

PEACE OFFER FROM GERMANY

To Belgium Is Being Discussed In London.

VISIT TO KING ALBERT

BY EARL CURZON AND SIR DOUGLAS HAIG.

Causes Much Speculation - Berlin Claims That Negotiations Are Now In Progress To Restore Belgium.

London, Feb. 7.—There is much speculation here regarding the reports underlyng the visit of Earl Curzon and General Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France, to Albert, King of the Belgians, which was announced by the Official Press Bureau.

Almost coincident with the official announcement comes a despatch from The Hague forwarding Berlin advices regarding negotiations said to be in progress between Germany and King Albert for the signing of a separate treaty of peace between Germany and Belgium.

Not in Germany unwilling to make even further concessions in order to obtain Belgian neutrality, according to the reported current opinion in Dutch diplomatic circles.

At the Hague have obtained from sources the reliability of which they do not question, the information that Germany is willing to restore the destroyed Belgian cities and to pay a large sum of money to the Belgian Government for the further restoration of the country on the condition that the word "indemnity" shall not be used in connection with such payments.

In the absence of any explanation from official British sources regarding the visit of Lord Curzon and Gen. Haig to King Albert speculation based on the Dutch despatches is being indulged in here without restraint.

A FALSE STATEMENT, DECLARES LANSING, That the United States Has Reduced Its Lusitania Demand.

(Special to the Whig.) Washington, Feb. 7.—A sensational turn was given to the controversy between the United States and Germany to-day when Secretary Lansing declared that Under Secretary Zimmerman of the German Legation had made an "utterly false statement" in which he said, as quoted by a news agency, that the United States had "made new demands" in the Lusitania case.

The flat declaration coming from the Secretary of State that the United States has not reduced its demands is believed to bode ill for Germany hopes that to-day the President and secretary might decide to way the compromise offers half way.

HAS KITCHENER GONE TO EGYPT? (Special to the Whig.) New York, Feb. 7.—It is stated in private cable messages from England to-day that Lord Kitchener has gone to take personal charge of the operations in Egypt and Mesopotamia, and that General Sir William Robertson, chief of the Imperial General Staff, who rose from the ranks, will become War Secretary. There is no other confirmation.

British Ships Not Bombed. (Special to the Whig.) London, Feb. 7.—Specific denial was made by the Admiralty to-day of the German official claim that British ships were bombed in last Monday night's Zeppelin raid on England.

General Hughes, in reply to criticisms of Capt. Hahn, Chief Intelligence Officer of the Militia Department overseas, stated that he had won the D. S. O. in the trenches.

THE WHIG'S CONTENTS. PAGE: 1—Peace Offer from Germany; Husband Charged with Desertion; The Winning of India; Deserted Her Baby; 2—Editorial; Random Reels; Walt Mason's Invention; 3—Voice of the Pulpit; Dairy School Results; 4—Eastern Ontario News; Amusements; The Forum; 5—Hockey and Curling; Military Matters; 6—Playing a "Blind"; German Fleet Must Advance; 7—Sleepy-Time Tales; Monks; 8—Page of Overseas News; 9—Military Matters; World of Sport.

BELIEVE THAT BOMB

Started Fire in Grant, Holden & Graham's, Ottawa. Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Grant, Holden & Graham up to Friday night had half a million dollars' worth of war contracts, and a large quantity of shirts were stored in the upper floor of the building. The firm was recently urged to complete orders for the 77th Battalion, and much work was in progress. Over \$50,000 worth of military shirts were also completed. Members of the firm are self-satisfied that the fire which wiped out their plant was the work of alien agents or sympathizers, and in some respects it is very similar to the circumstances connected with the start of the Parliament buildings fire on Thursday night.

ALLEGED SPIES ARRESTED

Hesper, Feb. 7.—Fire, believed to be of an incendiary origin, broke out in the munitions department of the E. B. Jardine & Co.'s tool and shell plant Saturday afternoon and completely destroyed the shell department before it was extinguished.

Wingham, Feb. 7.—An alleged German spy was arrested here in connection with the Hesper fire. Three arrests were made at Hesper.

