

The Fall of Petrograd is Reported Imminent

JOY AND PATHOS ARE WITNESSED

On Arrival of Hundreds of Returned Soldiers at Toronto Railway Station.

WAR ORPHANS AND WIDOWS

ARE AMONG NUMBER THAT HAS REACHED CANADA.

City Authorities Have to Supply Lunches To Women and Children Waiting For Relatives to Arrive.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Toronto, March 20.—Nearly one thousand returning soldiers, many of them wounded and incapacitated, but others fine and hearty, home on furlough, also a large number of women and children, war babies, and some of war widows and war orphans, have reached this city within the last twenty-four hours amid scenes of mingled joy and pathos beyond description.

While many of the veterans of the battlefields of Europe and the survivors of the Hun's dread air and submarine raids on England and the Atlantic, are residents of Toronto, a large number of others belong to points in western Ontario and some of them to western Canada.

Still more trainloads of furlough men and wounded are expected today, and hundreds of relatives are still waiting at North Toronto station for loved ones who were expected days ago. The situation is such that the city authorities have to serve lunches to women and children, who refuse to go home for their meals, fearing that the train might come in while they are absent.

INCREASE COST OF BREAD MAKING

Bread Costs 5.514 Cents a Pound to Make and Deliver in Kingston.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Ottawa, March 20.—Commissioner O'Connor has issued a report for January showing that the cost of bread production in the Dominion as a whole was one-fifth of a cent more per hundred than month than in December. Toronto, as representative of Ontario, shows an increase of one-tenth of a cent a pound. There are six centres showing decreases, mostly in Western Canada.

The total cost of production of bread per pound in various Ontario cities, including costs of delivery, etc., are given by the commissioner as follows:

- Ottawa, 6.324; Kingston, Belleville, and Peterboro, 5.514; Hamilton, 6.373; Brantford, 6.951; St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, 5.641; London, 6.621; Guelph, Stratford and Kitchener, 6.621; St. Thomas, 6.779; Chatham, 6.793; Cobalt, 6.737; average for the whole Dominion, 6.896.

NOT LIKELY ACCEPTABLE

Conditions Laid Down by the Dutch Government.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, March 20.—The conditions laid by the Dutch Foreign Minister for acceptance of the demands of the associated governments as regards the taking over of Dutch shipping are not likely to be acceptable to those governments, according to Reuters despatch from the Hague filed yesterday.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS.

French.

The artillery actions were heavy on the right bank of the Meuse in Lorraine, between Burs and Badonvillers, and at some points in Upper Alsace, says last night's official communication. On the Macedonian front calm prevails.

May Absorb Bank B.N.A. (Canadian Press Despatch) Montreal, March 20.—The absorption of the Bank of British North America by the Bank of Montreal was indicated as pending, in a statement given out here this morning.

WEIG CONTENTS.

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- 11—Country News; Market Reports.
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PENSIONS WILL COST A MILLION A MONTH

Disabled Soldiers Are Divided Into Five Classes, According to Disability.

Ottawa, March 20.—It is expected that during the coming financial year the average monthly payments of pensions will exceed \$1,000,000. Up to the end of October last the monthly expenditure was \$434,909.

From the commencement of the war up to the end of October last, 8,177 disabled soldiers were awarded pension, this number being made up of 234 officers, 1,078 non-commissioned officers and 6,870 men.

This small army of disabled heroes were divided into five classes according to their disability and the total amount paid to them each month was \$127,189.

Widows and soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice and who are in receipt of a pension totalled 5,896, the monthly amount disbursed on this account being \$199,188, which, however, does not include a gratuity equivalent to two months' pension, which is paid to widows in every case with their pension cheque.

The children of pensioners mentioned above, in respect of whom allowances are being paid, amounted to 9,646, and these drew a monthly sum of \$61,078. Also 327 orphans of soldiers of all ranks received \$3,924 per month.

The parents of deceased soldiers further swell this list to the number of 1,763, and were paid the monthly sum of \$43,351.

It is also interesting to note that 7 grandparents benefited by having pensions awarded them, amounting in all to \$168 per month.

NORTHERN CROWN BRINGS \$2,862,400

Shareholders Will Receive Payment in Stock and Cash.

Montreal, March 20.—The purchase of the Northern Crown Bank by the Royal Bank of Canada, will raise the paid-up capital of the latter to \$14,000,000.

