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MORNING DAILY

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## SPLENDID ADDRESS BY DR. J. W. ROBERTSON

### Impressive Conference on Gravity of Food Situation. Legislature Adjourned for a Week to Enable Members to Conduct Campaign for Increased Production.

His Honour Lieut-Governor MacDonald presided at a public meeting addressed by Dr. J. W. Robertson in the Legislative Council Chamber last night. The Premier and the members of the Legislature were in their seats, and Mayor G. D. Wright and members of the City Council were also in attendance in addition to a large number of the general public.

The Chairman in a brief speech introduced the speaker, who, he said, was well-known throughout the length and breadth of the Province.

Dr. Robertson, who had a very cordial reception immediately plunged into the subject of the dire necessity for increased production. He spoke very gravely and impressively, carrying conviction with every word he used. He said:

The scarcity of suitable foods has made the war situation exceedingly grave on the side of the Allies. The shortage is most severe in Italy and France. In 1917 the yield of wheat in France was only about 47 per cent. of the average quantity obtained annually before the war broke out. The same was true of the crop of potatoes. The yield of all foodstuffs in France in 1917 was estimated at only 62 per cent. of the yield of a normal year before the war. France and Italy are short of wheat and flour and fats. Great Britain has been sharing her imports with these two Allies and while the scarcity is still greatest in France and Italy, the allowances of foodstuffs in the United Kingdom have been greatly reduced. Beef and mutton have been cut down to 55 per cent. of the pre-war consumption and wheat to about 50 per cent. Bread is kept cheap as a war measure although the quantity is down to the bare sustenance limit.

### BREAD IN BRITAIN IS CHEAP BUT SCARCE.

Great Britain has provided cheap bread for the people in all her towns. How does she manage to do it? She buys our flour and wheat and pays the prevailing high prices; and yet in England you can buy bread for 4½c a pound, while in Ottawa you cannot buy it for less than eight. Therefore, says the ever-ready critic of Food Control, "We are suffering from profiteering all along the line in Canada." That is not a just conclusion. It does not tally at all with the facts. England buys our wheat and has it ground in mills which she controls. She mixes the flour with 15 per cent. of rye, or corn, or barley; and then sells that diluted flour to the bakers at a price which allows them to sell bread at 4½c a pound, and requires them to sell it at that price regardless of the cost to the Government. The Government subsidizes the bread industry from the public revenue as a war measure in order that the poorer people may obtain cheap bread.

### THE ALLIES LOOK TO CANADA.

The requirements of the Allies, for 1918, of the five cereals or their products—wheat, barley, oats, rye and Indian corn—amount to 360,000,000 bushels more than the annual average of their requirements of these food commodities before the war. That quantity is equal to 61 per cent. of an increase over their pre-war requirements. Although their rations have been greatly reduced it is necessary for the Allies to import nearly two million tons more than usual of meats chiefly for their own armies and munition workers, that is equivalent to 39 per cent. more than the quantities they imported annually before the war.

Canada has been supplying an important proportion of the foods required by the Allies. Recently Canada's share in furnishing foods to the Allies has been as follows: Of wheat 42 per cent.; oats 38 per cent.; barley 14 per cent.; rye 4 per cent.; cheese 67 per cent.; pork products 9 per cent.; beef 2½ per cent.; butter 1½ per cent.

Baron Rhonda, British Food Controller, sent the following message recently: "The Allied larder is dangerously empty, but we are carrying on in the resolute belief that we can rely on the people of North America to prevent our food supplies from becoming so diminished as to imperil the issue for which we are all fighting." The Secretary of the British Ministry of Food says: "Great Britain relies on the United States and Canada for sixty-five per cent. of her essential foodstuffs. Unless we get this food, or nearly all of it, we shall peter out."

There is not enough food on our side to let us be free from anxiety and danger of famine this year or next year, even if peace should be won before the winter comes; and if we all produce only as much as we used to produce and eat as much and waste as much as we used to eat and waste, the privation among our allies will become still greater—privation which is almost certain to mean starvation for women and children and the weakening of our position in the war. That is the gravity of the food situation.

Why did we not know about that sooner? Well, the men at the heart of things have known of it, but the people would not hear or heed because the abundance all about us was so great. I sometimes think, with my body in Ottawa and my mind behind the lines at the front,—if they hear not Moses and the Prophets (men of intelligence, vision and responsibility) neither would they be persuaded although one of our soldiers rose from the dead and said: "You folks at home are putting in peril all that I died to save."

