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# The Daily Mail

## The Weather.

Maritime: Moderate south west winds. Fair and milder.

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## POLITICAL TENSION IN THE OLD COUNTRY SEEMS TO BE RELAXING

### General Robertson's Acceptance of the Eastern Command has Cleared the Atmosphere---His Transfer Received in the Commons with some Merriment

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Tension in the political world in military affairs has relaxed considerably. This is due largely to the acceptance by General Robertson, former chief of the Imperial General Staff, of the eastern command, which has removed anxiety lest his services be lost to the country. The eastern is a first class command, with all the highest emoluments, and is especially important as it would likely be the first to be affected by any attempted German invasion.

Nevertheless, the announcement of the General's transfer was received in the House of Commons with some merriment, as if it struck the hearers as derogatory. The fact probably was that Sir Henry Wilson, who succeeds General Robertson as Chief of the Imperial Staff, himself held it for some months last year, and it has come to be regarded popularly as a typical temporary appointment.

### SIR WILLIAM'S SOLDIERLY COMPLIANCE WITH DUTY AND DISCIPLINE IS WARMLY COMMENDED

General Robertson's acceptance of the eastern command is commended warmly by the press as an example of soldierly compliance with duty and discipline, and as showing that he is not influenced by any motive of personal dignity because of the recent controversy.

Opinion is now general, according to the newspaper lobbyists, that criticisms of the government will not be pressed to the extreme point in today's debate in the House, and that the government's policy will be accepted. Talk of displacing the government virtually has disappeared and it is said also that the Earl of Derby is certain to remain Minister of War.

### ATTEMPTED AIR RAID ON LONDON A FAILURE; CITY'S AIR DEFENCES GREATLY IMPROVED

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The attempted raid of German aviators last night was a failure. "There were no casualties nor damage in last night's air raid," says the official report.

Sunday night's air raid again proved how the air defences constantly are improving. The work of both the gunners and the airmen seems to have been the best yet shown. One raider coming through Kent met a tremendous gunfire and abandoned his attempt to reach the capital. Another raider was beaten off by an airman, who fought him for a long time, both men firing machine guns desperately, until the enemy was compelled to abandon his attempt to get to London.

It is understood that a large number of British airmen were up both along the coast and near London. As usual, there were many narrow escapes from bombs which burst in the gardens of residences, the occupants of which received only scratches from flying glass from broken windows.

## STEWARD OF NEUW AMSTERDAM ARRESTED ON A SERIOUS CHARGE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Feb. 19.—Johannes Hendrik Werkhoven, assistant steward on the Holland-American liner Neuw Amsterdam, was arrested here today under the trading with the enemy act and is said to have confessed that he had brought to this country for redemption, bonds and coupons owned in Europe. He was held in \$5,000 bail for further examination. Army intelligence officers have been puzzled as to the manner in which securities known to belong to Germans residing abroad have been brought to the United States and converted into cash. The arrest of Werkhoven, who was trapped while negotiating the sale of a \$500 United Fruit Company bond, is believed to clear up the mystery. Werkhoven is said to have admitted that ever since the outbreak of the war he has been making large profits by bringing to this country and cashing bonds and coupons which he said were owned by "friends in Holland." He denied having had any dealings with Germans.

## MORE MONEY FOR THE WAR

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Feb. 19.—The billion dollar urgent currency appropriation bill, carrying half a billion for the military establishment and large sums for the navy, and for the branches of the government, was passed today by the House without a record vote. In direct appropriations and in authorization for obligations during the remainder of this fiscal year, the total of the measures is \$1,107,220,000. It now goes to the Senate, where it will be given prompt action.

## B. C. WOMAN'S TERRIBLE DEED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 19.—After, it is alleged, shooting her 13-year-old daughter with a heavy calibre revolver, Mrs. Charles G. Mills, aged about 45 years, turned the gun on herself and sent a bullet through her body below the heart. Another bullet inflicted a wound on her forehead. She has a fighting chance of recovery. Her husband was formerly a partner in a drug store here, but for the last two or three years has lived in Portland, Oregon, though he supported his family here.

## SUIT AGAINST ST. JOHN & QUE. RY. HAS BEGUN

W. HENRY MAXWELL  
SUES FOR \$20,000

Company Enters Counter Claim for \$5,000—Also Urges Unsatisfactory Work by Plaintiff.