MORE SPEEDY CONVICTION OF DESERTERS PROVIDED.

Order in Council Passed Makes Absence Without Leave Criminal.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—An order-in-council has been passed under the War Measures Act providing for a more speedy conviction of deserters from the overseas forces. It is provided that every man of the active militia of Canada or of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force who absents himself from his corps while it is on active service without the leave of his commanding officer, shall be guilty of an offence under the criminal code. On summary conviction the offender may be imprisoned for two years, with or without hard labor. Production of the attestation paper shall be deemed to be sufficient proof that the accused was duly entered.

SENSATIONAL REPORTS HEARD IN OTTAWA OF NEW GERMAN PLOTS.

Parliament to Discuss the Big Fire of Accidental Origin. (Special to the Whig.) Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Sensational reports of the discovery of new German plots were in circulation as Parliament prepared to assemble this afternoon, to discuss the origin of the fire that destroyed the Canadian Parliament buildings. It is understood that the view held in official circles is that the fire, which destroyed the buildings was accidental and not of incendiary origin.

THE DOMINION POLICE AND MINISTER OF MILITIA DOUBT IT.

Investigation at Hesper Into Factory Fire—London, Ont., Munition Manufacturers Double Guards. (Special to the Whig.) Ottawa, Feb. 7.—When asked this morning about the report in the New York Herald that another German plot to destroy the Welland canal had been discovered, the Dominion Police and Gen. Sir Sam Hughes said that they did not regard the story seriously.

Put On Double Guards.

(Special to the Whig.) London, Ont., Feb. 7.—Following all kinds of wild rumors of plots and warnings, munition manufacturers are putting double guards night and day on their factories. All are heavily armed.

Personnel Of Commission.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—The personnel of the Commission which will enquire into the origin of the fire has not yet been officially announced. It is practically certain that R. A. Fringle, K. C., member for Cornwall, will be nominated by the Government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to-day considering his choice of a nominee for the Commons.

CODERRE FOUND GUILTY.

Canadian Lieutenant Charged With Slaying Sergeant. London, Feb. 7.—Lieut. Georges Coderre, of the Canadian expeditionary force, was sentenced to death Saturday at Winchester on the charge of having murdered Sergeant Ozanne of his regiment.

Hon. Martin Burrell Resting Easily.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Hon. Martin Burrell, who was severely burned in Thursday night's fire, is reported as resting easily. It will be some time before he will be able to go out of doors. There are hopes that his face will not be badly scarred.

DECORATIONS REQUIRED.

In order to brighten up the streets and to lend a holiday appearance to the city during carnival week, the merchants and business men are requested to decorate their store fronts. "Display some colors somewhere, as an evidence that you appreciate this effort to entertain our soldiers and to induce better recruiting," remarked a military man to-day. "Every little bit helps, so get busy and decorate."

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.



Picture shows the ruins of the Ottawa House of Commons, with fire hose still playing on the smouldering ruins.

INCLINED TO IGNORE STORY

Of Another Plot To Destroy Welland Canal.

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DRIVE ON SALONIKA.

(Special to the Whig.) London, Feb. 7.—Gen. Von Mackensen has assumed command of the Austro-German troops for a drive on Salonika, which, according to latest despatches has commenced.

KING MOURNS HIS SOLDIERS

Attends Performance Of Verdi's Requiem In Their Memory.

London, Feb. 7.—King George today made his first public appearance since he suffered injuries from an accident while reviewing the British troops in France last October. His Majesty attended a performance of Verdi's Requiem in memory of the soldiers who have fallen in the war.

War Tidings.

The Roumanian Government on Saturday announced its intention of floating a forty million dollar foreign loan immediately, presumably for war purposes.

Troops have been called out in Leipzig to quell riots. Four hundred and fifty Germans, attacking Drinsk, across the frozen Drina, were drowned when the ice was smashed by heavy Russian fire.

Four hundred were killed and five hundred wounded when French aviators bombed a Bulgarian camp near the Greek border.

