BRITISH PUT TURKS TO COMPLETE ROUT IN BATTLE NORTHWEST OF BAGDAD

Russians Capture Van in General Advance Against Turks From Persia

RUSSIANS SWEEP FORWARD ON WIDE FRONT IN PERSIA

Big Allied Spring Movement Proceeds Against Turkey —Moslems Lose Van in Armenia, With Baneh Near Mesopotamian Border — Foe Force is Driven to Hills.

London, March 18.—The capture by the Russians of the City of Van, in Turkish Armenia, is reported in a Reuter despatch from Petrograd.

The capture of Van indicates that the spring movement is now on.

A Petrograd despatch says the Russians are continuing pursuit of the Turks in Persia. The war office today announced that a Turkish column had been cut off by Russian cavalry and had fled into the mountains. The statement follows:

"In the direction of Sivas, in the region of the Village of Matkut, our outposts repelled by rifle fire and the bayonet an attack made by Turkish scouts.

"A Turkish column, consisting of two battalions, six mountain guns and three squadrons of cavalry, retiring from Senne, in the direction of Kermanshah, under pressure of our cavalry, was met at Kaniaran by Russian cavalry detachments which had been detailed to cut off its retreat. The Turks turned westward, in their confusion, into the roadless mountains.

"In the direction of Djevanrud, northwest of Kermanshah, the pursuit continues. In the direction of Kermanshah a bridge near the Village of Maideshut was captured, undamaged, by us.

"The enemy is attempting to make a stand in the passes. On March 13 a battle occurred in Shel Pass. Reports concerning the result of this battle have not yet been received."

The Russian advance on the Caucasian front is being continued over a large section. The Russian war office today announced the capture of Baneh, which is in Persia about ten miles from the Turkish border. The statement follows:

"In the region of Ognott, 15 versts west of that point, our scouting parties dislodged the Turks from their position and occupied the Village of Warabi. Stores of cartridges and hand grenades were captured.

"In the direction of Sakkiz our detachments, moving forward in deep snow, dislodged the Turks from their position at Sarana and occupied this point. Pursuing the retreating Turks our advanced detachments entered Baneh.

"The forward movement of our troops is proceeding under exceedingly difficult conditions. Passages which have been cut thru snow that often is higher than a man on horseback are quickly filled up again by the furious snowstorms. Owing to the absence of villages our troops have to shelter themselves at night in caverns made in the snow."

"On the western front and the Rumanian front exchanges of fire and scouting reconnaissances are occurring," says the statement given out today. "In the region southwest of Riga bombs were dropped by a zeppelin."

Compromise Has Averted Big Railway Strike in U. S.

New York, Monday, March 19.—It was definitely stated early this morning that an agreement had been reached which would avert the threatened great railway strike.

The mediators and managers were believed to be awaiting the arrival of the brotherhood chiefs, who had retired, before making the formal announcement that the strike had been averted.

Von Hindenburg Is Called To Report to the Kaiser

Berlin, Thursday, March 15, via Sayville, March 18.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has gone to great headquarters to make a report on the situation to Emperor William.

THORNHILL DOCTOR DIES.

Dr. Garry Langstaff of Thornhill, one of the best known practitioners in York County, and a native of Markham Township, died suddenly in that village yesterday after a short illness. Dr. Langstaff for about 25 years lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., returning to his native village a few years ago. He was 57 years old, and leaves a widow and infant daughter.

SERVICES AT ST. HILDA'S.

The Lenten services at St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Fairbank, are being well attended. Rev. H. R. Young preached at the morning service yesterday, on "The Manhood of the Master," and in the evening, on "Faith." A special feature during Lent is the Lenten lectures for children, held in the basemen hall on Mondays, the subject being "Soldiers of the Bible."

SCORE'S GREAT SALE.

If the first day of the important estate sale being conducted by R. Score & Son, Limited, would indicate its success then it is a foregone conclusion. It was anticipated, and rightly so, that such a sale would be of especial interest to the men of Toronto having an appreciation of the prominent place this reliable old firm holds amongst Canada's leading tailors and makers of high-class made-to-measure clothing, and to be able to choose from so high-class a stock of seasonable woolens at such attractive discounts. The sale is an offering of unusual merit, and will continue till the entire stock is disposed of. There are so many of the suitings and overcoatings that are in the "only-one-of-a-kind" class that it makes an early choice most desirable.

