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# The Daily Mail

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\* THE WEATHER. \*  
\* Maritime—Moderate winds \*  
\* and fair today; moderate south- \*  
\* westerly gales, local snow. \*  
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THE DAILY MAIL, FREDERICTON, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1916.

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## Germany and United States In Deadlock Over Lusitania

**New Proposal Presented by Count Bernstorff Now Being Considered by the Washington Authorities--Bulgarian Troops in Albania Compelled to Fall Back--Sir Max Aiken Tells of Doings of N. B. and N. S. Soldiers.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The Lusitania case again today was in the forefront of the international problems occupying the serious consideration of the Washington government. President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing carefully went over a new proposal presented last night by Count Von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador. Until they have decided there will be no change in the virtual deadlock to which negotiations came weeks ago—and perhaps not then. Officials were emphatic in declaring that whatever gravity there was in the situation was pontoniat. Apparently the stumbling block of the situation is the word "illegal," as differently interpreted in this country and Germany.

The Berlin government's answer proposes instead of a flat admission of illegality of the method of submarine warfare in sinking the liner, the acceptance of liability for the loss of neutral lives, which Germany hopes will satisfy the United States and will not bind Germany from continuing the submarine campaign.

**SIR MAX AITKEN, CANADIAN EYE WITNESS,  
SENDS WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE BRITISH FRONT**  
(Canadian Press.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—The weekly communication from Sir Max Aitken, at present serving with the Canadian Corps in France, says:

"During the week of January 27-February 2, more than six successful minor operations were carried out by the troops under Sir Douglas Haig, one of the most successful being by parties of Northwest and Vancouver battalions on the night of January 30-31. Wire cutting parties cut lanes through the enemy wire opposite two of the strongest fortified places in this section of the enemy's front lines. About twenty Germans were killed and a machine gun and its emplacement destroyed by our bombers.

"After seven minutes in the German trenches, our party withdrew, taking with them as prisoners an under officer, a sergeant and a private. The under officer was wearing the iron cross and was armed with a saw-edge bayonet and a revolver with flat nosed bullets.

"As a result of the German offensive action, some heavy fighting has occurred during the week at various points on the western front. Opposite the Canadian area the situation has remained normal. Enemy artillery and aircraft have been active. On several occasions our artillery has carried out organized bombardments of the enemy's strong points and trenches with excellent results. The enemy's parapets have been broken, his dugouts and shelters exposed, and lanes cut through his entanglements. Direct hits have been obtained on more than one of his machine guns emplacements, and a building from which a German field gun had been firing was partially demolished by our shells.

**LIEUT. G. E. ROBERTS WAS IN COMMAND OF A  
BOMB-THROWING PARTY FROM N. S. BATTALION**

During the night of Jan. 26-27 a party of ten grenadiers from the Nova Scotia battalion, under Lieut. G. E. Roberts, advanced to within 15 yards of the German parapets and threw forty-four bombs at the German trenches, where a working party had been located. At the same time rifle grenades were fired from our lines into the enemy trench and our machine guns opened fire. It is believed several casualties were caused. Our party returned unhurt.

On the night of Jan. 29 a patrol consisting of Lieut. Sturdee and Lieut. Winter, Sergt. Pierce and Private Cassadon, of the New Brunswick battalion, cut through the German wire and made useful reconnaissances.

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, spent January 27 with the Canadian corps. The Prince visited all our divisional and brigade headquarters and inspected sections of the front trenches of our first and second divisions.

On Sunday, January 30, Right Hon. Bonar Law, M. P., Colonial Secretary, visited the Canadian corps headquarters, and the headquarters of three Canadian divisions.

The weather during the period has been fine and cold. The health of the Canadian troops continue very good. No cases of trench feet have occurred during the week.

**TURKS CLAIM A SUCCESS.**

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, Feb. 5.—The following official statement has been issued: "The Irak front, the enemy attempting to advance from Felahie was repulsed by a counter attack delivered by our troops, and forced to retreat within his former positions."

## SUMMARY OF TO- DAY'S WAR NEWS

(Canadian Press.)

London, Feb. 5.—There is a decided lull at present along the various war fronts. Heavy artillery plays along the lines in France and Belgium, but neither here nor in any of the important theatres of operations have there been infantry movements resulting in exchanges of territory worth noting so far as the official reports reveal.

In Mesopotamia, the British relief army under General Aylmer, which has been halted for some time a short distance down the Tigris from Kut-el-Amara, where General Townshend's force is beleaguered, does not appear to have been able as yet to make further progress.

Constantinople declares that the British attempting to advance from Felahie were repulsed by a Turkish counter attack and compelled to fall back to their former positions. In Albania, where a mixed situation prevails, the Bulgarians are reported to be having a hard time of it, and to have been obliged to fall back toward the Drin river, near the eastern frontier.

**HAD PHOTO OF THE  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Windsor, Feb. 5.—Photographs of the Ottawa Parliament Buildings were found in the possession of Charles Stroney, the Belgian violinist, taken from the Canadian Pacific train here last evening and held in the Windsor police station on suspicion of complicity in the destruction of the buildings.

## BIG CLOTHING FACTORY AT OTTAWA WIPED OUT BY FIRE LAST NIGHT

**Was of Incendiary Origin And German Plotters Are Suspected---Loss a Quarter of Million Dollars---Had a Big War Contract.**

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—Following the destruction of the House of Commons on Thursday night, an Ottawa war equipment factory is in ruins this morning. Another fire, suspected of being originated by German plotters, completely destroyed in the dawning hours today the clothing manufactory of Grant, Holden & Graham. The firm has extensive contracts with the Militia Department for the supply of clothing, tents and haversacks. The building was completely gutted, entailing a loss of \$225,000. The stock and plant were valued at about \$175,000 and partially insured.

