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THURSDAY MORNING MARCH 22 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

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PROBS— Fair and mild.

BRITISH ENMILES EAST OF THE SOMME

UNITED STATES WILL DECLARE STATE OF WAR

Congress Called to Meet Two Weeks Earlier Than Was Planned.

FUNDS AND AUTHORITY

Wilson Will Be Empowered to Use Armed Forces as He Desires.

Washington, March 21.—President Wilson today met the constantly increasing probability of war with Germany by summoning congress to assemble in extraordinary session Monday, April 2—two weeks earlier than the date he had chosen before the latest assaults upon American rights on the seas.

When the president addresses congress he is expected to show how a state of war actually has existed for some time because of the unlawful aggressions of German submarines.

Congress is expected normally to declare a state of war existing, vote a large sum, probably half a billion dollars, for national defence and clothe the president with authority to use the armed forces of the United States, as it empowered President McKinley to deal with the menace of Spain in 1898.

Such action would not be a declaration of war except in a technical sense, and whether the United States and Germany actually go to war in the fullest acceptance of the term will depend on what the imperial government does before congress is assembled or after it acts.

Ominous indications. Despatches from abroad tonight declaring that the German Government expected a state of war within the next 48 hours placed an ominous aspect on the situation.

Much to change the president's present intentions or the course of the government in the crisis may develop before April 2. The first American armed ship will by that time have reached the war zone. The ruthless destruction of one of them unquestionably would be an act of war.

On the other hand, sinking of a submarine (Concluded on Page 6, Col. 5).

Chinamen Held in Germany On a Charge of Conspiracy

London, March 21.—According to reports received in Amsterdam from Cologne, the Exchange Telegraph correspondent in Amsterdam, 50 Chinese residing in Germany, and especially in Berlin and Munich, were arrested yesterday charged with conspiracy. They were preparing to leave Germany with the Chinese legion. Most of the Chinese were students.

DOMINIONS HAVE VOICE TOUCHING PEACE TERMS

Imperial Conference, Now Under Way, Affords Opportunity to Express Views Fully—Strong Desire Shown to Prosecute War.

London, March 21.—(Via Ruter's Ottawa Agency)—An authoritative statement issued to Ruter's regarding the imperial war conference says:

"During today's session, which dealt purely with preliminaries, the general desire was expressed to concentrate all energies upon the prosecution of the war. Unmistakably the absence of Australia is much regretted. The feeling is growing that one of the most satisfactory features of the conference is that it will afford an opportunity to the dominions to express their views upon the terms of peace.

"It is felt more and more that the part they have played in the war and the fact that they have regarded it as their own struggle equally with Britain's fully entitle them to this right. From this viewpoint, as well as others, the conference is undoubtedly an historic event of first importance."

WELCOME DELEGATES.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 21.—The imperial conference sat two hours today and then adjourned Saturday. Premier Lloyd George, owing to pressure of business, was unable to attend. All the Canadian ministers were present. Today's conference was largely occupied with the procedure of the conference itself, the colonial secretary submitting a tentative list of the larger subjects for discussion.

The colonial secretary, in welcoming the members of the conference, expressed regret at the absence of Australian representatives but gratified at the presence of Indian representatives at such a gathering for the first time. Representatives of the dominions replied in congratulatory sentences.

Austen Chamberlain spoke of the satisfaction with which the gathering would be regarded in India.

RUSSIANS PENETRATE TURKISH TERRITORY

Troops of Ally Advance From Persia Into Mesopotamia.

Petrograd, March 21.—Russian troops, driving southwestward from Sakkiz, Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian frontier into Turkish territory, the war office announced today. The Turks are still in retreat in the district southwest of Kermanshah. The season of bad weather has begun on the Perso-Mesopotamian fighting front, the statement announces. It reads:

"Caucasian front: In the direction of Sakkiz our advanced detachments pursuing the Turks have crossed the frontier into Turkish territory. In the direction of Kermanshah the pursuit of the Turks continues. The bad weather season has begun.

"Western and Rumanian fronts: There has been great reconnoitring activity by enemy detachments and also reciprocal firing."

Sixth German War Loan Not Considered Successful

London, March 21.—A Hague despatch from the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph says:

"The German ministry of finance is organizing a great canvassing campaign for the sixth German war loan, which, in financial circles, is considered less successful than the previous loan, the subscription being one-third lower. Berlin and Frankfurt bankers openly state that the present failure shows the uselessness of launching a seventh loan."

Frontier Troops Required To Keep Order in Berlin

London, March 21.—Ruter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that it is rumored that serious riots have broken out in Berlin in connection with the scarcity of food. Holland, says persistent rumors are current of great rioting in Berlin, the despatch says. Frontier regiments are reported to have left for Berlin to maintain order."