GERMANS POISONED WELLS BEFORE BEGINNING RETREAT

British Analysts Discover Deadly Substance in Water Drawn at Barleux Village, Left For Troops to Drink.

British General Headquarters in France, March 18.—It was officially stated today that poisoned wells were found in the Village of Barleux, southwest of Peronne, which was occupied by the British in the wake of retreating German garrisons. This serious accusation was made in a report by the British doctors on an analysis of the water. The British test all waters in occupied territories, in order to safeguard the troops from various diseases. They were startled to find that the Barleux wells contained a deadly poison.

Other wells in the line of the German retreat have been filled up, but this was the first indication of poison in any of the wells.

Torpedo Boats Shell Kentish Coast Towns

Early Morning Raid by German Craft Results in No Casualties and Trifling Material Damage.

London, March 18.—German torpedo boats shelled towns along the Kentish coast early Sunday morning, but did little damage, according to an official statement issued tonight.

The text reads:

"Some enemy torpedo boats and destroyers approached the Kentish coast at 12.45 o'clock Sunday morning. They fired a number of shells at certain coast towns. There were no casualties. The material damage was slight, one occupied and two empty houses being hit."

THREE AMERICAN VESSELS ARE SUNK BY SUBMARINES

Twenty-Two Men, Including American Citizens, Are Reported Missing--Vessels Traveling Without Cargoes for U.S. Ports When Attacked.

Washington, March 18.—Three steamships flying the American flag have been accounted for by Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare. Their total gross tonnage was 14,587.

Early cables from London indicated that 48 members of the crews, including 34 known to be Americans by birth or naturalization, were not accounted for, but later advices showed a total of 22 men missing.

The American freighter City of Memphis, with more than 50 American sailors on board, was sunk by gunfire. The steamer was of 5252 tons gross and was bound from Cardiff to New York without cargo. First reports said that the second officer and 15 men of the crew had been landed and that a patrol boat had gone in search of 34 or more men who were missing. Later Consul Frost sent a cable that 48 survivors of the steamer's crew had been picked up and that an admiralty vessel was searching for eight missing men.

Fourteen Others Missing.

London reports that the American tank steamer Illinois, 5220 tons, from London for Port Arthur, in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock this morning, without warning, and that the crew was landed.

The American steamer Vigilance, 4115 tons gross, was also sunk without warning, a London despatch announced. Fourteen of the crew were reported missing.

The department announced that a despatch from Consul-General Skinner, at London, said it was reported the City of Memphis, the Illinois and the Vigilance, all American steamers, had been sunk, the latter without warning. The message added that some of the crew of the City of Memphis had been landed, that a patrol boat had gone to pick up the crew of the Illinois.

Submarine Refused Aid.

A second despatch from Consul Frost stated that 33 survivors of the City of Memphis landed at Queenstown, and that seven Americans were among the 15 landed at Schull.

The despatch follows:

"City of Memphis, 33 survivors now landed here; vessel struck by gunfire, submarine large type remained on the scene after crew left ship. Refused request tow boats to land. Weather not severe, but threatening. Survivors at Schull included Allen Carroll (formerly of Nova Scotia, a naturalized citizen), second officer; —— McPherson, second engineer; Robert Shea, surgeon; John Walkin, Henry Campany, Gus Campany, Americans; five Italians, one Portuguese, one Swede and one Russian."

ATTENDS FLOWER CONVENTION.

Deputy Reeve Fred H. Miller, York Township Council, left the city yesterdy to attend the flower convention in New York, and will be absent for about a week.

Details of the Big Advance

The British and French troops, which have been holding the line in France, are now actively pushing forward on the heels of the fast retreating Germans. The latest gains have been made altogether on a front of 100 miles or more, and the important towns of Bapaume, Peronne and Noyon, lying almost in a straight line running north and south are in the hands of the entente allies. Between these, lying somewhat to the westward, Roy, Nesle, Chaulnes, have been taken. The French are moving in the direction of Ham, on the Somme River, while the British are continuing their advance eastward from both Bapaume and Peronne.

