

THE CENTRAL POWERS HAVE PUT DIPLOMACY ENTIRELY OUT OF COURT

Important Speech by Hon. A. J. Balfour In British House---Declares That the Teutons Have Banged the Doors Against Peace.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, secretary of foreign affairs, speaking in the debate in the House of Commons, supported the Prime Minister and contended that even President Wilson, so far as he was aware, did not profess to find definite formulated propositions in Count Czernin's speech. It was a misunderstanding, he said, to assume that the Versailles council had to deal with diplomatic and political issues; its real business was military.

"The government's view," added Mr. Balfour, "is that the attitude of the Central Powers shows that for the moment diplomacy is entirely out of court. It was the Central Powers who banged the door, and by the mouth of the Chancellor as well as the Kaiser, proved that they are as far removed as three years ago from accepting the ideals to which President Wilson has given classical expression. Mr. Balfour said he felt bound to say that the conclusion the Versailles council had reported was a correct one, and that no glimmer of peace dawning on the horizon was to be derived from the Von Hertling and Czernin speeches. Had anybody, he asked, succeeded in extracting from the two speeches anything that might be regarded as satisfaction of the Allied war aims?

A member—President Wilson did.

THE SPEECHES OF VON HERTLING AND CZEARNIN FAILED TO DISCLOSE A DEFINITE PROPOSITION

Mr. Balfour, continuing, admitted that President Wilson saw a tenderer tone and a softer atmosphere in Count Czernin's statements. "President Wilson was amply justified," Mr. Balfour said, "in dwelling on the difference in tone, but when you leave the tone and come to formulated definite propositions, you will not find them in Count Czernin's speech and as far as I am aware, President Wilson did not profess to find them."

Mr. Balfour argued that three definite speeches by President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George early this year made counter aims, but that even Count Czernin was not prepared to accept any of President Wilson's important aims.

"It is not the government's view," Mr. Balfour continued, "that because the Versailles conference referred only to the prosecution of the war that no efforts have been made by the belligerent countries to come to terms.

ATTITUDE OF THE CENTRAL POWERS PUTS DIPLOMACY ENTIRELY OUT OF COURT AT PRESENT

"The view of the government is that the attitude of the Central Powers shows that for the moment diplomacy is entirely out of court. The Central Powers abundantly have shown that they do not mean to come to terms. At any rate Germany has shown it. The different in tone of Von Hertling and Czernin might show that Austria is more nearly in a reasonable frame of mind than her powerful ally, but the most microscopic investigation of Von Hertling's speech shows not the least symptoms that the end of militarism in Germany is near.

THE GERMAN MILITARY POLICY TODAY IS PRACTICALLY THE SAME AS THREE YEARS AGO

"Add to their territory, secure their military extension by acquiring a controlling influence over this or that great area, make their borders secure by getting this or that alien population under their control, that was the German military policy three years ago, and it is the German policy so far as I understand Von Hertling and the Kaiser, at the present hour.

"How much that policy has behind it the true spirit of the German nation, I cannot say, but so far as outward marks and the declarations of responsible statesmen go, I see not a hair's breadth of variation from the cold ambitions of getting a German peace, and everyone knows that a German peace has one meaning, namely, a peace that would make every other nation subservient to Germany."

ROBERTSON WILL REMAIN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 14.—Major General William R. Robertson, the Daily Chronicle declares on its own information, will remain chief of the imperial staff with the full approval and confidence of the war cabinet. Major General Wilson, the sub-chief, will continue to be the principal British representative at Versailles. The Chronicle adds that if, as has been reported, an exchange of offices between Generals Robertson and Wilson was contemplated at any time it has now been abandoned.

PEACE DEBATE COMING SOON

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 14.—An important peace debate will be given in the German reichstag on February 21, according to a wireless despatch from Amsterdam. Chancellor Von Hertling will discuss the treaty with the Ukraine and will reply to Premier Lloyd George, President Wilson and Premier Orlando. (Amsterdam despatches received in London Tuesday reported that Count Von Hertling intended to answer President Wilson's message in the reichstag next Tuesday.

TO GIVE BONUS TO EMPLOYEES

The John Palmer Company, Limited, will Help Employees Meet the High Cost of Living.

