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Notice to Advertisers.  
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In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a. m. on the day of publication.  
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The Weather.  
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Maritime: Gales north to west. Fair and decidedly colder. Saturday, winds becoming moderate northwest to west, fair and quite cold.  
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VOL. XXIV., No. 63

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## THE RUSSIAN SITUATION DISCUSSED IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

### Liberal Member Enquiries About Rumors as to Japan's Intentions---Mr. Balfour Says Russians are Completely Helpless in Face of Hun Aggression.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, March 15.—H. B. Lees-Smith, Liberal member for Northampton, who several days ago notified the House of his intention, asked Foreign Secretary Balfour whether he could give the House any information regarding the rumors as to the intentions of Japan in Russia, and what was the attitude of Great Britain on this subject.

Mr. Lees-Smith hoped that Great Britain would follow the line of policy laid down by President Wilson. If she did not, but gave way to the desires of Japan, she would not be working for her own best interests, for Russia, despite what had happened, would remain a great country and when she revived, democratic and stronger, Great Britain would be glad to have her as a friend.

Alexander M. Scott, Liberal, Glasgow, contended that the danger to the stores at Vladivostok was insignificant in comparison with the menace with which the whole Allied campaign and strategy in the east were threatened.

"If there was the slightest foundation for Mr. Lees-Smith's contention that whenever foreign troops invade a country they inevitably stay there and annexation results," said Mr. Balfour, "it was a very serious lookout for Northern France."

### MR. BALFOUR SAID RUSSIA IS A DERELICT WITH NO POWER TO RESIST THE GERMANS

Mr. Balfour considered that Mr. Lees-Smith's idea that if Japan sent troops to Siberia she was certain to remain there was absurd and he believed Mr. Lees-Smith failed to realize the conditions in Russia. Mr. Balfour did not think for a moment that Germany was likely to try to send an army to Vladivostok. It must be remembered that Japan, in any such movement, would be a friend of Russia against Germany, and as things were now, it was costly for Russia to offer any resistance to German penetration. Could not Mr. Lees-Smith see that Russia was now a derelict upon the waters, with no power of resistance whatever and that there would be German penetration from end to end of Russia that would be absolutely disastrous for Russia.

"I believe that the House does not know how far this penetration has already gone. I suspect that at this moment a German officer would be much safer travelling through Russia than would an Allied officer. Only one bank is allowed at Moscow now, and that is a German bank."

### RUSSIA A COUNTRY OF SURPRISES AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT HER FUTURE

"Russia sincerely desires to resist this penetration. How can she do it when every instrument to make resistance possible has been destroyed? I do not think that Germany will try to send great organized forces from Riga to Vladivostok; that would be an operation of great difficulty, and from a purely military point of view an unnecessary and even fatal waste of time."

## FREIGHT RATES TO BE BOOSTED

Ottawa, Mar. 14.—The judgment of the Railway Board, granting the railways an increase of approximately 15 per cent. in freight and passenger rates, goes into effect at midnight. This is the decision of the cabinet council, which heard the appeal of the western provincial governments, the Winnipeg board of trade and other public bodies against the judgment.

The judgment is modified, however, by the provision that the new rates, instead of being permanent, shall cease to be effective one year after the declaration of peace following the present war.

## MISS CLEVELAND WEDS IN LONDON

London, March 15.—Esther Cleveland, daughter of the late Grover Cleveland, president of the United States, was married Thursday in Westminster Abbey to Captain W. S. B. Bosanquet, D.S.O., of the Coldstream Guards, and son of Mr. Albert Bosanquet, according to the Daily Graphic.

## G. T. EMPLOYES AT PORTLAND MAY STRIKE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Portland, Me., Mar. 15.—Members of the International Brotherhood of Railroad Station Men employed here by the Grand Trunk Railway adopted a resolution yesterday in favor of a strike to enforce demands for the reinstatement of two discharged men, and asserted that if the strike were called it would affect 5,000 station employees of the road in this country and Canada. Robert Neil of Boston, president of the Brotherhood, who came here tonight, said he was endeavoring to have the grievances of the men referred to the arbitration boards of Canada and the United States.