The cavalry of both British and French is now active. Strong cavalry squadrons have been in motion for several days past and have taken a prominent part in the operations, which probably accounts for the rapidity of the Anglo-French advance. While the Germans have voluntarily evacuated much of the territory recently lost to them, there has been some fighting at various points, where strong rearguards have been left by the German commanders to protect the retirement of the main army.

Altho there is no actual knowledge of the German plan of retreat, it is presumed in certain quarters that if the pressure of the French and British keeps up they will retire to the powerful line running from Lille to Laon and including the strongly defensive positions at Cambrai and St. Quentin. These are all fortified cities, Laon being a fortress of the first-class and the scene of many battles in previous wars. Even at the present rate of progress it would take several days probably before the forces of the allies would confront these defences.

In their latest operations the British entered the German positions along a front of 45 miles to a depth of several miles, up to ten miles in some places, and in addition to occupying Nesle, Chaulnes and Peronne took possession of more than 60 villages.

The French gains were made in two distinct sectors, along a front of about 37 miles between the Avre and the Aisne. Their most important capture was the Town of Noyon, a strategic point, which lies almost due south of Peronne. North of Soissons, which lies less than 20 miles to the southwest of Laon, they occupied the Village of Crouy. Other villages were taken with the object of strengthening their new positions.

It is to be noted that the British official communication says: "We have occupied Nesle," and the French communication says: "Our cavalry, this morning entered Nesle." While Nesle is apparently on the French line, the British have taken the Town of Chaulnes, and it is possible that forces from both armies have entered Nesle, which lies only a few miles to the southeast of Chaulnes.

BRITISH DEFEAT TURKS AWAY PAST BAGDAD

London, March 18.—The British army in Mesopotamia has put the Turks to rout, it is announced officially. On Friday afternoon the Turks were in full flight towards Samara, 75 miles northwest of Bagdad. The statement follows:

"In the fighting on Wednesday on the right bank of the Tigris, as already reported, the Turkish rearguard was driven from a succession of ridges to a strong position covering the railway station at Mushaidie. Our troops continued to attack the position during the night and finally captured it at 3 o'clock on Thursday morning. The enemy is retiring hastily.

"The retreat continued during Thursday, and on Friday afternoon the whole enemy force, consisting of remnants of three Turkish divisions, was in full flight in the direction of Samara. On the morning of Friday the enemy were straggling over a distance of 20 miles, with their rear 25 miles north of the scene of the fighting of Wednesday."

DON'T MISS THE GREAT FIRE SALE.

The crowding which has marked the Dineen fire sale of Friday and Saturday last will be largely removed when the sale starts this morning at 10 o'clock. The business done has been phenomenal, the great majority of the customers making several purchases in each department. An additional staff of salespeople and floor managers has been engaged, and the experience of the first two days has evolved a system that will avoid delays. There remains a profusion of bargains in furs, millinery and men's hats. Come early and be among the fortunate shoppers. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

Electric Fixture Sale.

The Electric Wiring and Fixture Co., of 261 College street, are conducting a genuine bargain sale of solid brass electric fixtures. Every fixture in the showroom, corner of College and Spadina avenue, must be sold this week, even if at less than cost, to make room for an entire new line of samples. No charge will be made for installing. Hours of sale, 8 a.m. to 12, and 1 to 5.30. Open evenings, 7 to 9. This company contract to wire houses for electric light, concealing all wires without breaking the plaster or marking the decorations. Estimates free.

The World Is Bounding Round.

Never did the world move so fast as it is moving today! It takes one's breath away!

Russia passed from an empire into a republic in less than a week, with little bloodshed. All political prisoners released; equality of citizenship given to Jews. The czar abdicated and off the throne for himself and for his son in twenty-four hours. The greatest drive known to history started against the German carpetbaggers who overran and ruled Russia for nigh a century.