Before His Honor Judge McKeown at the York sittings of the Court of King's Bench which opened here this morning the suit of W. Henry Maxwell vs. The St. John & Quebec Railway Company was begun. Mr. P. J. Hughes of McLellan & Hughes of this city, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. W. P. Jones, K. C., of Woodstock, appeared for the railway company.

### Case of Plaintiff.

The plaintiff who belongs to Fredericton, is bringing suit for \$20,000 for work done and for alleged loss of profit on a contract to remove buildings from the right-of-way of the St. John & Quebec Railway between Gagetown and Westfield. The present board of commissioners of the railway upon being appointed took cognizance of the right-of-way and dispensed with the services of the plaintiff. That was some six months ago. In December a writ for damages was filed by Mr. Maxwell. He claimed that there were about twenty-five buildings on the right-of-way including churches and school houses and that he valued the work at \$12,000. The contract of Mr. Maxwell was entered into by the old board of commissioners in 1916.

### Defense of Company.

The defense entered by the railway is that the plaintiff was paid for all the buildings that he removed, that the contract entered into with him did not provide that he was to be paid for buildings removed by the owners, that the work of removal that he did was unsatisfactory both to the owners of the property and to the company's engineer and that the company

## The Big German Offensive Expected to Begin Soon

### BOLSHEVIKI DESTROYING WHEAT CROP

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Amsterdam, Feb. 19.—A Budapest despatch to the Vossische Zeitung, Berlin, says that the Russians have evacuated the last section of Hungarian territory which they occupied, in the east corner of Transylvania.

Germany learns from Ukraine that Bolsheviki guerillas are setting fire to the wheat stocks in many sections and are also systematically destroying growing crops by plowing them out.

### BRITISH COAL FOR BOSTON

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Boston, Feb. 19.—Five thousand tons of Cardiff coal was brought to Boston late today by a British steamer. The coal, consigned to the British embassy at Washington for bunker purposes, was diverted by the British government to relieve the acute shortage here after it was learned that the British ships held up in New York had been supplied with fuel.

was obliged to complete the work. The claim the plaintiff is repudiated and a counter claim for \$5,000 entered.

### Plaintiff on Stand.

The plaintiff was on the stand all morning and will go on again this afternoon. His direct examination is not yet completed. The suit is a non-jury case.

Mr. C. O. Foss, chief engineer, is attending the case and also Mr. Phillips, who was resident engineer on the Gagetown-Westfield section.

## BOLSHEVIKI GOVERNMENT REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN

### London Hears that It has been Overthrown by the Social Revolutionists Under the Leadership of M Tchernoff.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Rumors are current in Vaca that the Bolsheviki government in Petrograd has been overthrown by the social revolutionists under the leadership of M. Tchernoff, according to the correspondent there of the Politiken, of Copenhagen, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Nikolai Lenine and Leon Trotzky are said to have escaped to Riga.

Vaca, or Nikolaistadt, is in Finland, on the railway line between Petrograd and Helsingfors.

### THE FIGHTING AT KIEV.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 19.—"After the fall of Kiev," says an official report, "Ukrainian detachments concealed themselves in different parts of the town. Two days later they assembled under Ukrainian officers and Cossacks and opened fire in all parts of the town. During two days of terror four hundred of the inhabitants were killed by this senseless fighting. The massacre reached its climax on February 5th, when Ukrainians under a Cossack general, bombarded the working class quarters. The energetic action of the revolutionary workmen and soldiers finally crushed this uprising and drove the reactionaries out of town."

### COSSACK LEADER SUICIDES.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 19.—General Kaledines, hetman of the Don Cossacks, committed suicide at Novo Tcherkask, headquarters of the Don Cossacks, during a session of the Novo Tcherkask government, which he headed. The government decided to resign and transfer allegiance to the Council of Workmen and Soldiers. After the decision, General Kaledines went to an adjoining room and shot himself. General Mazaroff, who succeeded General Kaledines as leader of the Don Cossacks, ordered the immediate mobilization and arming of all Cossacks to fight the Bolsheviki troops advancing toward the capital.