No very extensive evidence exists of the treacherous hands of enemy agents, but suspicion at least points that way, because of the firm being engaged in making soldiers' equipment.

The developments here of the last few days suggest very properly the query of whether the Huns have transferred or extended their nefarious activities to Canada. The factory destroyed this morning was a six-story brick structure where about 300 hands are employed.

**AGED NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS OVERCOME BY  
SMOKE AND HAD A VERY NARROW ESCAPE**

The blaze was discovered about 1.30, when a night gang of eight was at work on the top floor. One of them, Ernest Boinard, noticed smoke creeping up through the floors. The fire had started in the storeroom. Boinard at once raised an alarm and while others put on the water he ran to the rescue of James Smith, the aged night watchman. Smith had become overcome with smoke, and had to be carried out.

The fire brigade was quickly on the scene, with the firemen pretty well played out from twenty-four hours of continuous duty at the House of Commons fire. They put up a plucky fight, but building and contents were both inflammable and the structure soon was doomed. It is a complete loss.

**NEW YORK HERALD THINKS THE PARLIAMENT  
FIRE WAS THE WORK OF GERMAN CONSPIRATORS**

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The Herald this morning says editorially: "The destruction of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa caused a thrill of indignation in this country, because of the moral certainty that the deed was due to German conspirators. Indeed, the Providence Journal informed the Department of Justice of this country three weeks ago that the building was to be destroyed, and that Rideau Hall and munitions plants would follow, and that the arrangements were being made through the German Embassy.

"It is not the custom in this country to jump at conclusions, and yet the case resembles the operations which were fastened to Captain Von Papen and his superiors in connection with other outrages in Canada.

"When Germany is at war she stops at nothing. No moral or spiritual law serves as a check."

The World says: "There is no reason to suppose that a German spy set fire to the Ottawa parliament buildings. The chief of police rejects the theory. No war peril existed in Albany when on March 29, 1911, fire in the Capitol cost one life and some millions in property, including a wealth of books and manuscripts that could not be replaced—a loss that Ottawa in greater part escaped."

**TRIBUNE SAYS SECRET OPERATIONS WERE  
ABANDONED AFTER CANAL PLOT WAS EXPOSED**

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—According to the Tribune this morning, local federal authorities declared that the fire which destroyed the Canadian Parliament Building in Ottawa could not have been the result of a pro-German plot hatched in the United States. Since the discovery of the Welland Canal conspiracy and the subsequent arrest of several Teuton sympathizers, such a close watch has been maintained by agents of the Department of Justice that secret operations have been abandoned, they say.

In the confession of Paul Koenig, active head of the German secret service bureau, there was nothing to show that the operations against the Welland Canal include attempts to destroy Canadian munition factories or government buildings.

**LONDON NEWSPAPERS GREATLY STIRRED  
OVER BURNING OF PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—A cable to the Herald from London this morning says: "The British press, expressing its gratitude to the United States for its sympathy with Canada over the destruction of its splendid Parliament houses, is stirred to the

(Continued on page 5)

## LOOKS LIKE AN ATTEMPT TO WRECK VICTORIA BRIDGE

MONTREAL, Feb. 5.—What is believed to have been an attempt to wreck the Victoria Bridge was frustrated by men of the composite battalion on guard shortly before 5 o'clock this morning. Several shots were fired when the figure of a man was seen creeping over the ice toward the bridge. The searchlight on the city side picked him out some distance from the stone piers, and as it was evident he had no right to be in such a place at such an hour, one of the guards opened fire. In a twinkling the other guards were turned out, several more shots were fired, but the man escaped.

When asked about the affair, the sergeant of the guard on duty at the bridge referred the reporter to higher officers of the composite battalion, all of whom said they would not make any statement until an investigation had been held.

Later it was learned that the man came first at midnight, was challenged by the guard, and went away. He appeared again about 4 o'clock, when the guards opened fire.

As the guard were on the bridge and the man was on the ice below, he managed to get away in the darkness. "We have no idea who he was nor what his intentions were," officers said. "There is just as much reason to suppose he was bent on mischief as to imagine he had no evil intentions."

A search was made, but no explosives or dangerous contrivances were found.

**MAY HAVE BEEN DROWNED.**

MONTREAL, Feb. 5.—It was stated about noon, after a search had been made on the ice below the bridge, that the footsteps of the early morning visitor had been traced over the ice to the edge of open water, and it is now believed by many that in his haste to escape the man may have fallen into the river and been drowned. No trace of bombs or other explosives was found about the piers.

**FOREIGNERS WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED.**

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—The Dominion police force has taken steps to apprehend all aliens who left Ottawa Thursday night. A close watch is kept on the foreigners who are supposed to report regularly to the registration offices. By an arrangement with the railways the ticket numbers and destinations of tickets sold to foreigners are handed over to the police. It was this system that resulted in the arrest last night of Charles Stroney at Windsor. Stroney was the pianist at the Edvina recital here on Thursday night.

**ANOTHER BODY FOUND IN RUINS.**

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—The body of J. B. Laplante, assistant clerk of the House of Commons, who perished in the fire on Thursday night, was discovered this morning. It was in the room of the deputy speaker. Hill, a messenger, had tried to induce Mr. Laplante to descend by a rope of curtains, but he would not risk it. The messenger finally jumped and saved himself.

**STRONEY HAS BEEN RELEASED.**

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—Col. Sherwood, Chief of the Dominion Police, this morning ordered the release of Chas. Stroney, arrested last night at Windsor on suspicion of being implicated in the Parliament Buildings fire.