In Germany, the imperial chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, steps into the lower house of the Prussian Diet and delivers the most revolutionary speech known to German history: electoral reform, political equality, a new order of things, that might be followed by a sweeping revolution in the direction of constitutional government. Germany, instead of fighting, as she claimed, for her integrity, gave it all away in a day to be like other nations.

And the United States finds itself in the most astounding situation that ever came to a nation, the richest in the world, the most highly organized in its industries, and yet almost absolutely helpless in war, in defence, in assertion of the principles contained in its declaration of independence, and in its so-called model constitution. German plots and plotters, within and without, have put the United States flat on her back! She has to put up with unparalleled insults. The president lacks essential confirmatory powers from congress! No army, no navy of any account. A great industrial strike at her doors that may tie up all her railroads. And she doesn't know where she is going. And this all in a day or two.

As for England and France, they have started in with cheering armies of millions of men and guns to drive the Germans back into their own country.

And all the little nations of Europe beginning to talk of self-government. Poland, Finland, the Balkan states, Greece, will all get it. And all of it moving at a surprisingly rapid pace, that you can only glance at events that at other times would have awed the world for years.

RUSSIA IS RESOLVED TO BATTLE TO FINISH

Determination to Achieve Victory Stronger Than Ever, Says Foreign Minister Milukoff's Message —Emperor is at Monastery in Pskoff.

Petrograd, March 18, via London, March 19.—Nicholas Romanoff, as the former emperor is now designated, left with his staff today for his personal estates at Livadia, on the south coast of the Crimea.

London, March 18.—With the final cementing of the elements concerned in the construction of the new Russian government upon the ruins of the old, the new cabinet ministers, relieved of the heavy grind of the endless conferences of the last few days, in which they suffered many anxious hours, have assumed the posts to which they were assigned. Prof. Paul N. Milukoff spent yesterday at the foreign office. In the afternoon he received the diplomatic representatives of the allies, after which he entered upon a long cabinet conference.

One of the first acts of the minister was to send a series of cable messages to the Russian diplomats abroad to the effect that Russia was united in the desire to fight out the war with the allies, the determination to continue the conflict until the victory is achieved being stronger than ever.

Armies Enthusiastic.

The armies in the field have been advised that the abdication of the emperor has been enthusiastically acquiesced in, according to a foreign office official. Telegrams from virtually all the commanders have been received assuring the support of the government guaranteed in advance by Gen. Michael Alexieff, chief of staff.

The empress and the crown prince of Russia are now safe in Finland, and the emperor is at the Snetogorsky monastery at Pskoff, according to a cablegram from Petrograd transmitted thru the Belgian minister.

The entire Russian Baltic fleet and the fortresses at Viborg and Sveaborg have joined the revolutionary movement in Russia, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Copenhagen, which is based on reports received from Haparanda, Sweden.

Old Regime Vanishes.

Meanwhile the last vestiges of the empire are disappearing. Portraits of the erstwhile members of the imperial family, once seen upon the walls of almost every government office, have been removed. While the correspondent of the Associated Press waited in an ante room of the foreign minister's office, a liveried attendant mounted a chair and quietly took down portraits of the former emperor and empress. The national colors with their eagles have given place to plain red flags, one of which floats over the famous winter palace.

The proper designation of the new government appears to puzzle even officials. "Government constituite" is the appellation used in foreign office despatches abroad. While of a temporary nature it is permanent compared with the first duma committee which was hurriedly assembled, in the opinion of one official, altho it is contemplated that the cabinet heads shall continue to govern only until those elected by a constitutional assembly shall replace them. The assembly, which will be selected by popular vote, will be composed of approximately 600. It will be business of the assembly to determine the form of the future government and draft a new constitution.

Enlarge Military Operations.

Confidence is everywhere expressed that under the direction of the new government the military and industrial forces of the country will be enabled to carry on operations upon a much larger scale than before, and considerably magnify their efforts towards a speedy termination of the war. Endless friction between departments and the continual fear on the part of the old government, that too complete organization might result in the sudden growth of popular power have left a great part of the resources of the country inert and useless. Every effort at the mobilization of these resources, each plan to organize and expedite the transportation of supplies met with the most stubborn oppositions.

