14.—Sir George Foster's bill to amend the Canada Grain Act met with some opposition in committee of the whole from western Liberal members this afternoon. They objected that the amendment gave too sweeping powers to the board of grain commissioners in the matter of ordering cars to any given locality to relieve congestion of grain. The bill stood over for third reading.

PENSIONS QUESTION IN HANDS OF COMMITTEE

Hazen, Lemieux, Oliver, Green and Macdonald Appointed as Investigators.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, March 14.—On motion of Sir Robert Borden in the house of commons this afternoon, a special committee of the house was appointed to investigate the scale of pensions, to make recommendations in connection therewith, and also as to the advisability of creating a permanent pension board. The members of the committee are: Hon. J. D. Hazen, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Hon. Frank Oliver and Messrs. R. F. Green (Kootenay) and E. M. Macdonald (Picton).

ITALIANS TAKE PIVOT OF AUSTRIAN DEFENCE

Dante del Croviglio, Southeast of St. Martino, Captured by Infantry Assault.

STRONG REDOUBT FALLS

Artillery Does Good Service Against Enemy in Mountain Zone.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, March 14.—Dante del Croviglio, southeast of St. Martino, and the pivot of the Austrian defences in the San Martino zone, was captured by the Italians yesterday, an official communique issued at Rome announced today. A strong redoubt in this zone was also stormed and occupied by an Italian Queen's Infantry Brigade, while on the left other Italian detachments entered and destroyed Austrian lines in the neighborhood of San Martino Church. Italian infantry, working under unfavorable weather conditions and against a slippery ground, won success on the Sabatino slopes, between San Michele and San Martino del Carso, and eastward of Montalcone, in the Isonzo lines. Italian artillery has also been active in the mountainous section of the front.

The efficacy of the Italian artillery fire is demonstrated by the fact that only 14 prisoners were taken in the San Martino fighting. The Austrians claim that the Italians have developed a strong offensive against them on the Isonzo front, making attacks with large forces, but it is declared that in each case these attacks have been repulsed.

ORDER OF LEOPOLD FOR SIR ROBERT L. BORDEN

Belgian Consul-General Hands Prime Minister Grand Cordon of Decoration.

OTTAWA, March 14.—M. Gooz, consul-general for Belgium, today handed to Sir Robert Borden the insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, which has just been conferred upon the premier by King Albert as a public mark of his majesty's appreciation of the prime minister's and the Dominion's sympathy generally towards Belgium. This decoration is the highest order of Leopold, which ranks first among the Belgian national orders, and was instituted by the first sovereign of independent Belgium in 1832.

PORTUGAL'S SEIZURE OF SHIPS RESULT OF URGING BY BRITAIN

Portugal Agreed to Compensate Owners, But Germany's Hasty Declaration of War Has Altered Situation, Says Sir Edward Grey.

LONDON, March 14, 4.30 p.m.—Speak on behalf of Premier Asquith who was absent owing to illness, Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, explained in the house of commons today the entry of Portugal into the war. He confirmed the statement that the British Government had urged Portugal to requisition the German ships, and said that Portugal promised eventually to indemnify the owners.

The secretary argued that the right in an emergency to requisition property of all individuals and convert it to public use was a right inherent in every foreign state and could not be challenged by any foreign power. Portugal, however, was not a neutral state in the narrow sense of the term. At the outbreak of the war Portugal promised that under no circumstances would she disregard her

ancient alliance with Great Britain and she had remained faithful to the obligations of that alliance. Germany was Hasty. The action of Portugal, continued Sir Edward, would injure no third party, because she had promised compensation, but Germany saw fit to give a hasty declaration of war, thus altering the whole position as regarded the payment of compensation. "It must be observed," said the foreign secretary, "that Germany who has accused Portugal of a breach of neutrality had herself, in October and December, 1914, raided in the Portuguese colony of Angola and tried to stir up a rebellion in Portuguese East Africa."