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

CAMBRAI, the great railway centre of northwestern France, has probably come under the fire of the British guns, for the British advance, which continued yesterday, has reached points seven or eight miles distant, so that their long range artillery can prevent the use of its railway by the Germans. Cambrai lies at the head of the great railway from Berlin which passes by the munitions factories of Belgium and Westphalia, and from Cambrai radiate the branch lines feeding the whole German front in northwestern France. Cambrai, besides, is the nodal point of eight roadways, so valuable for electric and light railway lines. The Germans virtually lost Cambrai when they lost the ridge of Bapaume and the Somme watershed, and the loss of Cambrai carries with it the loss of northwestern France. The enemy may attempt stands here and there, but none of these can be of more than the usual strong rearguard type. He has also the alternative of engaging the allies in a battle of manoeuvre in the open field. If he risks this battle, he will probably suffer a humiliating reverse, for the whole allied preparations have taken so long a period of time in order to win a manoeuvre battle when trench warfare broke up.

The principal scene of the British advance yesterday, however, was the district south and southwest of Peronne. They made rapid progress there and now hold points ten miles east of the River Somme. They can now shell the Cambrai-St. Quentin railway, making it useless for the enemy. In this section the British occupied 40 villages yesterday. On the front between Nurlu and Arras, the enemy resisted with considerable fervor the British advance at a number of places. The British advanced guards, however, steadily drove back the German rearguards. The French on their right retarded their advance, probably in order not to shove their right wing too far ahead of the British, and also to permit them to make a right wheel, pivoting on Ham and swinging their left northward from Soissons. They forced a passage of the Somme canal at points three miles south of St. Quentin, clearing the enemy from both banks and reaching Castres and Fontescourt. North of Tergnier and southwest of the important railway junction of La Fore, the French made further progress, while in the Ailette Valley they fought lively skirmishes with patrols and received a lively bombardment from strong forces of the enemy, established on the east bank

FORTY MORE VILLAGES TAKEN FRENCH FORCE SOMME CANAL

LATE NEWS BULLETINS

Two British Mine-Sweepers Sunk

London, March 21.—Two British mine-sweepers have been sunk, according to an admiralty announcement tonight. In one case there were no casualties, in the other fourteen men are missing and are presumed to have been drowned.

Try to Destroy Interned Ships

Peking, March 19.—(Delayed)—Chinese naval officers at Shanghai found the bombs with percussion caps and time fuses, fixed under the machinery of the German steamers Delke Rickmers, Sikiang and Albenga, which were seized March 14 by the Chinese authorities. The machinery had been dismantled, and parts of it were missing.

U.S. Close to State of War

London, March 21.—According to private telegrams from Berlin to the Amsterdam bourse, it is expected that a state of war with the U. S. will be accomplished fact within 48 hours, says a despatch to The Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam.

Britain to Encourage Liberators of Russia

Government Will Introduce Resolution Congratulating People of Russia on Establishment of Free Institutions.

London, March 21.—A resolution of greeting to the Russian Duma and the people of Russia on the establishment of free institutions in that country, will be introduced in the house of commons tomorrow by the government. The resolution which Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, said will have as its object the giving of encouragement to the provisional government of Russia, follows:

"Resolved that this house sends the duma fraternal greetings and the Russian people its heartfelt congratulations upon the establishment amongst them of free institutions in full confidence that they will lead not only to the rapid and happy progress of the Russian nation, but to the prosecution with renewed steadfastness and vigor of the war against the stronghold of autocrat militarism, which threatens the liberty of Europe."

DUTCH HARBORS BARRED TO U. S. ARMED SHIPS

Holland's Attitude in Princess Melita Case Unsatisfactory to Allies.

London, March 21.—A despatch to Ruter's Telegram Co. from Amsterdam says:

It is understood that the Dutch Government has intimated that it is not prepared to allow armed American merchantmen in Dutch harbors. According to the view in well-informed circles, the refusal to permit representations arising out of the British steamer Princess Melita case will be unsatisfactory from the content standpoint.

CROWD DEMANDS CAPTIVES' HEADS

Demonstration Takes Place Outside of Duma at Petrograd.

TO GRANT FAIR TRIAL

Political Prisoners Receive Fair Treatment—Permitted Food Allowance.

London, March 21.—A Ruter despatch from Petrograd says that the Finnish Diet will reassemble on April 4.

According to this despatch a crowd assembled outside the duma Wednesday carrying red flags, on one of which was inscribed: "Death to those arrested!"