Meeting Broken Up.

Meetings of committees of town unions in Moscow, which assembled to discuss means of remedying the industrial disorganization of the country were broken up by the police, under the instructions of the ministry of the interior, which feared that such meetings might provide opportunity for the dissemination of propaganda against the government, altho it was chiefly due to these meetings that Prince Lvoff, president of all the Russian union of counties, whose activities were so bitterly opposed by the old government, is head of the new cabinet.

Probably no event of similar magnitude ever had a less colorful aftermath, or was accepted by the people so vitally affected with less of a demonstration. With the exception of a few parades, chiefly in the district of the duma, people went soberly about their business yesterday, as tho satisfied with a good task well performed. Apparently the excess of enthusiasm had been in the stirring days preceding the final denouement. The review of troops which had been scheduled was postponed. Doubtless the heavy snowstorm which continued most of the day, had much to do with dampening the ardor of the people. At any rate, up to the present time there has been nothing in the nature of a great popular demonstration.

Milukoff's Message.

The following is the text of the message sent from Petrograd by Foreign Minister Milukoff to the Russian diplomats abroad:

"The news transmitted by the Petrograd telegraphic agency, (the semi-official Russian News Bureau) already has acquainted you with the events of the last days and the fall of the old political regime in Russia, which collapsed lamentably in the face of popular indignation provoked by its carelessness, its abuses and its criminal lack of foresight. The unanimity of resentment which the order of things now at an end had aroused among all healthy elements of the nation has considerably facilitated the crisis. All these elements having rallied with enthusiasm to the noble flag of revolution, and the army having lent them its speedy and effective support, the national movement obtained decisive victory within eight days.

"This rapidity of realization happily made it possible to reduce the number of victims to a figure unprecedentedly small in the annals of upheavals of such extent and importance.

Grand Duke's Co-operation.

"By an act dated from Pskow, March 15, Emperor Nicholas renounced the throne for himself and the hereditary Grand Duke Alexis Nikolaievitch in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. In reply to a notification which was made to him of this act, Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, by an act dated Petrograd, March 16, in his turn renounced assumption of supreme power until the time when a constituent assembly, created on the basis of universal suffrage, should have established a form of government and new fundamental laws of Russia. By this same act Alexandrovitch invited the citizens of Russia, pending a definite manifestation of the national will, to submit to the authority of the provisional government constituted on the initiative of the duma of the state, which holds full power. The composition of the provisional government and its political program have been published and transmitted to foreign countries.

To Honor Russia's Word.

"This government, which assumes power at the moment of the greatest external and internal crisis which Russia has known, in the course of her history, is fully conscious of the immense responsibility it incurs. It will apply itself first to repairing the overwhelming errors bequeathed to it by the past, to ensuring order and tranquility in the country, and, finally, to preparing the conditions necessary in order that the sovereign will of the nation may be freely pronounced as to its future lot.

"In the domain of foreign policy the cabinet, in which I am charged with the portfolio of the ministry of foreign affairs will remain mindful of the international engagements entered into by the fallen regime, and will honor Russia's word. We shall carefully cultivate relations which unite us to other friendly and allied nations, and we are confident that these relations will become even more intimate, more solid, under the new regime established in Russia, which is resolved to be guided by the democratic principles of respect due to the small and great nations, to the liberty of their development and to good understanding among nations.

Will Fight to End.

"But the government cannot forget for a single instant the grave external circumstances in which it assumes power. Russia did not will the war which has been drenching the world with blood for nearly three years. But, victim of premeditated aggression prepared long ago, she will continue, as in the past, to struggle against the spirit of conquest of a predatory race which has aimed at establishing an intolerable hegemony over its neighbors and subjecting Europe of the twentieth century to the shame of domination by Prussian militarism. Faithful to the pact which unites her indissolubly to her glorious allies, Russia is resolved, like them, to assure the world at all costs an era of peace among the nations on the basis of stable national organization guaranteeing respect for right and justice. She will fight by their side against the common enemy until the end, without cessation and without faltering.