The John Palmer Company, Limited manufacturers of oil tanned footwear, have granted their employees a bonus of ten per cent on their wages and salaries. It went into effect on January 1st and will continue for the entire year. The amount will be paid monthly to each of the 150 employees. The object of the company in granting the bonus is to place their employees in a better position to meet the constantly increasing cost of living.

The Palmer Company are the largest manufacturers of oil tanned footwear in Canada, and their goods find a ready sale in all parts of America. They have for some time been turning out a high grade trench boot, thousands of pairs of which have been purchased by officers and men of Canadian and American overseas contingents.

MANY ACTS OF TERRORISM

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Stockholm, Feb. 14.—Russian soldiers are reported to be committing acts of terrorism on the Aland Islands. In consequence of a statement that Swedish residents have fled to outlying islands, a Swedish ice breaker will start immediately for the islands and it will be followed by rescue expeditions.

DAMAGE FROM AN ICE JAM

Montreal, Feb. 14.—As a result of an ice jam at Beauharnois early yesterday some slight damage was caused by floods in the towns of Vandreville, Ileperrot and Ste. Anne de Bellevue. The water around Vandreville rose seven or eight feet. Today the water receded.

SIR CECIL SPRING-RICE PASSED AWAY AT OTTAWA

Former British Ambassador to the United States Died in His Sleep at Government House--An Able Diplomat Gone.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—Sir Cecil Spring Rice, former British ambassador to the United States, died this morning at one o'clock, of heart failure, at Government House. Lady Spring-Rice and their son and daughter were with him. The former envoy died practically in his sleep.

When the former ambassador complained of not feeling well shortly after midnight, Dr. Thomas Gibson was summoned, but the patient expired shortly before he arrived. Sir Cecil had been unwell for some time, and his last public appearance as British ambassador to the United States was made at the Ottawa Canadian Club, when he delivered an inspiring address on the diplomatic struggle. Lady Spring-Rice is a cousin of the Duke of Devonshire.

DIPLOMATIC WASHINGTON SHOCKED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Diplomatic Washington was shocked today by the news of the sudden death in Ottawa of Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, who retired after nearly five years' service as British ambassador to the United States early last month in favor of Lord Reading.

Although it had been known that Sir Cecil had desired for a long time before his resignation was announced to be relieved of his heavy duties in charge of the embassy, no intimation was given when he left Washington that he was in ill-health. However, officials here pointed out that he had been under tremendous strain from the responsibilities devolving upon him, officially and socially during the months of the operations of the Allied affairs before the United States entered the war.

PROSECUTING LAWYER DEMANDS DEATH PENALTY FOR BOLO PASHA

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

PARIS, Feb. 14.—Demanding the death sentence on Bolo Pasha yesterday, M. Monet, prosecuting lawyer, said: "The eyes of our Allies are on us. In the eyes of France we are judging a man who attempted to do in France what has been accomplished in Russia. We must show no weakness. The world is fighting for its liberty and is in expectancy. In times of peace I have stood here many times asking the death penalty for a miserable individual guilty of murder, and it was not without a twinge of regret. But today, without pity or mercy, but with a sense of stern duty to my country and our Allies, I ask for death."

Bolo Pasha, who wept when he was defended by his brother and his former wife, sneered at M. Monet's plea. He never moved as his accuser relentlessly attacked him. Before the close of M. Monet's address, word was brought in that the civil court had refused Bolo's request for an annulment of his first marriage, thereby convicting him of bigamy. It was a bad day for Bolo, but he smiled and bowed as nonchalantly as ever as he disappeared between his two guards into his cell.

Germans Massing Big Force Of Men on Western Front

REPINGTON'S CASE MONDAY

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 14.—It is understood that the summons for Colonel Repington, the military correspondent of the Morning Post, and H. A. Gwynne, editor of the Post, who are to be prosecuted under the Defence of the Realm Act for an article by Colonel Repington which appeared in the Post on Monday, will be heard in the Bow Street Police Court on Saturday.

DEPORTING THE BELGIANS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Havre, Feb. 14.—Deportations of Belgians by the Germans are continuing, despite the protestations to the contrary by the German authorities, according to information received by the Belgian government. Within the past week the Germans have carried off 2,700 persons from the town of Lokeren in East Flanders, and put them on military work on the western front.