It is understood that the agreement between the directors of the two banks provides for the issue of 10,883 shares of Royal Bank stock and the payment of \$576,970 in cash to shareholders of Northern Crown.

For the purposes of the transaction, Royal Bank stock is given the value of \$210 a share, approximately its minimum quotation on the Canadian Stock Exchanges.

The consideration in stock would, therefore, have a value of \$2,285,430, and the cash to be paid would be \$576,970, or exactly \$290 a share on Northern Crown's subscribed issue of 1,312 shares.

Northern Crown shareholders will receive about three shares of Royal stock for every share of Northern Crown, and a cash payment of about \$100 on every share of their old stock.

"FINISHED MYSTERY" UNDER BAN IN U.S.

Department of Justice Forbids Distribution Under the Espionage Act.

Washington, March 20.—Because "The Finished Mystery," a Bible study textbook, described patriotism as "a certain delusion" and a "narrow-minded hatred of other peoples," and as "a work of Satan," distribution of the book is forbidden by the Department of Justice, acting under the Espionage Act.

Thousands of copies of the textbook have been seized in many states, but it was not until today that the department decided to prohibit its distribution.

BILL FOR MANSLAUGHTER

Found Against Commander Wyatt, R. N., of Halifax.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Halifax, March 20.—The Grand Jury has returned a true bill for manslaughter against commander Wyatt, R.N., chief examining officer for this port at the time of the steamer collision which caused the catastrophe here. The other defendants, Capt. Lamadoc and Pilot Mackay, were discharged on habeas corpus proceedings.

After being deduced for some time, the Grand Jury this morning asked for further information and on being informed by the presiding judge that it was within its province to find a true bill, returned a verdict which will necessitate Commander Wyatt's trial, although Judge Russell said the evidence didn't justify it.

TO GIVE THE FIGURES.

In Regard to Loss of Shipping and Renewals.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, March 20.—Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons to-day on the amount of tonnage destroyed by submarines and the tonnage built to take its place.

The Daily Mail publishes a Paris despatch which says that the Germans ships last year.

Were Mysteriously Murdered.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Petrograd, March 20.—On Monday night three of the Peoples' Commissioners, entrusted with the organization of the Red Revolutionary navy, were mysteriously murdered.

ITALIAN HEAVY ARTILLERY TRAIN ON ITS WAY TO THE FRONT



Castelfranco is an important railway junction in Northwestern Italy and the junction point for Bassano. The city has been attacked several times by enemy aviators and has often been bombarded. This photographic reproduction is from an official French photograph.

ARMY RESERVES MAY BE POOLED

By Allies to Permit of Overwhelming Concentration at Certain Points.

Decision as to the time and place of major offensives by the Allies rests with that body. It directly controls also, officers here believe, a new weapon forged during the winter with which to make effective its plans of grand strategy. That weapon is believed to lie in a pooling of the army reserves of all the Allies' armies, permitting overwhelming concentrations at selected points of attack.

Opinion as to the sectors offering the best opportunity for Allied assaults varies widely here. There is substantial agreement however, that the Italian front may in fact become the main theatre of war this year.

Austro-German concentrations and possible offensives on that front, also noted by the weekly war summary may represent the recognition of this view by the German high command.

May Break Through in Italy.

In any event, even though the supreme command might have decided to make the effort to break through in Italy, it is believed the first moves in the game would be played in France and Flanders. Drives with all the appearance of being the real offensives would undoubtedly accompany or precede the main thrust.

The pooled allied reserves under direction of the supreme council would make possible a campaign of such nature, designed to keep the German command perplexed as to which assault would be driven home. In that position, adequate German forces of selected troops would necessarily be held ready to support either line, and they must be held somewhere in Germany with ready transportation available in either direction.

The story of pooled general reserves under command of the supreme war council has already appeared in the British press to some extent as the explanation of what has been said in parliament.

Will Take Over Ships.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Washington, March 20.—Holland's reply in the shipping negotiations was received shortly after ten o'clock this morning, and the American Government is prepared to take action immediately to take over the ships. The nature of the reply was not disclosed.

Holland has been given one more day in which to reply to the taking over of Dutch vessels by the Allies.

THE THUMB SCREWS PRESSING TIGHTLY

Former German Secretary Admits That His Country Is Economically Bankrupt.

Amsterdam, March 20.—In the course of a speech before the Import Trades Association, Dr. Karl Helfferich, formerly Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, accusing Great Britain of waging war for an economic overthrow of Germany, world competition, asserted that things had turned out differently than Great Britain expected.