### PILOT McKAY DISCHARGED.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Halifax, March 15.—The habeas corpus application in the case of Pilot McKay, who was committed for trial on the charge of manslaughter in connection with the Imo-Mont Blanc collision, which caused the Halifax disaster, was allowed today by Judge Russell, who stated in his judgment that there seemed to be no vital evidence whatever upon which an unbiased tribunal could hold Pilot McKay criminally culpable.

### PERSONAL.

Mr. John B. Cudlip of St. John, is at the Queen.  
Mr. A. L. Foster of St. John, arrived in the city today.  
Mr. I. Archibald of Boston, is at the Queen.  
Mr. Thomas K. Sweeney of St. John, is in the city.  
Mr. M. McGourty of St. John, is at the Barker House.  
Mr. M. N. Cockburn of St. Andrews is a guest at the Barker House.  
Ex-Mayor James H. Frink of St. John, arrived in the city last night.  
Mr. F. C. Hunter of St. Stephen, is at the Barker House.  
Mr. A. A. Smart of Toronto, is in the city.

Opera House Tonight.  
Whittemore Trio tonight at Opera House. General admission 35 cents. Tickets for sale at the door. Concert begins at 8.30.

K. P's at Marysville.  
There was a large attendance of members at the Marysville Lodge, Knights of Pythias, last night. Some interesting speeches were delivered by several of the members. Quite an interest is being manifested by the Marysville Knights and the prospects for some new members are very bright.

## SHOULD BE CANADA FIRST LAST AND ALL THE TIME

### Notable Address by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at an Irish Concert--Tribute to the Late John Redmond.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, March 15.—"One way in which to keep our country on its high level is to make a firm resolution that it shall be Canada first, Canada last and Canada all the time," declared Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the opposition, in an address at an Irish concert tonight.

The Liberal chieftain reviewed the Irish question briefly, and declared that John Redmond had died broken hearted. Mr. Redmond had followed in the footsteps of Daniel O'Connell and Parnell, declared Sir Wilfrid, and had even succeeded in 1914 in having placed on the statute books of Great Britain a law for which O'Connell and Parnell had striven, but failed to secure. The law was not put in force, however.

"Why was it held up?" asked Sir Wilfrid. "It was not put into effect because some men under the guise of loyalty promised to bring on civil war. Then the great war broke out and it must be said, to the glory of John Redmond, that when he saw the approaching peril he asked the Irish people to give way for a time. I speak of John Redmond and the Irish question because it is a lesson for us in this country."

### Confederation Will Last.

"The Canadian confederation is not on trial. It is stable and will last. There may be a cloud, and they may be reverses, but the light of freedom is always there, and will prevail in the end."

"Canada is a difficult country to govern. There are many languages, many races and many religious beliefs. However, it is not impossible. I do not expect any Canadian to forget his ancestors and the country of his birth. I would not forget the land of my ancestors, dear old France. There is room for us all in this country. I am an old man now, but through my ministry I always endeavored to keep Canada together and make it a united people."

## More Severe Fighting is Reported on Western Front

### MILITARY AUTHORITIES EXONERATED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Toronto, March 15.—The coroner's jury inquiring into the death of Gunner A. Neals, whose death from pneumonia was attributed by his parents to carelessness on the part of the military authorities in removing him from his home, returned a verdict tonight to the effect that he died from natural causes, no blame being attached to anyone. The jury recommended fuller co-operation between civil and military doctors. Notwithstanding the verdict, the two men in charge of the ambulance which removed Neals to the base hospital, were arrested at the close of the proceedings. The Crown, it is understood, had anticipated a verdict of manslaughter, and a detective was on hand with warrants for their arrest.

### DUTCH SHIPS MUST MOVE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
The Hague, Mar. 15.—The Netherlands government, according to high authority here, was not informed that unless the Dutch ships in Allied ports were unreservedly delivered to the Allies by March 18 they would be taken over. But the British minister at the Hague informed the government that unless a satisfactory answer was forthcoming by March 18 regarding navigation of the danger zone by Dutch ships other measures would have to be taken to get these ships moving.

Gallery for Students.  
The gallery of the Opera House at tonight's performance by the Whittemore Trio will be reserved for the students of the Provincial Normal School. The seats have been purchased by the members of the House of Assembly.

To Provide Annuity.  
A bill has been introduced in the House of Assembly to provide an annuity of four hundred dollars per year for Mrs. Jane Dickson of Fredericton, widow of the late J. Howe Dickson, former clerk of the executive council.

