The Weather.

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# 200 Killed and Injured in Powder Mill Explosion

# Serious Disaster at Kent, England, Confirmed by Minister Of Munitions---Violent Artillery Exchanges Near Avocourt And Melancourt.

LONDON, April 4.—The explosion of a powder factory in Kent has of the total listed vote of 138,431. Mr. caused the death or injury of 200 persons, it was announced officially today. The following statement was given out:

The Ministry of Munitions reports with regret that during the weekend a serious fire broke out in a powder factory, which led to a series of explosions. The fire was purely accidental. It was discovered at midday and the last of the explosions took place shortly after two in the afternoon. The approximate number of casualties is 200.

PARIS, April 4.—No infatnry attacks were made last night by the er's salary was \$10,000. It was an Germans in the Verdun region, the War Office announced this afternoon. The French continued their heavy bombardment along the Douaumont- tion of their deposits back. Vaux front, northeast of Verdun. The response was feeble. There were violent artillery exchanges near Avocourt and Malancourt.

## French Keep Up Heavy Bombardment on Douaumont Front Says Official Report

PARIS, April 4.—The text of the statement by the War

Office today follows:

'In the Argonne district we have bombarded certain of the German organizations, particularly in the region of Montfaucon and Malancourt. To the west of the river Meuse there has been artillery fighting of considerable violence along the from Avocourt as far as Malancourt. East of the Meuse hie night passed relatively quietly.

"The Germans have made no attack against the front between Douaumont and Vaux, re-established by our counter attackes of yesterday. French batteries have been particularly active in firing upon enemy positions in this region. The enemy

has responded but feebly. East of the forest of Lepretre a strong reconnaissance by the enemy has been dispersed by our fire. In Alsace French batteries were successful in shelling a German supply train on the highway between Thann and Meulhausen.

### Enlistments in Canada Now Close to 300,000;

#### The Latest Casualty List Given Out.

OTTAWA, April 4.—Nearly three hundred thousand men according to many precedents. have so far enlisted in Canada. The aggregate up to the end enrolled, of which the Maritime Provinces furnished 1,513.

OTTAWA, April 4.—The following casualty list was given

out here today:

neer James Campbell.

Killed in action March 25—Private James Meatz. Charles Walter Copp.

Wounded-Private Thomas Frederick Bates; Private Wm. Valentine; Private Edmund Ralph.

Killed in action March 25-Private James Henry Thomp

son! Private Jasper Smith Walpole. Wounded-Private John Hutchinson.

Suffering from Shock-Private John Henry Waters.

Wounded-Private Sidney Williams; Private Frank Bur gess: Private George Smith.

Suffering from shock-Private Joseph Tomlinson.

Mounted Rifles: Died of wounds March 24-Private Frank Herbert Vaughn; Private Robt. Speeden; Private Jack Robinson. Wounded-Private Robert Stitt Coupland; Private Hugh Sandall Jordan: Private Robert Kerr.

James Ferguson; Private James Gordon; Private Harry Speight.

#### GERMAN REPORT WAS FALSE.

LONDON, April 4.—The official press bureau gave out for publication today the German admiralty's account of the Zeppelin raids of Sunday night, and with it the following official British comment: "The above German official communication is of the usual inaccurate and bombastic type with which Germany hopes to delude neutrals and her own people.'

The German statement as received by wireless said that Edinburgh Light and various shipbuilding works and factories on the Firth of Forth and the Tyne were bombarded by the Zeppelins, resulting in numerous fires and violent explosions.

#### GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

BERLIN, April 4 (via London).—Strong French positions southwest of Douaumont and in the Caillette wood, northeast St. Elei, south of Ypres, which the Germans had been occupy

# Mayor Martin

Martin, M. P., was yesterday re-elected Mayor of Montreal for another two years by the decisive majority of 9. donald, and the crushing plurality o 16,681 over ex-alderman L. A. La posit, he not having secured half a many votes as the successful candi date, according to the unofficial fig-

There was a total vote cast of 73, 113, or rather more than fifty per cent.

#### SIR RICHARD McBRIDE'S

JOB IS WORTH \$15,000

Victoria, B. C., April 4.- Premier Richard McBride's salary was \$15,000 a year. Former Agent General Turn nounced that depositors of the Dominion Trust Co. would receive a propor

Rev. J. McP. Scott of Toronto, arrived in the city at noon.

Refuses the U. S. Demand to Release Germans Austrians and Turks Taken From an American Steamer---Will Continue to Search Mails For Contraband.

WASHINGTON, April 4 .- Great Britain's refusal to release the thirty-eight Germans, Austrians and Turks taken from th American steamer China, near Shanghai, was received today a the State Department, and will be given out for publication later. The British note is understood to insist on the right o that government to seize enemy subjects returning to take par in the war. This, it is understood, the United States is pre pared to vigorously dispute. The intention of the State Depart ment is to demand the unconditional release of the prisoners

WASHINGTON, April 4. With the reply of the Entente of March is 295,880. During March enlistments totalled Allies to the protest of the United States against mail seizures 37,705. In the last two weeks of the month 16,637 men were before them, administration officers today were considering what, if any, steps shall be taken in the controversy.