"By means of the U-boat war," he said, "we laid the axe to the root of Great Britain's strength, with its incomparably greater effectiveness than did Napoleon with his continental interdiction. But we must not overlook how systematically and successfully Great Britain has executed her economic programme. By breaking all laws relative to contraband and blockade, she severed off overseas traffic with the outer world. By the institution of her blacklist, by intimidation, and violence, by her application of the thumb-screw of hunger she also restricted economic intercourse by our neutral neighbors with us."

"By sequestration and forced liquidation, by abrogation of treaties, robbery of our patents, destruction of our settlements, squandering of our stocks, of goods, and by every kind of chicanery and oppression, Great Britain sought everywhere to destroy our economic existence."

"If final peace fails to return to us what our enemies have taken and destroyed, if it fails to restore us freedom in our work and our spirit of enterprise in the world, then the German people are crippled for an immeasurable period. When Mr. Bonar Law, in a recent speech, proclaimed for the hundredth time that the one unalterable war aim of the allies, was the destruction of German militarism, I replied to him: 'Long live the German people's army.'"

OBJECTORS SENT DOWN

Four Men Get Two Years Each For Insubordination.

Winnipeg, March 20.—Four conscientious objectors, convicted on Friday at Minto Barracks on a charge of insubordination, have been sent to the penitentiary for two years each, with hard labor.

The men are Robert Clegg, Ralph Nash, Charles Matheson and Cedric Wainwright. Clegg is an International Bible student, who laid charges of ill-treatment against officers in the Minto Barracks recently.

ENTENTE RAIDS ARE EFFECTIVE

The Morale of the German Civilian Population is Being Shaken.

London, March 20.—A writer in The Evening Standard yesterday says he hears on good authority that the damage done in the air raid on Coblenz "was very great, and would fully account for the state of panic reported to be beginning in the Rhine towns." We are only beginning the new warfare, and no doubt shall shortly make attacks on towns not hitherto affected. I heard the following pithy remark: "The war will be won by the side which kills the greatest number of civilians. It sounds horrible but it is true. If the Rhine town were bombed for three days together by squadrons of 100 planes life would be impossible for the inhabitants and a wholesale evacuation would take place, clogging all the internal arrangements of the Empire. We have every reason to believe the German civilian morale is less steadfast than that of France or Britain and that a cry for peace would soon go up from a German people who would learn that war does not pay."

The writer above proceeds to urge the fullest use also of the economic weapon. A speaker at a meeting of leading city men on the Grain Exchange, called the Baltic Exchange Thursday, declared that Germany would soon quit if the allies and America gave notice that every month the war continues Germans, German trade and German ships

IS URGED IN FORCING GERMANY TO GIVE UP.

Conan Doyle is Strong For Jeppical—Creator of Sherlock Holmes Wants Eye For Eye and Tooth For Tooth.

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USE OF ECONOMIC WEAPON

Chicago, March 20.—A copyrighted despatch in The Chicago Daily News Lewis Edgar Browne, cabling from Petrograd under date of March 18th said that Russian troops arriving at Theodosia, on the Black Sea, from the Caucasus, brought with them a number of wounded slaves, whom they had purchased. Some of these were offered for sale. At first they brought as high as \$100 each, but with the increased supply the price dropped to \$12.50.

Shot To Escape Service.

Houston, Texas, March 20.—Sergeant Claude E. Mason and Pte. Roland V. Pyle, who recently shot each other in the leg in order to escape military service, have been found guilty by a court-martial of cowardice and disregard of duty. They have been sentenced to fifteen years each at the Leavenworth Prison.

Irish Train Set New Record.

London, March 20.—A record for railroad travelling is reported from Ireland. A special train on the Great Northern Railway made the trip from Belfast to Dublin, a distance of 115 miles, in 107 minutes, and the return journey was accomplished in 109 minutes.

Lord Rhondas's Training.

London, March 20.—In a recent address Lord Rhondas, the Food Controller, explained his grasp on the food situation. He said that he was taken into his father's grocery store when 20 years of age and learned the business from the ground up.

No Liquor On T. And N. O.

Montreal, March 20.—The Canadian Express Company has announced that no more liquor would be carried on the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway by order of the Ontario Government.

Nonagenarian Legislator.

London, March 20.—Honors for the oldest man in Parliament are claimed by Samuel Young, who recently observed his ninety-sixth birthday anniversary.

Mayor's Son Killed.