## British Airmen Account For Twenty-Four Enemy Aircraft--Enemy Artillery Con- tinues Active--American Troops Cap- ture and Hold Some Enemy Trenches.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, March 14.—There was severe aerial fighting on the western front Wednesday between large groups of British and German machines, and British airmen accounted for 24 of the enemy. The official statement reads:

"Aerial fighting was most severe, encounters occurring between large formations. Nineteen hostile machines were shot down and five others driven down out of control. Five of ours are missing."

"Seven hundred bombs were dropped on enemy billets, ammunition dumps and railway sidings at Courtrai and Denain. Further reports of the raid on Freiburg say that the bombs dropped were seen to burst on the railway station and around the power station. Just after bombs were released, our formation was attacked by a large number of machines, the fight lasting until the enemy was forced to withdraw. Three of our machines did not return."

### FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT TELLS OF BOMBING RAIDS ON ENEMY RAILWAY AND OTHER WORKS

PARIS, March 15.—The War Office tonight issued the following statement: "The enemy artillery activity in Champagne, in the region of the Mont, in the Vosges, east of St. Die and in the region of Hartmann's Weilerkopf was less violent. During the day three German airplanes were destroyed by our pilots. It is confirmed that one machine piloted by Sub Lieut. Nation destroyed two German airplanes. Our aviators in several sorties recently carried out bombardments, dropping 1800 kilograms of projectiles on railway stations, works and air-dromes in the enemy zone."

"Army of the East—Bombing raids were carried out by Allied aviators against the railway line between Seres and Drama, on enemy depots in the Vardar valley and against the railway station at Beranci, north of Monastir."

### THE AMERICANS OCCUPY GERMAN TRENCHES, INDICATING THEIR FIRST PERMANENT ADVANCE

With the American Army in France, March 15.—American troops in the Luneville sector have occupied and are holding enemy trenches northeast of Badenviller, which they forced the Germans to abandon through recent raids, and concentrated artillery fire. The trenches have been consolidated with ours. This, though a small forward movement, marks the first permanent advance by the American army in France. The consolidation of the trenches enables the Americans and French to operate from higher ground than before. The Germans made only feeble attempts to retake the position, but easily were repulsed.

### Activity Near Ypres.

London, March 15.—Increased raiding and artillery activity in the Ypres sector and on the front north of Armentieres is reported in the official statement of the War Office tonight. Australian troops carried out successful raids south of Ypres and captured a number of prisoners. Near Armentieres Portuguese troops drove back an enemy attack.

## PESSIMISTIC FEELING NOW IN VIENNA

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Amsterdam, Mar. 15.—The Vienna correspondent of the T.T. says: "Despite peace with Russia and in contrast with the diplomatic world, the feeling among the people of Vienna continues pessimistic; pan-Germans in forcing events are severely condemned." After remarking that in Austria Belgium is not regarded in the nature of a pawn for the other occupied territories, the correspondent attributes the German chancellor's increased clearness regarding Belgium to the influence of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister and the opinions which have reached the chancellor from Vienna and high ecclesiastical spheres. He says he has reason to believe that Germany will soon speak even more clearly.

### MELBA A DAME COMMANDER

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
London, March 15.—Madame Melba, the opera singer, is made a Dame Commander of the order of the British Empire in the colonial honor list issued today.

## GUERRILLA WARFARE IN RUSSIA NOW

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Petrograd, March 14.—The peasants in the Polotsk district are conducting guerrilla warfare against the Germans. Polotsk is in the district between Dvinsk and Vitebsk, on the Dvina. The Russian staff on the west front has been removed to Moscow from Smolensk. It is announced that command of the Baltic fleet has been offered to Admiral Razvozov. General Fitinsky, former aide de campe to Emperor Nicholas, and later chief of staff under Grand Duke Nicholas, has been arrested in Moscow. General Kaledines, hetman of the Don Cossacks.

## FARM LANDS FOR SOLDIERS

Winnipeg, March 15.—Nearly two million acres have been set aside in the Peace River district for the soldiers' settlement scheme, it is learned today, says the Free Press bulletin, and in addition all suitable farm lands within 15 miles of the railway, located in the northern portions of the three prairie provinces, have been reserved for returned men.