Cries demanding executions also were raised. The minister of justice, A. F. Kerensky, has issued a proclamation pointing out that none of the revolutionary or Socialist parties have urged violence or condemnation without trial, and adding:

"There is reason to believe that such exhortations to violence have been prompted by a former member of the secret police and provocatory organizations."

The imprisoned ministers and other officials in the St. Peter and St. Paul fortress are being treated scrupulously. According to the regulations of the old regime they were allowed forty kopecks daily for food. They are not allowed to give interviews and their correspondence is being controlled. They are permitted to wear their own clothes.

CANADIANS INVESTED.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 21.—The following Canadians were invested at Buckingham Palace: Distinguished Service Order, Major Frank Arnold, artillery; Military Cross, Major William Macaw, infantry; Capt. William Nicholson, medicals; Capt. Frederick Button, infantry, attached flying corps.

North of Soissons Considerable Progress is Made by French Troops, With an Advance North of Tergnier—British Advance Rapidly South and South-east of Redeemed City of Peronne.

London, March 21.—The capture of forty more villages on the front in France is announced in the official statement from British headquarters tonight.

The communication says: "South and southeast of Peronne we have advanced rapidly during the last 24 hours and reached points some 10 miles to the east of the River Somme. We have occupied another forty villages in this area.

"Between Nurlu and Arras the enemy is beginning to develop considerable resistance at a number of places. Nevertheless his rear guards are being steadily driven from their positions and our progress continues.

"We carried out successful raids during the night east of Arras and northeast of Neuville St. Vaast. A hostile raiding party east of Neuville St. Vaast was repulsed.

"The enemy blew a mine this morning southeast of Ypres, damaging his own trenches.

"There has been considerable artillery activity during the day by both sides in the neighborhood of Armentieres and Ypres."

NO PROVISIONS LEFT?

A semi-official communication issued in Paris today absolutely denies the German affirmation that the retreating troops on the Somme front left five days' provisions for the civilian population.

"On the contrary," the communication adds, "the Germans not only took everything edible produced in the region, but seized a part of the stores in localities which had been provided by the American and Spanish relief committees. Fruit trees were cut down without being used for military purposes, poplars along the roads were sawn three-quarters thru, vines were torn from walls and trellises, agricultural tools were smashed wantonly, numerous grenades were placed around the edges of villages, and wells and streams were chemically poisoned or defiled."

The official communication issued by the French war office tonight reads:

"North of Ham the situation is without change. Our light forces remain in contact with the enemy between Roupay and St. Quentin.

"East of Ham we forced this morning at two places a passage of the canal of the Somme despite lively resistance by the Germans. The operation, conducted vigorously, enabled us to clear the north and east margins of the canal and drive back the enemy as far as the outskirts of Castres and Contescourt. Inundations have been caused by the enemy in this region.

"Most of the villages before our lines in the neighborhood of St. Quentin are in flames.

"We have advanced north of Tergnier (which lies southwest of Lafore) in the valley of the Ailette (there have been skirmishes between patrols. The enemy, who occupies in force the east bank of the Crozat Canal and the Ailette, has subjected our lines to a lively bombardment.

"In the region north of Soissons we made considerable progress and fought several quite spirited engagements. Most of the conquered villages are entirely destroyed.

"East of the Meuse the enemy delivered several surprise attacks against the Calonne trench, but these failed under our fire. The day was relatively calm on the rest of the front."

Belgian communication: A bombardment on both sides occurred at various points on the Belgian front, particularly in the direction of Dixmude, Drei Grachten and Steenstraete.

Gen. Nivelle's entry into Noyon was impressive. As the general and his aides alighted from an automobile the notes of the Marseillaise were heard. The emotion of the people was great. Sobs were heard throughout the crowd and the tanned faces of the soldiers were wet with tears.

The mayor of the town, surrounded by a number of old men, advanced toward Gen. Nivelle. A child with her hair done up with tricolored ribbons offered a bouquet to the general, who took the child in his arms and kissed her. Gen. Nivelle then visited the hospital and amid applause pinned a war cross on the habit of Sister Romuald, who during the thirty months in which the town was occupied by the Germans showed great devotion to the inhabitants.

Because of the precipitate departure of the Germans Noyon suffered less than Roye. Nevertheless a number of houses were destroyed, notably the cathedral. The Germans blew up the railroad station on the eve of their departure. The historic fountain is intact.

Besides the fifty young girls who are reported officially to have been taken off, the Germans are said also to have carried away as hostages 12 young men, several priests, doctors, druggists and some notabilities.

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 FACTORS, black and white, Sale .18
 DS. on and on, Sale .17
 BIBBS, in all light, Sale .25
Children's
 Rompers, .18 to 1.50
 fine cottons, mainly rose or grey. They are made in a snug buttoned style. Women's Wednesday sale.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1 and 2)