

**THE DAILY NEWS**  
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**EDITORIALS**

An interesting discussion has been going on for some time in the Federal Parliament about happenings in the Civil Service. Dr. Adam Shortt, the Chief Commissioner, reported that during the life of the present government 2,000 employees have been "fired" and 10,000 hired in the place of these. As the former were Liberals the inference is that two Liberals are as good as five Tories. Since 1911 there has been no development in Canada; so this increase cannot be put down to further development. The acme of Canada's development was contemporary with the defeat of the Laurier government. Why, then, increase the staff? It is also noted that the annual expenditure for gone up about 50 per cent since 1911. Canada apparently made a bad bargain when she elected the Conservatives to power.

The attention of readers of the war news is now fixed upon Constantinople. As the capital of the Ottoman Empire, to say nothing of its earlier history, it was a place of great importance. Turkey in Europe has now been reduced to insignificant proportions, and Constantinople does not play the part which it might play as the great eastern seaport of Europe.

It does not, like Gibraltar, command the passage from one great ocean to another. But the Black Sea, at whose gates it stands, is surrounded by the shores of Russia and several other countries, and for Russia it affords the only possible entrance to the Mediterranean. In fact, since the decline of Turkey, Russia is the only power which can make an extended use of the entrance from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. The chief use or abuse of the fortifications at Constantinople is to prevent Russia from obtaining such an outlet.

The Black Sea is also the outlet for the Danube, Europe's great inland waterway, which passes through Germany, Austria, and several of the Balkan states. If Europe is reconstructed upon any intelligent basis, the Black Sea and its outlet will be made a common highway for the continent.

The shiftings of European policy are curiously illustrated by the fact that Great Britain and France, which fought to

keep Russia out of the Black Sea system of navigation, are now bombarding Constantinople in order that Russia may have free access from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and if this operation is successful, Russia will be able to communicate with the allies by the Mediterranean instead of by northern waters. Guns and ammunition will enter freely into southern Russia, and the great wheat states of Russia will have a new highway to France and Great Britain. After the war we may expect a great development of southern Russia and great activity in the Black Sea ports.

The moral result of the fall of Constantinople would be tremendous. At present the doings of the rulers of Turkey are veiled in mystery, but there is little doubt that Germans are in control. The flight of the government from Constantinople would have a powerful influence upon the subjects of the Sultan.

Another way of estimating the importance of the operations in the Dardanelles is to say that they aim at cutting Turkey in two—separating Turkey in Europe from Turkey in Asia, and that would mean also that the whole force of the enemy—Germany, Austria and Turkey—would be similarly divided. Any connection that now exists between their forces in Europe and their forces in Asia and Africa would be destroyed. The Turks who are wandering about in Asia and northern Africa would be left without any European leadership. Any danger that may now threaten Egypt or India would disappear. The attack upon Constantinople is as important from a strictly practical as from a spectacular point of view—Toronto Star.

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**RELIGION SWEEPING OVER BRITISH FORCES**  
 Rarely Go Into Trenches Without Offering Prayer.

New York, March 9.—National religious regeneration is in progress in England, and the Puritan spirit has seized the British army, according to F. Herbert Stead, of Browning Hall, London, a recent arrival here on the Baltic. Mr. Stead, a brother of the late W. T. Stead, the noted British journalist, is in this country as minister-in-residence at Auburn Theological Seminary at Auburn, N. Y.

"The result of this war from the religious point of view," said Mr. Stead, "promises to be a real national regeneration. The British army, particularly the new army organized by Lord Kitchener, is now filled with the Puritan spirit as no army has ever since Cromwell's time. A common expression, even of the old standing army, is that now 'even soldiers have become religious.'"

"Rarely do the men go into the trenches until they have offered prayer. I heard of several different companies that would not go into battle until after prayer, the men even insisting on their colonel leading them in prayer."

**BOXING NOTE.**

Havana, Cuba, March 8.—The Willard-Johnson fight has been staged here for the first week in April.

The Dramatic Mirror reports that James Cruze and Marguerite Snow, of "Million Dollar Mystery Fame," recently became Mr. and Mrs. James Cruze.

**RECENT HAPPENINGS**

The first Canadian ship to fall a victim to German commerce raiders is the Nova Scotia three-masted schooner Wilfrid M., of Lunenburg, the crew of which was landed at Buenos Ayres by a German tramp steamer.

The annual convention of the N. S. Temperance Alliance met in Halifax. A deputation waited upon the government to urge the application of the N. S. Temperance Act to Halifax, and were given a sympathetic hearing by Premier Murray.

A fire in the furniture store of Brander & Morris, Halifax, on Monday, causing damages of about \$10,000, is supposed to have originated from a cigar stump or match carelessly thrown through the street grating and falling upon dry material near the elevator shaft.

A young Irish-Canadian, Michael O'Leary, from Regina, has won the Victoria Cross for an extraordinary feat of daring when a member of a storming party at Guinchy, February 1. By his own efforts he practically secured the enemy's position and prevented the rest of the attacking party from being fired on.

Degrees were conferred on thirty-three students of Queen's University at a special convocation in Grant Hall on Thursday of last week. These young men are going overseas in various military capacities, twenty-one as hospital dressers and the others with the engineering and infantry corps.

Principal Cumming addressed a meeting of the Halifax Board of Trade on the achievements and possibilities of agriculture in Nova Scotia. He presented the subject in a most interesting manner and gave a large amount of valuable information on which is undoubtedly the most important industry in Canada.

Professor George M. Wong, of Toronto University, in an address delivered before the Canadian Club, Halifax, stated that there will have to be a change of dynasty in Germany before permanent peace is assured to the world.

In the House of Commons, Ottawa, in reply to a question, Major General Hughes stated "that there are already upwards of five thousand applicants for positions of chaplains. There are twenty-two chaplains now in England, besides only eleven permitted to accompany the force to the continent. Permission has not yet been obtained for the sending of further chaplains."

A sad incident occurred near St. Anne de Bellevue, twenty miles from Montreal, in which Miss MacMillan, a sister of Rev. J. W. MacMillan, Halifax, lost her life. Miss MacMillan was watching a C. P. R. train pull out of the station with friends on board, whom she had just seen off for Ottawa, when she was struck by a Grand Trunk train and instantly killed. At the place of the accident there is a sharp curve and a level crossing. Miss MacMillan was superintendent of the Men's Residence at Macdonald College.



**BRITAIN BLOCKADES THE IRISH CHANNEL.**  
 With the southern route cut off as shown on the map, the German submarines will have to travel 1,100 miles from either base to reach the Irish Sea. The blockade of the northern route provides for ingress under escort.

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