### CAUSES OF THE FOOD SHORTAGE.

The big harvest of 1915 hid the danger. It was such a big harvest, not only in Canada but in other countries that there was plenty of food. But by the end of 1916 the real situation began to be understood.

The causes of the world-wide shortage are still cumulative. There was a general shortage in the northern hemisphere in 1916 of the five big cereal crops, wheat, corn, rye, barley and oats. Of these crops 1,968,000,000 bushels less were produced in 1916 than in 1915, or about two and a half times the total quantity of these crops raised annually in Canada. Even in normal peace times this shortage would have been serious, but its seriousness is greatly accentuated by the war. The shortage was due to several causes. One of these was the weather, over which, of course, there was no human control. The chief cause, however, was the withdrawal of labor from farm production. Altogether a conservative estimate would place the total number of men withdrawn from agriculture for fighting and munition making in the Allied belligerent countries at some 6,000,000. That has resulted in the prevalence of weeds, which it will take many years of vigorous labour to combat and remove. Moreover the supply of fertilizers has been greatly reduced and years will pass before the former productiveness can be restored.

The scarcity of food has been aggravated by losses due to destruction by submarines. For a long time fifty per cent. of the cargo capacity of most ships crossing the Atlantic was reserved for food stuffs. Many of these ships have been sunk, as have also

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## THE SITUATION IS BRIGHT FOR ENTENTE ALLIES

### "We Can Henceforth Regard the Future with Tranquility" is General Foch's View of the Situation Following Recent Achievements by Allied Troops.

#### COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CONFIDENT.

(Special to The Guardian)  
PARIS, April 4.—"We can henceforth regard the future with tranquility," was the confident statement General Foch made to Rene Renault, president of the army committee, who accompanied Premier Clemenceau to the front day before yesterday. General Foch even went farther, according to Renault, and asserted that as things now stand the most glorious hopes are permissible.

#### CANADIAN GUNS IN ACTION.

(Special to The Guardian)  
CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, April 4.—"Again this morning our guns, heavy and light, have smashed up the enemy trenches, communications and assembly areas, our artillery co-operating with the infantry in fifteen minutes of barrage fire, while our machine guns swept No Man's Land and the opposing trenches. Our stokes and trench mortars added the weight of their fire to the programme which gave the enemy further grim notice of our readiness to meet his offensive operations. All night long, our guns maintained a slow fire on enemy areas, punctuated with harassing fire programs at intervals."

#### FRENCH CAPTURE PRISONERS.

(Special to The Guardian)  
LONDON, April 4.—"The day again passed comparatively quiet by the whole battle front," says Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters in France tonight. "There was local fighting last night and this morning in the neighborhood of Feuchy and Hebuterne we captured two machine guns. Many Germans were killed." "The number of prisoners taken yesterday in successful operations at Alette was 192, including six officers. There is nothing further of special interest to report."

#### IMMENSE DAMAGE TO GERMAN CITIES.

(Special to The Guardian)  
THE HAGUE, April 4.—Information reaching your correspondent from

Germany reports that damage done in Rhemish cities by recent air raids is much more extensive than has been hitherto admitted. Places where bombs actually fell are described as "unrecognizable."

#### THIRTEEN AIRPLANES DOWNED.

(Special to The Guardian)  
LONDON, April 4.—In intensive air fighting thirteen German aircraft were downed and eight sent down out of control by British airmen on Tuesday according to the official communication issued tonight. The British themselves lost seven, which are missing.

#### AYETTE RECAPTURED.

(Special to The Guardian)  
WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 4.—The recapture of Alette south of Arras, by the British is the most important news from the northern battle front reported thus far today. The Alette sector has been one of the most fiercely contested zones. The Germans have sacrificed great numbers of troops in an effort to secure a foothold there. The British last night stormed and recaptured a strong German position south of Hebuterne, which menaced the defending positions.

#### HEAVY ATTACKS BY GERMANS.

(Special to The Guardian)  
LONDON, April 4.—South of the river Somme the Germans launched heavy attacks early this morning on the British and French forces, says a statement issued this evening by the British war office. On the British front the enemy made progress in the direction of Hamel and the Bois-de-vaire.