In conclusion Sir Edward said Portugal would be welcomed by the allies as a gallant coadjutor in the great cause for which the war had been waged.

CALDER EVADES CHARGES MADE BY PROROGUING

Appeal at Eleventh Hour to Lieutenant-Governor Did Not Avail.

PETITION WAS STRONG

But His Honor Did Not Take Action Opposition Requested.

REGINA, March 14.—The eleventh hour appeal to Lieut.-Governor Lake to prevent prorogation of the Saskatchewan Legislature, made this morning by the opposition, was of no avail and the lieutenant-governor prorogued the house at 4 p.m.

The government decided that two general charges referred to in the appeal would be required into by the royal commission investigating the bribery charges. Mr. Bradshaw's motion, in which he included the charges was ruled by the speaker to be out of order after Mr. Turgoon and Mr. Calder had pointed out the irregularity of a member introducing a motion, the subject matter of which had been once dealt with on the floor of the house.

On receiving the opposition's petition, Lieut.-Governor Lake conferred with the acting premier for several hours.

The petition reads as follows: "It appears not unlikely in the house that prorogation will be asked today in a very short time. There is still, however, standing on the order paper a motion by Mr. Bradshaw which you will see in the votes and proceedings, to enquire into the liquor charges. To a large extent it is a recapitulation in more detail of prior charges. "Mr. Calder and myself have on three occasions, two formally, discussed the question of widening the terms of the commission re liquor enquiry and re-enquiry into roads and bridges, etc., to final minimum terms that I submitted to you on the 11th inst."

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

SOUTH AMERICA WILL ESCAPE GERMAN TRAP

Buenos Ayres Paper Says U. S. Set Example of Shrewdness.

BUENOS AIRES, March 14.—La Nacion, commenting on rumors to the effect that the chancelleries of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, which have been studying the question of a common attitude relative to German submarine campaign, would adopt a position justifying the campaign against armed merchant ships of the allies, says: "The United States did not fall into the trap, because such a project under one of neutrality. The example of the United States indicates sufficiently the road to follow, and that which we shall follow."

EGYPTIAN BORDER PACIFIED BY PROMPT BRITISH ACTION

Senussi Tribesmen Melt Away, Leaving Bedouins Demoralized and Starving—Sollum Will be Occupied by Major-General Peyton.

LONDON, March 14.—The war office this afternoon made public the following official communication: CAIRO, March 14.—Our forces under Major-General Peyton will occupy Sollum (on the Egyptian-Tripoli border) today. The Senussi tribesmen camp at Msead is reported unoccupied and no opposition is expected. The Bedouins who elected to join forces with Sayed Ahmed are demoralized and

suffering greatly from hunger and disappointment. The Sheikh Harun of Zweit Harun, east of Mersa Matruh, has surrendered and is in our camp. The headman of the Aulad All tribe are asking for pardon. "Starving Bedouins, with their families, are flocking into our lines for food and shelter, having been robbed and ill-treated by the Tripolitan Bedouins brought into Egyptian territory by Sayed Ahmed."

ILLNESS OF ASQUITH NOT DEEMED SERIOUS

Attack of Bronchial Catarrh Will Keep Him in House a Few Days.

LONDON, March 14, 10.13 p.m.—The condition of Premier Asquith, who is suffering from bronchial catarrh, was unchanged this evening, according to the official bulletin issued by the attending physician. It was declared at the premier's residence that the bronchial attack is not of great severity, and should no unfavorable developments occur, it is expected that the premier will resume his parliamentary duties in a few days. In the meantime he is confined to his room.

