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## YESTERDAY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

### Resolutions for Imposition of War Taxes on Business Agreed to with Amendments. Administration of Measure and Necessary Staff Fully Explained.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 21.—Sir Thomas White's resolutions providing for the imposition of taxes upon the net profits of business concerns in Canada since December 31, 1914, were finally adopted in Committee in the Commons to-day after several amendments had been inserted and considerable discussion had taken place.

The bill founded upon the resolutions will now be introduced and put through its several stages. Sir Thomas threw further light upon the manner in which the taxation measure would be administered, saying that companies apparently liable to taxation would be asked to send in returns to the Finance Department. These returns would be checked by officials of the Department and penalties would be enforced against those who made false reports. Upon the returns the assessments will be based and will be sent out to the various firms.

The Finance Minister said that some increase will be required in the staff of the Finance Department at Ottawa

and that it will be necessary to have a small staff in the various provinces to secure information. Sir Thomas made it clear that the boards of referees and the Exchequer Court will be granted as a matter of right, and that those tribunals will have all the powers of courts of revision. He intimated that there will probably be a board of referees composed of business men and lawyers in each province or section of the country. The business tax, he said, would terminate on December 31, 1917, whether the war was ended or not.

An amendment was inserted in the bill providing that for the purpose of the proposed measure the net profits of non-Canadian companies would be the profits on their Canadian business. Another amendment was also made making it obligatory upon the Finance Minister, in determining the capital of mining companies, to make an allowance for exhausting of the mine and it was announced that a similar provision would be made applicable to companies operating oil wells.

## GERMANY MAKING OVERTURES FOR PEACE

### German Government has Intimated to United States Government that Time is Ripe for Beginning of Peace Negotiations. Imperial Chancellor Von Bethman Hollweg after Confering with Kaiser Discussed Peace Negotiations with American Ambassador in Berlin.

(Special to the Guardian.)

NEW YORK.—March 21.—A special despatch to the Evening Post from Washington says Germany is seeking to make peace with her enemies and bring the great war in Europe to an early end. The Imperial government has gone so far as to intimate to the United States Government that the time may be ripe for the services of a large neutral nation in beginning peace negotiations. Some general idea then of the terms under which the Teutonic empire would be willing to make peace has been given within the last four days to American ambassador James W. Gerard, by Dr. Von Bethman Hollweg, Imperial Chancellor at Berlin, and spokesman of Emperor William.

The Evening Post's correspondent learned the above to-day in connection with the hitherto unpublished fact that Von Bethman Hollweg four days ago, sent for Ambassador Gerard and not only discussed with him for nearly an hour the possibilities of peace in Europe, but also frankly advised the Ambassador who had contemplated a

vacation that it would be inopportune for him to leave Germany just now. Gerard promptly changed his plans and notified the Washington government that he would remain at his post indefinitely.

The American Ambassador had on three occasions been given leave of absence, but only a week ago did he accept the privilege. On learning that the Ambassador was preparing to leave Germany the Imperial Chancellor who had previously conferred with Emperor William, summoned Mr. Gerard to the German Foreign Office. The discussion was of a most friendly and intimate nature not only as affecting the relations of Germany with the United States but with respect to peace in Europe. While not referring to the resignation of Von Tirpitz as a factor in the situation the Chancellor spoke of the desire of Germany to remain at peace with neutral countries and emphasized the hope that there would be an early termination of the terrible struggle devastating Europe.

The Chancellor's remarks on peace

terms were most general in character but indicative of a desire to speak more fully on another occasion. There was no intention to lay down hard and fast terms but merely to give general ideas. He said, for example, that Germany was willing to help rehabilitate Belgium, would withdraw from that territory and would not seek by density from the little country. But he did seem to think it essential to German public opinion that an indemnity should be paid before the German troops were withdrawn from northern France. The restoration of Belgium, implying that Germany was ready to succor the wounded nation, is in itself a most significant advance toward the view point of the Allies not since the outbreak of the war.