## SOME CASUALTIES REPORTED AMONG U. S. TROOPS IN FRANCE

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Feb. 19.—There has been considerable increase in aerial activity in the American sector since last night. Enemy planes again flew over the town where a few days ago an American field hospital was located, and dropped bombs, but without damage. One hostile machine was driven to earth in a damaged condition by an American aviator. The artillery action was also lively and a number of casualties are reported. One shell dropped on a cook tent and wounded six men. Three men in the trenches were wounded by shrapnel, including a second lieutenant. Several others were injured when a town was shelled.

## Main Thrust Will be Made Between Arras And St. Quentin---Enemy Will Employ a New and Mysterious Gas---Has Been Widely Advertised.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

British Army Headquarters in France, Feb. 10.—The German offensive on the western front may be expected to begin at any moment, now and as far as the British front is concerned, the main thrust will be made on the sector between Arras and St. Quentin.

Tanks and a "new mysterious gas" will be employed by the enemy in their attempt to break through the Allied lines. Other attacks will be delivered further south. These facts have become known through German prisoners and from information gleaned in other ways.

The plans of the German higher command are complete, and after many weeks of intensive training of troops they are ready to make the supreme and final effort which has been advertised so widely in the past few weeks.

Hindenburg and Ludendorff appear to have realized that the old methods of attack, in which a long bombardment is employed, are too old now to produce the results desired. Accordingly, the German troops are being told the surprise attacks, such as were used in Galicia last summer, at Riga and again on the Isonzo, are to be tried against the Allies on the western front.

### TANKS CHARGED WITH GAS ARE TO BE USED, AND THE INFANTRY WILL HAVE LITTLE TO DO

Much stress has been laid on the fact that tanks with a new gas are to be used, leaving the infantry little to do but to walk through the gaps and consolidate the positions captured. German troops have been trained to make long approaches and then to storm enemy positions after a short gas shell bombardment. Those obstacles, which the German preparation has not obliterated will be rushed by the troops or ignored. The German infantry will rely on weight of numbers, masses of machine guns and mobile batteries to finish the work begun by the tanks and the gas.

Word has been passed out by the German high command that few of the Allied troops will survive the effects of the tanks, the gas and the bombardment, and that the fresh German infantry will overcome speedily any resistance offered.

### ALTHOUGH WELL TRAINED, GERMAN TROOPS ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THEIR TASK

Despite the assurances and intensive training to which they have been put, the German troops are frankly skeptical and are undertaking their task with no enthusiasm. They feel they are going to be thrown into battle to be used as cannon fodder, and do not relish the prospect. It is said that General Von Ludendorff recently addressed a body of infantry at Laon and asked how many men were willing to fight to a finish. Only five non-commissioned officers and privates stepped forward. The officers declared their desire for an early peace by "arrangement."

German officers, on the other hand, appear to have the conviction that they will be able to break through by means of their "secret" attacks, and the lessons of the capture of Riga have been preached religiously to the German troops.

### THE ALLIES ARE PREPARED FOR A BIG BLOW AND AWAIT HUN ATTACK WITH CONFIDENCE

The enemy troops have not been told, however, that the morale of the Russians at Riga was very low and that the German attack was a complete surprise. The Germans will find the Allied morale at the highest pitch on the western front, and their attack will be for from the surprise desired. The Allies are ready for a big blow and await the next move of the German high command with assurance.

The German attack cannot be delayed much longer. The information points to the fact that both German civilians and soldiers are keyed up to such a high pitch of nervous expectancy that the strain cannot endure for long.

The coming battles mark the beginning of the end, for if the Germans do not break clear through—and they cannot—they will be virtually finished—it means the end of Prussian militarism. The Allied forces have superiority in numbers, in both men and guns, and have no doubt as to the outcome.

## M. S. APPEALS DISMISSED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—The Central Appeals Judge has dismissed the applications by P. Lyall & Sons, Montreal, for the exemption of three of their employees on the ground that they are skilled laborers engaged in the manufacture of shells.

Mr. Justice Duff, in his judgment, states that "the fact that these men are engaged in the manufacture of munitions is no ground for exemption. In addition to that, it must at least appear that they are not essential and can be replaced."

## MADE GOOD IMPRESSION

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Washington, Feb. 19.—President Wilson's address to Congress last week is interpreted by the Muencher Nachrichten and the Muencher Post, two of the largest newspapers in South Germany, as showing a desire to continue public peace discussions. Editorials from issues of these papers of February 13, received here by cable and made public tonight by the committee on public information, urge the statement of the Central Powers to endeavor to come to an understanding with the United States.