PUGSLEY SEEKS TO PLACE ONUS ON GEN. HUGHES

Latter Linked With Shell Committee in Accusation of Reckless Waste.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Ont., March 14.—Party feeling again ran high in the house of commons today, when Hon. Wm. Pugsley and Solicitor-General Meighen crossed swords in the debate upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion for a parliamentary investigation of the shell committee. Mr. Pugsley created a distinct sensation by making a formal charge upon his responsibility as a member of parliament against the committee and the minister of militia. He charged the committee with imprudent conduct and reckless extravagance with the connivance of the minister. Mr. Pugsley's speech, however, added nothing to the specific charges already made by Mr. Carvell. Meighen's Stout Defence. Mr. Meighen in reply characterized Dr. Pugsley's formal charge as mock heroics. The charge, he said, recounted no fraudulent or criminal conduct, but was a mere declamation about extravagance heard every day in every parliament in the world. Mr. Meighen ridiculed the Carvell indictment showing many of the facts and figures upon which it was founded to be without foundation. He also vindicated General Sir Alexander Bertram against the accusations which had been levelled against him. Mr. Meighen showed that General Bertram had sold out his interest in the John Bertram Company ten years ago and had never been connected with the Chapman Engine and Machine Company nor with the Valley City Seeding Company. Britain Will Decide. Restating the position the government, Mr. Meighen said that all the allegations made against the shell committee would be forwarded to England (Continued on Page 4, Column 5)

VON TIRPITZ'S ILLNESS IS WORRYING TEUTONS

Hamburg Paper Says His Permanent Retirement Would Cause Severe Grief.

BERLIN, March 14, 11 a.m., via London, March 15, 2.39 a.m.—The Hamburg Nachrichten commenting on the illness of Admiral Von Tirpitz, says: "The times make tremendous demands on the strength of a man in such an important and responsible position as that of Admiral Von Tirpitz. We do not learn from this first announcement the nature of the sickness which has stricken the creator of our fleet, but if it should compel him to leave office permanently the German people would be afflicted by a severe grief."

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

DECIDING to make another bid for a gain of ground in their offensive against Verdun, the Germans yesterday, after careful artillery preparations, in which their bombardment of the French with heavy shells, doubled in violence, launched an attack against the French positions which extend from Cumieres to Bethincourt, on the west bank of the Meuse, and which form a front of about three miles, and were severely repulsed. They only gained a foothold in two small sections of trench between Bethincourt and Le Mort Homme, and their losses, judging by the French communique of last night, have been extremely severe. It is probable that at least two divisions were employed in this fighting. Whether it will be continued today and the next is a problem. In speaking of losses in war, German military doctrinaires have always said that an omelet could not be made without breaking eggs, and they have never shrunk from incurring large losses. But signs are coming thru that the German people are hearing of their heavy losses with greater and greater apprehension.

But it would be folly to estimate the influence of popular opinion in Germany on the government as equal to the influence of popular opinion, say, in Canada, on the government. The north German dearly loves to be ruled by the Junkers and bossed about by drill sergeants, and he has not an iota of independent thought and clear-cut individuality. The German Socialists, on whom so much was counted by pacifists before the war began, were about the easiest of all for the war lords to manage. German workmen have been notorious for their easiness to delude, and some of the most violent of the Socialist agitators have really been spies for the German governing classes. So it is to be feared that the Rhine will long run red before the German people start to work out their own salvation by insurrection. They are more like sheep which are dumb before the butcher. Neither has the German censors allowed any news unfavorable to the German armies to be published in Germany. The people firmly believe that they have won the war because their rulers have told them that they have. They are puzzled to see why the allies are holding out any longer. The only way to make them see the light is to carry fire and sword thru Germany. For that reason heavy preparations have been made in Britain and France, and the time will soon arrive for Kitchener's new armies to get on the move.

The chief effect of the prolonging of the war and the severe checking of German troops from time to time is to disgust the Germans with the fighting and with the British blockade, causing them acute distress, the soldiers will become dissatisfied with conditions at home and will be affected with a strong disinclination to fight any longer. This aversion to war is already increasing the number of desertions from the German army, and the bulk of the men with the German colors, being now recruited from the older classes and the medically unfit, will have much less

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 2 and 3.)

Table with market prices for various goods like flour, sugar, etc.

Company Limited