The Chancellor also made it clear that in exchange for the withdrawal from Belgium, Germany would want England to restore the German African Colonies she had occupied. Generally speaking the Chancellor suggested a return to the territorial status as it existed before the beginning of hostilities in July 1914, as the best basis for negotiations.

## RECONSTRUCTION OF PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

### Tentative Plans Submitted. Facade of Former Building to be Preserved. Interior Entirely Changed. Estimated Cost of Reconstruction \$1,500,000.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 21.—Tentative plans for the reconstruction of the parliament buildings were placed on exhibition to-day in the House office of the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Robert Rogers. They provide for the preservation of the facade, the Gothic lines of which are famous for their beauty. The interior, however, is to be completely remodelled.

The main lobby is to be extended and improved. The visitor will look down a wide corridor, extending the entire depth of the building to the library. Busts and oil paintings of Canadian statesmen will be in this hall. From either side of the entrance spacious corridors will extend through the Commons and Senate wings. The new Commons and Senate chambers will be located at the eastern and

western extremities of the building. The Commons chamber will be built out from the west wing. The Prime Minister will have an office nearly adjoining the chamber, with the office of the Opposition Leader immediately above. Where the old Commons chamber stood there will be a new reading-room and press room. The plans will be considered by the party leaders, the Minister of public works, and one or two others and reconstruction begun immediately. The new west wing will be taken down to make way for the Commons chamber and the rear of the building will be made of a uniform height of three stories. The reconstruction is estimated to cost a million and a half, which, with the two millions represented in the buildings as they stand, will make a total of three and a half millions.

## THE AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ON UNITED STATES WAR ATTITUDE

LONDON, March 20.—William S. Hughes, Premier of Australia, to-night addressed a gathering of 300 members of the Pilgrim Club, including many prominent Americans. Viscount Bryce presided at the meeting. Premier Hughes said:

"This is not the time to judge America's attitude in this war. We are very grateful to America for what she has done for us. Australia has long looked with friendship to America and wishes at opportunity to improve that friendship. Their interests and ours will run hand-in-hand in the future in the Pacific Ocean."

The destiny of the whole world will be affected by the war, Premier Hughes declared. All nations, he said,

whether belligerents or not, will be drawn into the war's vortex, and every nation and every man will be affected, whether they will it or not.

The Australian Premier gave an eloquent description of the exploits of the Australians in the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula. He declared Australia would not have been able to take the part she had taken but for preparations made during the past few years, and that compulsory service for the defence of the country is the only military system possible for a free democracy. Australians, Premier Hughes concluded, were the last people who would submit to anything they did not want, and they have that system because they want it.

### CALL MEXICANS HOME.

MEXICO CITY.—March 20.—Mexican laborers in all parts of the United States have been called upon to return to their native country in a decree issued by Gustavo Espinosa, Minister of the Interior, and former private secretary to General Carranza.

In the manifesto the Governor says the time has come for all Mexicans to leave the northern republic and aid in the patriotic work of the reconstruction of their country. Any number of Mexicans, the decree says, can be taken care of, and good wages and fair living conditions are assured them.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

## UNMARRIED MEN FIRST TO THE COLOURS

(Special to the Guardian.)

LONDON, March 21.—"No matter whether married or single, every man should be prepared to defend his country," was the reply of the Earl of Derby, British Director of recruiting, in denying the request of attention of the war office to exempt unmarried men from military service. Every unmarried man will be called to the colors, before married men. "The German Emperor won't wait and the war office cannot wait or we might be able to consider or concede some of your demands," the director of recruiting said.

## Dominions Consulted In Regard To Trade Treaties

OTTAWA, March 17.—According to a cablegram received from Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies, the British Government will take no action regarding a commercial treaty with the Allies, should such be contemplated after the conference to be held in Paris, without first consulting the Dominion. Hon. Senator Loughheed read the following message in reply to a query by Hon. Senator Boslock in the Senate this afternoon:

"From the Colonial Secretary to the Governor-General:

"An economic conference of the Allies is to be held in Paris on the invitation of the government of France. The representatives of this country and, I presume, of other allied countries, will attend so far as arrangements for the purpose of discussing only, and this government will not be committed in any way in regard to trade after the war. If as the result of the conference any action should be contemplated, no steps will be taken without full consultation with the Dominion."

## COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges twenty-five cents.

\*General meeting of Strathcona Institute will be held in Mt. Herbert Hall on Thursday, March 23rd at 7.30 p. m. Seeds and live stock will be the subject. Full attendance requested. 7934-3-22M1p.

\*CONCERT. There will be a concert and sale of home-made candy in North River Hall, Wednesday, March 22nd. Concert begins at 8 p. m. CharloTTetown talent. Admission 25 cents. 7998-3-22M3p.

\*CONCERT and Pie Social will be held in Millview Orange Hall Friday March 24th, doors open 7.30. Concert beginning 8 p. m. If not fine concert will be held Monday evening. Special train will leave Charlottetown at 7.15 p. m. Admission 10 and 15 cents. Ladies with baskets free. 7909-3-21M2i.

\*LIKE SEEKS LIKE.—No conservative or well established business desires to be changing their typewriter equipment every few months. This is why many business firms all over the country are installing the complete SMITH PREMIER or REMINGTON equipment. A Milne Fraser, Halifax, N. S. 7930-3-22-M11.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

## WAR SUMMARY

(Special to the Guardian.)

LONDON, March 21.—In attempts to flank Verdun on the west the Germans having succeeded in working their way through Malin Court wood and Avocourt wood have begun a heavy bombardment of the village of Esnes about eighty miles northwest of Verdun at Hill 204 which lies about a mile and a half north of Esnes. The French, however, are vigorously contesting a further advance eastward, which not alone would bring the German line nearer the fortress but, would put in jeopardy the French in the region of Le Mort Homme. So great has been the counter offensive of the French guns that after debouching from the woods the Germans were unable to launch an infantry attack, and presumably are being held back by

their newly gained lines. To north-east of Verdun, commanding has been only intermittent.

In Argonne forest, Lorraine and Upper Alsace, French guns have been active against German positions and marching columns. On the Somme the German advance to British trench, but were immediately driven back.

There has been lively fighting between the Russians and Germans west of Jacobstakt along the Dvina river, in the Lake region, between Dvinsk and Vilna with the Russians generally on the offensive, while Berlin reports these attacks having been resisted with heavy losses the admission is made that the Germans salient near the Narozh was withdrawn in order to escape the encircling fire of the Russians. Near but Zitfelski, midway between Dvinsk and Vilna, the

Russians captured advance German trenches just south of Dvinsk in the region of Novo Alexandrovsk, they repulsed a German counter attack on positions taken at Velikoye. Today, a Russian bridgehead near the village of Mikhalche in Galicia most of the defenders were killed in hand to hand fighting.

The Russians in the Caucasus have thrown their line several miles nearer Erzerum on the Black Sea coast after further fighting with the Turks. Ispahan, Persia, is reported to have been taken by the Russians.

Heavy fighting continues between Austrians and Italians along the great peninsula on the front from Rovereto to Coriza heights. No important changes in positions have taken place however.

## ALLIES WILL STAND BY BELGIUM

(Special to the Guardian.)

LONDON, March 21.—The Entente Allies have promised Belgium that she will be invited to participate in the negotiations. The announcement was made by Sir Edward Grey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who stated in the House of Commons that Britain, France and Russia had made a declaration to Belgium that when the time came she would be invited to participate. Guarantee was given to Belgium that the powers would not cease hostilities until she had been reinstated in her political and economic independence, and largely indemnified for the wrongs she had suffered.

## BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT SEIZES GERMAN SHIPS

NEW YORK, March 20.—A News Agency despatch from London to-day says:

Forty-four German ships have been seized by the Brazilian government, according to despatches from Liverpool. The German vessels were merchantmen which had been interned in Brazilian ports at the outbreak of the war.

It is understood that Brazil has acted to meet a shortage of transport requirements.