Prepare for Victory.

"The government of which I form a part will devote all its energy to preparation of victory, and will apply itself to the task of repairing as quickly as possible the errors of the past, which hitherto have paralyzed the aspirations and the self-sacrifice of the Russian people. I am firmly convinced that the marvelous enthusiasm which today animates the whole nation will multiply its strength ten times and hasten the hour of the final triumph of a regenerated Russia and her valiant allies.

"I beg you to communicate to the minister of foreign affairs (of the country to which the diplomat addressed is accredited) the contents of the present telegram."

Release Political Prisoners.

Telegraphing from Petrograd Sunday, Reuter's correspondent says:

Between 300 and 400 political prisoners have been released from the Butirky Prison in Moscow. About 1700 criminals, many of them most dangerous characters, escaped from the prison, but a majority of them have already been rearrested. In scarcely any cases was resistance offered. All the undestroyed archives of the political police are being given to Vladimir Bourtheff, the well-known revolutionist.

The police of Kiev went over to the new government in a body. In the provincial towns the manifesto announcing the abdication of Emperor Nicholas was read from the stages in the theatres. The audiences rose and cheered and made up collections with which to buy gifts for the troops.

An incident occurred in Petrograd yesterday which is considered a good augury for the new regime. A procession of 5000 officers proceeding to the duma to declare their adherence to the new government, met troops who were returning, and who halted and enthusiastically cheered them.

Rasoutin's Slayers Pardoned.

M. Kerennki is being addressed as "M. Minister" by the officials of the ministry of justice, instead of "excellency."

The first Moscow newspaper since the outbreak of the revolution arrived in Petrograd yesterday. It was auctioned on a street corner for the benefit of the soldiers' food supplies and brought 10,000 rubles. Other newspapers sold for hundreds of rubles. Minister of Justice Kerenski has received 1,000,000 rubles for the use of the government from a group of banks.

M. Kerenski has rescinded the order of banishment against Grand Duke Dmitri and Prince Youssoupoff, the slayers of Gregory Rasputin, the monk who exercised great influence over the imperial family, and the two men are returning to Petrograd.

Petrograd's Famine Over.

Petrograd is now well supplied with bread and grain, and prices have dropped to normal, says The Dagens Nyheter's Stockholm correspondent, quoting advices received from Haparanda.

"Search by the revolutionary party," the despatch adds, "resulted in the discovery of thousands of tons of hidden wheat, leading to the belief that the shortage of food was systematically organized by the old regime. The populace of Petrograd held especial animosity against Minister of Agriculture Rittig, who was killed during the revolution."

To Free Russian Jews.

The Weekly Despatch says it learns on excellent authority that the first legislative step of the new Russian Government will be to assure the complete freedom of all Russian Jews.

"The attitude of the revolutionary government on the subject," it says, "will be guided by the leading principle of equal rights for all, irrespective of race or religious opinion. The reason why Jewish freedom is to be granted so soon is that it is a mark of appreciation by the duma for the praiseworthy attitude of the Russian Jews when tempted by the bureaucracy to desert the popular cause."

Grand Duke Nicholas Popular.

After his abdication Emperor Nicholas returned to general staff headquarters. The attitude of the armies at the front in the face of the new development is not yet known in Petrograd. It is generally believed that the appointment of Grand Duke Nicholas as commander-in-chief will be received enthusiastically by the troops, with whom he is extremely popular.

The Russian constituent assembly, says a Reuter despatch from Petrograd, will be convened at the Winter Palace, which has been proclaimed national property.

Poor Old Folks—

Looks as if they'll have to go "over the hill to the Poor-house."

Their children either can't or won't support them.

Tragic? Yes!. But not half so tragic as the old folks' remembrance of the fact that their present plight is due to their lack of foresight in not making provision for their declining years.

Be independent in YOUR old age.

A small amount invested annually for a few years in an Imperial Endowment Policy will enable you to end your days in comfortable independence instead of as a burden upon the charity of friends or in a paupers' home.

May we tell you about the income you can insure for yourself 20 years hence, by making small payments *now when you have the money?*

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