#### FRENCH CAPTURE PRISONERS AND PENETRATE ENEMY DEFENCES.

(Special to The Guardian)  
PARIS, April 4.—Heavy artillery fighting occurred last night on the front north of Montdidier, the war office announces. In raids in Champagne and on the Verdun front the French took prisoners, and also captured two machine guns. The statement follows: "The artillery fight last night became very violent during the night in the region north of Montdidier."

## DECREASE IN SUB SINKINGS

(Special to The Guardian)  
LONDON, April 4.—There was a sudden and marked decrease in losses to British shipping through mine and submarine in the past week.

The Admiralty reports that six British merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over and seven under that tonnage were sunk in the week ending March 30th.

The losses to British shipping through submarines and mines in the past week are less than one half the losses in the previous week, when twenty-eight merchantmen were sunk, sixteen of the vessels over 1,500 tons.

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

TODAY IS THE 1349th DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

TORONTO, April 5.—Moderate winds fair, and cool.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 44 above. At 9 a. m. it was 37 above. At 9 p. m. it was 34 above. The lowest the previous night was 31 above.

The tide will be high this afternoon 13.39, and tomorrow at 4.26; it will be high tomorrow morning at 6.14 and Sunday at 7.12.

The sun sets this evening at 6.49, and tomorrow at 6.51; it rises tomorrow morning at 5.51, and Sunday at 5.49.

The moon rises tomorrow morning at 3.02.

There was a full moon on Wednesday, March 27th, at 10.23 a. m.

The last quarter of the moon will be on Thursday, April 4th at 8.33 a. m.

The length of today will be twelve hours and fifty-seven minutes.

## COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

\*The meeting of the West River Rural Telephone Co. will be held at Long Creek on Saturday 6th at 8 o'clock p. m. to consider having the Company incorporated. By order, Nell McCannell, Secretary. 4374pd.

\*Auction sale of stock, crop and implements on Saturday, April 6, James Rankin, Mt. Albion. 4342-4-4M2lpd.

## 1,000 FRENCH CIVILIANS BANISHED BY HUNS IN NORTH FRANCE

(Special to The Guardian)

PARIS, April 4.—One thousand French civilians from the occupied districts of northern France have been sent to Russia by the Germans and are being forced to perform hard labor, according to information obtained by Baron Cochlin, a former member. These civilians, 400 of whom are women are among those whom Germany offered to exchange for Alsations who have escaped to France. They were sent to Russia after the rejection of the proposal which Germany attempted to place before the French Government through the holy see and Baron Cochlin.

## Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

## WATERWORKS DAM AT LONDON BREAKS

LONDON, Ont., April 2.—The undermining by the Spring freshets of the city of London water works dam in the Thames, five miles west of the city, had its destructive consequence this afternoon in the collapse into the stream of 120 feet of the main section of the structure.

For some time the hole beneath the foundation of the dam has been rapidly widening, and nothing could be done in a temporary way to relieve the situation, because of the fact that the breach was in midstream and the river has been more or less in flood since the break up some weeks ago. The dam was built in 1895 at a cost of \$50,000, and was probably worth double that to-day.

When the dam gave way this afternoon much of the head of water had already passed beneath it, but the final breaking was followed by a heavy rush, but no damage has as yet been reported.

Nothing can be done to repair the damage done to the water works dam until permanent reconstruction is undertaken during the Summer. The city had generated 500 horse-power for the purpose of conserving hydro there, and in addition, pumping was done for the water works system in a plant of large capacity. However, hydro is inter-connected and is being utilized without any dislocation of the water works supply.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere

Northwest of Rheims, in the Champagne, and on the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) French troops penetrated German trenches at several points, bringing back thirty prisoners and two machine guns.

#### COLONEL HODGETTS RESIGNS FROM RED CROSS.

(Special to The Guardian)  
LONDON, April 4.—Colonel Hodgetts, commissioner for the Canadian Red Cross, informs the Canadian Associated Press that he has resigned and that his resignation has been accepted.

#### GERMAN SPIES IN UNITED STATES.

(Special to The Guardian)  
NEW YORK, April 4.—As the result of many complaints of glass being found in bread and flour, the Federal Food Board has ordered Brooklyn bakeries to discharge all Germans in their employ, it became known today. One large concern reported that it had discharged two German employees.