That Lord Kitchener will take supreme command of the Allied forces on the western front with the opening up of the spring is the consensus of opinion in high military circles in the Old Country.

German trenches in the Champagne were subjected to a terrific fire from the French artillery Saturday.

A German aeroplane was brought down in flames by French machines. The Berlin War Office reports that an attempted British advance southwest of Neuville was repulsed.

A big German warship was sunk by a mine near the Swedish coast. A big Austrian arms factory at Pilsen was destroyed, together with several aeroplanes.

UPHOLDS GERMAN'S IN CIVIL SERVICE.

The Minister of Militia Says They Are All—Right.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—The chief of the Canadian Intelligence Department, the secret service of the army, is a German, whose father was an officer in the German army, states Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, Saturday night.

"He is a German, and he may have brothers in the German army. But that makes no difference to me," said Sir Sam. "And there are others in my departments, too."

"Canada has this German business all wrong. This is not a fight against a people. It is a fight against a tyrant. Why, I believe the Germans of Canada are loyal and I believe we should raise battalions of Germans here. There have been a great many boys of German descent who have gone overseas, and they have done splendidly."

"This is a fight against a tyrant. I am in this to fight the Kaiser. I may be called upon later to fight a tyrant in the United States, or a tyrant in England."

NEW YORK RAILWAYS STRONGLY GUARDED.

(Special to the Whig.) New York, Feb. 6.—Special guards have been assigned to all underground, elevated and steam railways. The police refused to discuss the matter, but it is believed warnings have been received of an attempt to dynamite the railways.

LOOKS LIKE INCENDIARISM

Chemical in Extinguishers Was Changed.

THE WAY FIRE SPREAD

WOULD INDICATE THAT GASOLINE WAS USED.

Ottawa Fire Chief Thinks Extinguishers Were Tampered With—Bodies of Mesdames Morin and Bray Removed to Quebec.

Windsor, Feb. 7.—Stoney, the grand opera director held here on instructions from Ottawa and later released, had an alibi so far as the Parliament Buildings fire was concerned. It was found that Stoney was acting as a pianist for Mme. Edvina, a Boston singer, at a concert in the Russell Theatre, Ottawa, before the Duke of Connaught and his staff at the time the fire started, and that he didn't leave the theatre until 11:20 p.m.

Stoney, who was formerly official accompanist of the Queen of Belgium, who is an accomplished violinist, declared that he would communicate immediately with the Belgian Consul in Ottawa with a view to bringing suit against Col. Sherwood and the Canadian Government for false imprisonment.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Further evidence goes to show that the Ottawa conflagration was the work of incendiarism.

Charles Stewart, Dominion Policeman Moore and Dominion Policeman Helmer, who were the first who discovered the fire in the reading-room of the Commons on Thursday, and who tried to quench it with extinguishers, unite in testimony which indicates that the fire protection apparatus of the Parliament buildings had been tampered with. They say that they were at the blaze soon enough to have extinguished it if the substance expelled from the hand-extinguishers had acted in the normal way. However, they unite in saying that as soon as they turned on a stream from an extinguisher upon a flame, instead of dying down, the flame sprang forth with renewed fury.

Chief Graham of the fire department, after hearing the testimony of these men, expressed the belief that the extinguishers had been tampered with, and that the extinguishing liquid had been replaced by an inflammable substance; or that in some way the extinguishers which were hung about the Parliament buildings had been replaced by others which were charged with gasoline or some similar fuel.

There was a regular system of inspection for the extinguishers, and at regular intervals they were recharged to ensure their proper working in emergency.

The bodies of Mesdames Morin and Bray were taken to Quebec by the bereaved husbands, who came to the city immediately on receipt of news of the tragedy, which brought the house party of Madame Sevigny to an abrupt and tragic termination.

While there is a possibility that there may be yet others who lost their lives in the conflagration, the list of known dead remains at seven.

DECLARES HE'LL SUE THE GOVERNMENT.

Will Ask Belgian Consul in Ottawa To Take Up the Case.