PALACES FOR WOUNDED MEN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 14.—King George, the Daily News says, has offered three royal palaces for national use. They are Balmoral Castle for wounded soldiers, and Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace for public offices. The government has not yet taken any action on the offer.

Mr. Joseph T. Connor of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House.

Now Have Twelve Divisions in the Front Line Facing the Allies---Heavy Artillery Fire Last Night in Vicinity of Pinon on the Aisne.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Grand Headquarters of the French Army in France, Feb. 14.—German preparations for their announced offensive on the Allied front have not brought with them any relaxation of German vigilance or efforts to meet any attack from the Allies. New concentration of German forces are gathering in the rear of their lines simultaneously with the force which continues in front line positions, where a most formidable system of defenses has been erected during the winter months.

Various authorities make widely different estimates of the number of German divisions which may eventually be brought into the line on this front, should the Germans decide to engage in battle on a large and decisive scale. The exact total of the German forces in the front line and in the immediate reserve is known to a unit.

THE GERMAN FORCES IN THE WEST ESTIMATED AT 195 DIVISIONS, A TOTAL OF 2,340,000 MEN

One hundred and twelve divisions occupy the German front line facing the British, French, American and Belgian troops, while their immediate reserves total sixty-three divisions. On the basis of 12,000 men in a German division, this would be 2,100,000 troops. Possibly several additional divisions have reached various points behind the lines, but the fact has not been established with certainty. At any rate, it is agreed by authorities here that the greatest possible number the Germans could add to their forces on this side does not exceed twenty divisions, which would bring the total to 195 divisions, or 2,340,000 men.

GERMANS CARRIED OUT A RATHER LIVELY BOMBARDMENT NORTHWEST OF RHEIMS

PARIS, Feb. 13.—There was fairly heavy artillery fire last night in the neighborhood of Pinon, on the Aisne front, says today's official statement, which reads as follows:

"There was heavy artillery fighting in the region of Pinon nad northwest of Rheims. The French carried out several successful raids east of Auberive and in the Vosges, and brought back prisoners. A German attempt against a small French post was without success. German aviators last night threw down several bombs on Nancy. Three civilians were killed and five wounded."

CANADIANS CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL RAIDS NEAR PASSCHENDAELE AND CAPTURE PRISONERS

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Canadian troops have carried out two successful raids in which they captured prisoners and inflicted losses on the enemy, the official statement today says. In an attack northwest of Passchendaele, in the Ypres sector, German troops temporarily occupied two British posts. The British later drove the Germans out in a counter attack. Many Germans were killed in fighting above ground and four trench mortars were destroyed and seventeen dugouts in the enemy's first line and others in his support line were bombed. The casualties incurred by the raiding party were slight.

WINTER WHEAT DOING WELL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Paris, Feb. 14.—The condition of winter wheat in the departments of France which give the largest yields reported by an expert who has just finished a tour of inspection justify fully the most optimistic hopes for the 1918 crop. Nowhere did the frost do any damage, and the prospects are good for a greater crop than in any year since 1914. Preparations for the spring seeding are well under way and it is probable the acreage will exceed that of last spring by nearly one million. There is an equal increase in the acreage of winter wheat over 1917.

COL. REPINGTON EVADED CENSOR

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Feb. 13.—Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer announced today in the House of Commons that action would be taken under the Defence of the Realm Act against Col. Repington, the military correspondent of the Morning Post, for an article which appeared in the Post last Monday. The article complained of was submitted to the censor, who refused his permission to publish it.

The article afterwards was published in a different form without being submitted to the censor.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT BROUGHT DOWN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Paris, Feb. 14.—An official statement says: "In the period from February 1 to 10 our pilots brought down twenty-eight German airplanes, fourteen of which were entirely destroyed and the other fourteen seriously damaged."

SHIPPING LOSSES LIGHT

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Paris, Feb. 14.—One vessel of more than 1,600 tons and one of less than that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the week ending February 3, while one fishing vessel was destroyed. One French merchantman was unsuccessfully attacked. Eight hundred and ninety-one vessels entered French ports during the week and 841 departed.

HISTORIC CHURCH BURNED

Quebec, Feb. 14.—The historic church of St. Foy, near Quebec, wealthy in relics dating as far back as the first days of the colony was entirely destroyed by fire at three this morning.