#### TO SAFEGUARD RUSSIA.

(Special to The Guardian)

PETROGRAD, April 4.—Developments will certainly justify the effort to safeguard the Murmansk railway which is the important line of communication for Russia with the outside world. The Finnish White Guard Army has just dealt the Red Guards a staggering blow in the capture of Tammerfors, and is now moving towards Ken on the western coast of the White Sea, with orders to cut off the northern railway. Ken is an important station and is the location of a British consulate. The people's commissariat at Moscow have been informed that the railway zone is threatened by the Germans and the Finnish White Guards, and Trotsky has telegraphed orders for immediate defensive arrangements.

The Russian Press persistently reports the Finnish White Guards as offered by Germans. Should the Murmansk railway be rendered unsafe, Petrograd will be hemmed in on all sides for the Germans are on all the other railway lines within striking distance.

## 46 MEN DETAINED IN QUEBEC

(Special to The Guardian)

QUEBEC, April 4.—46 men out of the 120 detained by the military authorities in connection with the rioting here on Monday night were yesterday afternoon liberated by Judge Langelier in the police court on the charge of being in a crowd causing disturbance, but 35 of them must still satisfy General Lessard, officer commanding in Quebec. That they are not subject to the Military Service Act before they would be given their liberty.

## BRITISH CAPTURE GERMAN POST AND NUMBER OF PRISONERS AND GUNS.

(Special to The Guardian)

LONDON, April 3.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's Headquarters in France tonight says: "Except for minor enterprises, which we carried out in the neighborhood of Serre and as a result of which we captured a German post during the day passed more quietly on the British front."

In the course of the fighting yesterday in the area between the Avere and the Luce rivers we captured fifty prisoners and thirteen machine guns. A large number of German dead were found on the ground in this locality by us and two counter-attacks attempted by the enemy later in the day were broken up with heavy losses by our artillery. A German battery in action in this area was successfully engaged at short range and silenced by our machine guns. A successful local enterprise carried out by us in the neighborhood of Hebuterne resulted in the capture of seventy-three prisoners and three machine guns. Many Germans were killed in this operation also and a hostile counter-attack during the afternoon was completely repulsed.

## INVENTS A NINETY MILE RANGE GUN

PORTUGAL, April 4.—Benito Caero, a Portuguese engineer, is said by the Secule to have invented a gun which will throw a shell 90 miles.

## PROCEEDINGS IN PROV'L LEGISLATURE

### Hon. Murdock McKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture Reviews Speech from the Throne and Replies to Criticisms of Department.

Hon. Murdock McKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture resumed the debate. The first paragraph, he said, dealt with the War, the greatest war in the history of the world. "We have not only a great war but we have had a great awakening; and I think people got as rude an awakening as they possibly could. They have been shown clearly that they lived too much for themselves, that they were not organized in such a manner as to be able to render the necessary assistance when organization was required. We were accustomed to go in our own easy way and satisfying ourselves, not considering our organization or our methods. We were not properly organized for production or for transportation or for putting our products on the market, satisfied in a way that would do. We could get all that we required, and while these methods were satisfactory to us, we could go along well; we could get along while everything was calm and peaceful, but we found that when difficulties came, when the time of great stress came, all our organizations and our methods broke down. We find today that we are not producing to the extent that we should produce, considering the necessity, not only of our own Dominion, but of the Empire. We find that while we were satisfied with great many of the methods of our transportation, these methods of transportation were not sufficient when the difficulties came. The same with our markets which goes to show that what we need most is a proper organization along these lines.

The next paragraph of the Speech deals with perhaps one of the most important subjects of the day. We might speak for days on this subject. I do not think there are many in this Province who realize the importance of this undertaking, and the importance of its success, and we will find in after years, and before very long, that the value of every farm in this Province has been greatly enhanced by the success of this undertaking. The next paragraph deals with a matter that, too, is of very great importance; that is, Military Hospitals. We are proud to say that we are on the eve of having two very good hospitals here; one very much abused in times past, both the undertaking and all connected with it, but one which has housed a great many soldiers, and they will get here the treatment that they need. Again, the hospital situated right here in Charlottetown, that will accommodate a great many soldiers, will be a source of pride to the province and of comfort to those whose friends have to enter such a hospital.