CHICAGO, Ills., March 17.—Assertions that forty-four German ships had been seized by the Brazilian government caused a decided setback to-day in the price of wheat. Confirmation, however, was lacking, and many traders were of the opinion that the reports grew out of confusion regarding the recent wholesale seizures in Portugal.

Opening prices, which ranged from 1/2 to 1 1/4 lower, with May at 110 to 110 1/2 and July at 108 1/2 to 108 3/4 were followed by a slight rally before a material further decline.

## CAMPAIGNS FOR PATRIOTIC FUND NET \$10,000,000

OTTAWA, March 17.—The series of campaigns held this winter for the purposes of the "Canadian Patriotic Fund" have exceeded the estimates of the promoters. Nine million dollars was the goal aimed at. The subscriptions pledged amount to ten million, according to final returns received at headquarters and just published in the monthly bulletin.

The amounts assured according to Provinces are as follows:— Nova Scotia, \$500,000; New Brunswick, \$350,000; Prince Edward Island, \$40,000; Quebec, \$2,600,000; Ontario, \$5,450,000; Saskatchewan, \$500,000; Alberta, \$500,000; British Columbia, \$600,000; Yukon, \$20,000; Manitoba, independent. Total, \$10,550,000.

## MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO RETURN PROPERTY OF \$50,000,000 CO.

MEXICO CITY, March 20.—Representatives of the Mexican Tramways Company, a \$50,000,000 corporation whose headquarters are in Toronto, are treating with the Mexican government for the return of the property of the company which was seized a year ago by the military authorities, and since then has been operated by them in order to avert labour troubles.

Juan Serrabia, representative of the government in the negotiations, says the property will be returned to the owners this week. The company operates 400 cars and controls more than 220 miles of track. Seventy-five per cent of the capital of the company is owned in Belgium and France. Minard's Liniment cures Colds, etc.

## LUXURIES SOON CUT OFF FROM BRITAIN

LONDON, March 20.—A far-reaching Order-in-Council, which will totally prohibit importation into the United Kingdom of a large number of articles which come under the general heading of luxuries will be issued by the British Government at an early date.

Among the things which will be placed under the ban will be automobiles for private use, musical instruments, cutlery of all kinds, hardware, yarns, chinaware, fancy goods and soaps. The order will apply equally to all countries, including the British dominions and colonies.

The forecast of the coming Order-in-Council was given to the Associated Press to-day in an interview by Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Runciman admitted that articles in addition to those named would be placed on the list of prohibited imports, but in advance of the issuance of the order he declined to say what they are. He agreed that the decree would have considerable effect on exports from the United

States, but pointed out that it applied to all countries alike, and declared it was absolutely necessary to limit the shipment of bulky luxuries in order to provide room on ships for necessities.

"But please remember," said Mr. Runciman, "that the issuance of this order is forced on us—not as a matter of policy, but entirely because of a shortage of tonnage. We want exports from the United States; we want your wheat, cotton and meat, and we need other things which we cannot get if the space aboard vessels is taken up with luxuries."

"Everything possible is being done to relieve the shortage in ships. Every ship flying the British flag is now controlled by the government. Immense numbers of them have been requisitioned; others are subject to direction by way of licenses. No vessel is permitted to embark on any voyage without a license. Whether it would be necessary to requisition more vessels I cannot say; but for my own part I hope this will not be done."

## THE WEATHER, TEMPERATURE, TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TORONTO, March 22.—Maritime: Generally fair.

THE WEATHER Yesterday was clear and cool with light snow falls at night.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 24 degrees above zero. At nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 8 above; at nine last night 20 above. The coldest the previous night was 4 above.

The tide will be high this afternoon at 12.12 and tomorrow at 12.41; it will be high tomorrow morning at 1.15 and Friday at 2.03.

The sun sets this evening at 6.16 and tomorrow at 6.17; it rises tomorrow morning at 6.55 and Friday at 5.54.

The moon rises tonight at 10.27. There was a full moon on Sunday, March 19th at 1.27 p. m.

The last quarter of the moon will be on Sunday, March 26th at 12.22 p. m.

The length of today will be twelve hours and eighteen minutes.

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