The text of the joint reply was published today. asserting the intention of the Allies to continue searching par-Infantry: Wounded Sergeant Percy Gerard Hibbs; Pio- cer post packages for contraband "concealed under postal folders," the note declares that no legitimate letter mail has been confiscated, nor any treaty rights violated. The right of the Severely wounded-Private Herbert Bodbycomb; Corporal IAlied governments to search general mail is based, the note says, on convention No. 11 of the Hague treaty of 1907. The communication calls attention to the alleged presence of rubber, revolvers and other articles of contraband in mail shipments to Germany.

# HUNS FEAR THAT THE ALLIES MAY SOON LAND TROOPS IN HOLLAND

NEW YORK, April 4.- The London correspondent of the Tribune says: A fanciful explanation of Germany's activity Infantry: Wounded Private Anthony R. Parry; Private in sowing mines in the North Sea, especially along the coast of Holland, outside the three mile limit, was given to me to day. My informant aserted that Germany was convinced that the Allies were about to land troops in Holland with the consent of the Dutch Government, which is angered by the repe tition of the German outrages to which she has been forced to submit and which is about to assert the Netherland's rights These minds, my informant asserted, were planted in the hope of Handicapping the transportation of troops to Holland.

#### DUTCH MINISTER IS SATISFIED THAT BRITAIN WILL RESPECT THE NEUTRALITY OF HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, via London, April 4.—"I do not for a moment suggest there is a posibility that Great Britain intends to land her new armies on the Dutch coast," said former Minister of War Colyn today, in an interview regarding recent mysterious military preparations in Holland.

We have the assurance of Britain that she will respect our of Verdun have been taken by German troops, the War Office neutrality and we rely on that assurance. But the question is,

# UNDER FOUR PER

## Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge Compiles Interesting Report on Merchant Shipping Losses by all Since the War Began.

LONDON, April 4.—Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, in a retion for the agent general's office to port of merchant shipping losses, gives the following statement the House last night, said that Sir of total losses from the beginning of the war to March 23:

#### Steamers.

No. British 379 French 41 Belgian 40	1,320,000 Russian 2 140,000 Italian 2	70. Tonnage. 42,000 70,000 49,000
	Sailing Vessels.	
No. British 31 French 12	19,000 Russian	o. Tonnage. 8 7,000 6 3,000
	Trawlers.	
British 237	1011111000	o. Tonnage. 2 (omitted)

#### LOSSES TO NEUTRALS.

-	
	No. Tonnage. No. Tonnage.   Norway 50 96,000 Greece 11 22,000   Denmark 18 33,000 Spain 4 9,000   Sweden 33 42,000 Persia 1 750   Holland 22 74,000 Portugal 1 625   United States 6 16,000 625
-	Sailing Vessels.
	No.   Tonnage.   No.   Tonnage.     Norway
	Trawlers
-	Denmark. 1 (no tonnage) Holland. 7 (no tonnage)

#### SHORTAGE OF TONNAGE WAS NOT DUE TO GERMAN PIRATES, BUT TO GREAT REQUIREMENTS

The loss to British steamshipping, says the report, is less than four per cent. of the total number of vessels under the British flag, and slightly over six per cent. of their total tonnage.

In further comment, Admiral Bridge details the amount of merchant shipping built in France and Great Britain since the beginning of the war, and shows that the war tosses have virtually been made good thereby.

In 1915," says the report, "after more than a year of the war, the steamshipping of Great Britain increased 88 vessels and 344,000 tons.

Italy and Russia also show an increase, while France is short only 12,500 tons.

Therefore it is clear," says the report, "that the recent shortage of tonnage is due not to the action of submarines, but to the great requirements of the military and naval forces.

"The latest published statement of these show that they are demanding 3,100 merchant vessels."

#### NORWAY WILL INVESTIGATE.

LONDON, April 4. A Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that the Norwegian government has requested the German government to investigate whether German submarines were responsible for the torpdoing of the large number of Norwegian ships which have been destroyed within the past few days. If it is proved that German submarines were responsible, Norway will demand full compensation. Investigations on the part of Germany regarding other Norwegian vessels which have been torpedoed since the submarine campaign was intensified have not yet concluded, the despatch adds.

#### ZEPPELIN MAY BE SAVED.

LONDON, April 4.—The British Aeronautical Institute has asked the Government's permission to undertake, at its own expense the salvage of the Zeppelin L-15, which is lying in shallow water off the mouth of the Thames. The Institute believes that if the salvage is undertaken by aircraft experts, "the Zeppelin can be saved, rebuilt and launched against the enemy within three months.

#### END NOT IN SIGHT.

LONDON, April 4 .- In opening his budget speech in the House of Commons, Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Ex-