We could go along over the whole speech and we could find other subjects of equal importance. As these subjects will come before the House in another form, we will be able to deal intelligently with them. We will now turn to some of the remarks that were made by some of the gentlemen who preceded me, and my only excuse for doing so at the present time or for taking up the time of the House is that some things have been said in connection with them that should not have been said and some statements were made that should not have been made. The House undertook a few days before the present time to tell the Opposition what was expected of them; that they should criticize, lest it should appear that everything was going to be too well. Along with this duty there is another, and that is to suggest things. To criticize and to suggest are two very good things in their own place. Misrepresentation is not criticism by any means, and there is too much misrepresentation; misrepresentation that should never be heard in an assembly of this kind.

I did not think that any member of this House would stand up and repeat heresy—things that were reported and circulated in such a way that they would appear true without any proof or any foundation whatever. I think the House should come when this would not be tolerated in an Assembly of this kind. It might do so on the streets, but it should not have any place here. I think the honorable the Leader of the Opposition in some of his remarks has taken a very shrewd course; he has given us unadvised praise in some things. I am afraid he has gone very far astray in other matters. The hon. member from Victoria, continued Mr. McKinnon, had taken occasion to refer to matters that had been threshed out the previous session. He was quite willing to have it threshed over again and again if necessary, but he thought he had shown clearly enough that what had been undertaken had met with the success that could be expected under the circumstances. His reply last session was full and correct, and Mr. Lea could easily prove that by the fact that certain firms did supply the feed referred to on the terms referred to, on a 5 per cent. profit which was not very large. Difficulties were encountered, which he did not understand fully at the time but which he could understand a little better than those who were in the Department. Mr. Reid and Mr. Reek. He asked one of them how such and such a mistake had been made; how it was a certain man in a certain district, where there was an institute had not received a feed supply. The men in the Department could not understand

it, although they had received the institute order and filled it as they got it, and were positive it was an institute order. Time passed on with out an explanation; but six months after, he discovered that it was not an institute order and it had never come from an institute; that the subject had never been up in that institute, but that the list was taken down by a dealer who purposely left out those parties who did not get their share for the sole purpose of making difficulties. This, said Mr. McKinnon, happened in one particular case, and was indeed only typical of a great many others. In this connection the Commissioner of Agriculture referred to the work that Professor Reek had accomplished while in the province for 2 years. He had left his mark, he said, and his departure was Prince Edward Island's loss and his gain, for Mr. Reek had gone to a better position and a better salary in a province where he was not hounded from door to door and from section to section, and in the press, as he had been here. Mr. Reid also, he announced, had severed his connection with the Department, temporarily at least, and left yesterday (Thursday) morning. In him the province was losing another good man who had been hounded in the same way from the day he came until the present time, and he too had done good work, particularly in connection with the live stock of this province, work that was never done before. To his splendid efforts was due the fact that sheep were imported into the province by the carload last season and the season before. It was due to his effort that a couple of carloads of improved cattle are to be imported into this province within the next few days. This was part of the work he did, and he did it well, regardless of the men on his trail every day of his life and everywhere he went. He left, said Mr. McKinnon, to take up farming on his own account in the West, and the business that would receive the same energy, forethought and assiduous attention that he devoted to his work in the Department would undoubtedly be a great success.

Mr. McKinnon then went on to deal with the criticism of Mr. Lea in reference to "the bad job that the Department had made of feeds last year," regardless of which, that gentleman declared, he would have nothing further to do with the Department. Well, Mr. McKinnon did not object to that. He would say for Mr. Lea personally that he would not give the Department much trouble. If he chose not to have anything to do with the Department, that was his own affair.

MR. LEA: I did not say myself personally, but the farmers in general.

MR. McKINNON: I am willing to accept the correction,—that the farmers in general will not be willing to deal with the Department. Well, the hon. gentleman should speak for himself, and for the farmers in general when he knows what they want. Now, I may inform the hon. gentleman that on the way now, 40 carloads of feed are on the way now.

MR. LEA: What kind of feed?

MR. McKINNON: Corn and oil cake. That is good feed, is it not?

MR. LEA: Yes, that is all right.

MR. McKINNON: That just shows that the hon. gentleman was speaking without a knowledge of the facts, and if they want more oilcake there are no fewer than ten cars offering waiting for them at any time they want it. As to what is being done in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in regard to seed and fertilizer, does he know what New Brunswick, for instance, is doing in regard to feed? Is New Brunswick distributing among the farmers of that province seed at

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## CONDENSED SPECIALS

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