London, Ont., March 20.—Mayor C. R. Somerville received word this morning that his son, Lieut. Kenneth Somerville, had been killed in action in France.

would be excluded from all allied and American ports for one year.

Doyle For Reprisal.

London, March 20.—Sir Conan Doyle writes to the Times: "Can anyone explain why our hospital ships continue to make floating targets of themselves by carrying rows of lights when they know the enemy are lying in wait for them? Can anyone explain why we do not carry twenty German officers on each ship on the distinct understanding that in case of accident they shall be the last to leave her? Can anyone say why every ship returning across the Atlantic does not take a full human cargo of interned Germans, so these useless mouths may be fed over yonder? Can anyone explain why the policy of putting pickets of German prisoners all over London in raiding night is only now being discussed, when it has been perfectly obvious ever since the Germans put our prisoners in Karlsruhe?"

A serious discussion is proceeding in the press as to whether hospital ships should not in future steam with lights out, and with every precaution, as the Germans evidently have no idea of observing the terms of the agreement. The fact is, nobody has any faith in any German promise, and agreement any longer, no matter how solemnly or sincerely made.

GOOD FLOW OF SAP.

Maple Sugar Making has Begun in Ontario.

Ottawa, March 20.—The warm weather of the past few days has started sap running in maple trees in Ontario, and maple sugar making has already begun. In the southwestern part of the province, the counties of Essex and Kent, reports reaching the Food Board show that tapping began the first week in March with a good flow of sap.

Farmers throughout the province are endeavoring to produce double quality of sugar and syrup this year, and while in sections of the province wood for fuel is scarce and valuable, even in the sections probably enough will be produced for local consumption at least.

Prices are higher than for many years—from 16 to 18 cents for sugar and from \$1.40 to \$1.65 for syrup. As the sun becomes warmer and the season spreads farther north, maple sugar making will come on with a rush.

The Canada Food Board urges farmers with maple bush lots to prepare for the utmost possible production, and dealers and associations handling the product should also prepare for handling the increased output.

Women Slaves Sold.

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BRITISH DESTROY 99 AIRPLANES IN WEEK.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, March 20.—During the week ending March 17th, the British destroyed ninety-nine airplanes and drove down forty-two, losing themselves in the same period twenty-three.

War Tidings.

Two American aviators on Tuesday flew from Poggia to Rome, Italy, 212 miles, in 158 minutes.

Late Monday a detachment of French in the region of Ebnos penetrated the German lines to a depth of over half a mile and brought back nine prisoners.

From the coast to La Bassee canal there was increased artillery firing on Tuesday.

WHY KICK "TITLE" CUR DURING WAR?

J. H. Burnham Says He Doesn't Wish to Embarrass Government.

Ottawa, March 20.—J. H. Burnham, M.P. for West Peterboro, who some time ago announced his intention to bring in a bill abolishing titles in Canada, has decided that the present is not an opportune time to do it. Mr. Burnham said that the session now opening was designed particularly to deal with war measures, and he did not wish to embarrass the Government with extraneous matters.

"When the war is on why stop the wagon to kick every cur along the roadside?" queried Mr. Burnham.

ARTILLERY IS ACTIVE.

Raids by Germans Were Repulsed by Portuguese.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, March 20.—The German artillery is still very active in the Ypres sector, south-west of Cambrai, and in the region about Armentieres, according to the report from the War Office last night.

Raids attempted by the enemy last night in the neighborhood of Fauquissart were successfully repulsed by the Portuguese troops. With the exception of some artillery activity on both sides of Passchendaele, there is nothing further to report.

ORDER FOR 89 SHIPS GIVEN IN CANADA.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Ottawa, March 20.—The Imperial Munitions Board has placed an order for forty-three steel ships and forty-six wooden vessels with a tonnage of 340,000.

THE FALL OF PETROGRAD IS CLOSE AT HAND.

(Canadian Press Despatch) New York, March 20.—The fall of Petrograd is imminent. German troops, probably advancing along the Baltic coast from Narva and northeast from Phov and Dvinsk, are nearing the Russian metropolis, according to despatches received in London.

The population is said to be awaiting the coming of the invaders passively, and there are no indications that the Bolsheviki authorities will attempt to oppose the Germans before giving up the city.

The evacuation of Petrograd by the Bolsheviki government departments was ordered last week, and all are now in Moscow, which the Lening government has declared the Russian capital. When ordered to move to Moscow the reason given was that it was said Petrograd would probably be declared a free port.

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