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A SOLDIER IS ARRESTED

Charged With Deserting Woman He Married.

DECLARES HE NEVER SAW THE WOMAN BEFORE IN HIS LIFE.

A Peculiar Case—Kingston Police Make Arrest—Woman Belongs to North Bay—Accused Says He Will Make Her Pay Dearly.

"Her statements are false. I was never married to the woman, and do not know her."

Robert McMillan, an overseas soldier, is one of the principals in a most unusual case in which the Kingston police have taken action. McMillan was arrested on Saturday on a warrant taken out by a woman who claims that she was married to him a little over a year ago, and who charges him with desertion.

McMillan has served at the front and was just recently invalided home. He declares most emphatically that he does not know the woman, that he was never married to her, and that he will make her pay dearly for having him arrested. The woman came here from North Bay, where she says the marriage took place, and McMillan is now being held at police headquarters here, awaiting an officer from North Bay, where his trial will take place.

The woman in the case arrived in the city a week ago, and it will be remembered that her story appeared in the Whig. She told the police that she had been married a little over a year ago. The marriage took place at North Bay on a Monday on the following Friday she alleges that hubby took French leave, and at the time of his leaving, she missed a gold watch and \$58. She stated further that she tried to get trace of her husband, but that she did not succeed until just a short time ago, when she ascertained as a result of an investigation on the part of the Militia Department at Ottawa, that her husband had existed for the front, had been invalided home, and that he was in Kingston. She located him at one of the convalescent homes, and she declared that when she greeted him he said that he did not know her, and that he had never married her. Not satisfied with this "turn down," however, she brought her case to the attention of the military authorities. The military authorities took no action, and then she took the matter up with the police again. A warrant was issued on Saturday, and McMillan was placed under arrest on Princess street by Constables James Bateson and Nicholson, while he was sitting on a corner watching a military parade. He offered no objection to being placed under arrest, but declared that the woman had made false statements, and that he had never been married to her.

As both parties come from North Bay, the local police know nothing whatever about the circumstances, and are awaiting with interest the result of the case.

DAILY MEMORANDUM Band at Palace Hotel, 295 King St. See top of page 3, right hand corner, for probabilities. "Bringing Up Father," Grand, 8:15. "Military Carnival at Armoures."

THE DAILY BRITISH WHIG

Is on Sale at the Following City Stores:

- Bucknell's News Depot, 295 King St. Clarke, J. W. & Co., 233 Princess College Book Store, 183 Princess Collier's Grocery, 209 Princess Cullen's Grocery, Cor. Princess & Alfred, Frontenac Hotel, 230 Ontario St. Gibson's Drug Store, 76 Princess G.V.P. Southwestern Grocery, Portsmouth McAuley's Book Store, 88 Princess McCall's Clear Store, Cor. Prince & King McLeod's Book Store, 51 Union St. W. Medley's Drug Store, 230 University Paul's Clear Store, 76 Princess Prouse's Drug Store, 212 Princess Valiani's Grocery, 398 Montreal

MARRIED.

CHRISTLEY-CHRISTLEY—In Kingston, on Jan. 26th, 1916, in St. George's Cathedral, by the Rev. Dean Starr, Mary Agnes Christley to Garnet Hamilton Christley, both of this city.

DIED.

SIMONS—In Kingston, on Feb. 5th, 1916, John Simons, aged 78 years. Funeral from his late residence, 297 Albert street, Tuesday, at 2:30 p.m., to Calvary cemetery. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

SMITH—In Westbrooke, on Feb. 5th, 1916, James Smith, aged 76 years, eight years and eight months. Funeral from his late residence, Westbrooke on Wednesday at 1 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

ROBERT J. REID

The Leading Undertaker. Phone 577. 230 Princess Street.

JAMES REID

The Old Firm of Undertakers. 254 and 256 PRINCESS STREET. Phone 147 for Ambulance.

FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS

CHOSEN BY FAMOUS MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DAY.

I am not covetous for gold; But, if it be a sin to covet honour, I am the most offending soul alive. —Shakespeare.

THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM.