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The Toronto World

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 10 1917 - SIXTEEN PAGES.

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VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,268

PROBS

Fresh east to southeast mostly fair, with some light rain.

U.S. ARMED MERCHANTMEN TO DEFEY GERMAN SUBMARINES

BEATING OFF THREE GERMAN ATTACKS, FRENCH ADVANCE IN CHAMPAGNE

Britain Will Buy A of Canada's Wheat

BRITISH SHELL FOES WITHOUT GIVING RESPIRE

Blizzard of Two Days' Duration Cuts Down Military Operations

ENEMY LOST HEAVILY

Evidence Accumulates to Show Germans' Retirement Cost Them Dearly

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

British Headquarters in France, via London, March 9.—Blizzard conditions have prevailed on the western front for two days, holding the military operations within a very small compass. Coming after a ten days' thaw and the apparent approach of an early spring, the renewed cold has been keenly felt.

They "Search Out" Roads, Pound Communication Lines to Cut Off Supplies, "Pay Attention" to Places Where Reliefs are Likely to Take Place and Otherwise Harass the Germans with Scarcely a Moment's Rest.

It is increasingly evident that in carrying out their retirement in the Artois and Somme areas the Germans sacrificed large numbers of their very best soldiers. Carefully selected from various regiments, they were given special posts with instructions to hold them against all odds, a majority of them having no idea that they were fighting a rearguard action. Prisoners taken represent the highest type of the German army.

Keep U.S. Break Secret.

On the other hand, great pains seem to have been taken to prevent the men at the front learning the details and the possibilities entailed in the break with the United States. The prisoners know virtually nothing of that situation, although one had a letter from home which read:

"I hope you are keeping well. One reads of British attacks daily. What say you about America? Our situation is becoming more and more critical. Perhaps the U-boats will bring the war to a speedy finish, or else we shall make more enemies."

The British artillery, moving made the bringing up of asphyxiating gas cylinders to points of vantage too costly, the Germans have resorted to the unrestricted employment of gas shells, gas bombs and gas jars.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVEN IS REVIEWED

THE official British communications from the western front have conveyed little news in the past two days, and with good reason, for a blizzard has raged in the past 48 hours. The storm has prevented infantry action, except on a small scale. The British carried out a trench raid yesterday near Blaches, however, and they captured two machine guns. The British artillery is now keeping up an immense bombardment of the German positions night and day. As its fire is cutting off the communication between the German trenches and the German rear, the enemy cannot safely bring up his cylinders of poisonous gas, so he is firing off a great many shells and glass jars filled with gas from his guns and trench mortars.

Instead of shortening their front and improving their defensive position, the Germans, it appears, have merely made their conditions worse by their retirement up the Artois Valley. They have made the Artois salient sharper than ever. It was dangerous before they withdrew; it has become a greater trap than ever in the estimation of General Maurice. The enemy now holds the ridge from Bucquoy to Bapaume, and once the British cross this ridge they expose Cambrai to their assault and they compel the Germans to fight on inferior ground and therefore at a great disadvantage.

The German high command has revived, to some extent, the morale of the German army and people by promising that unrestricted submarine warfare will bring peace within three months. The effect of this promise in strengthening the German courage shows in strong light the intellectual limitations of the Germans. It also explains the new British policy of

PLOTS AGAINST PLANTS REPORTED LAID BARE

Schwartz and Kolb Believed to Have Given Important Information.

Hoboken, March 9.—The Hudson County grand jury returned indictments today against Hans Schwartz, Fritz Kolb and a third man whose identity was not disclosed, charging them with having had high explosives in their possession. The men are not expected to plead to the indictment until Monday.

TURKISH COLLAPSE SEEMS IMMINENT

Nearness of Flood Season May Delay Fall of Bagdad

HAVE TO QUIT PERSIA

Defeat at Kut-el-Amara Compels Moslem Evacuation of Country

London, March 10.—The latest Russian despatches received here reporting the withdrawal of the Turks from several far apart points in western Persia are regarded as showing that the Ottoman troops are now in general retreat from the invaded territory toward their own border, pursued by Russians, whose government is calling on Persia to reoccupy the towns already evacuated.

Mysterious U-Boat Is Seen Heading for American Coast

Boston, March 9.—Capt. W. C. Nickerson, of the steamer Inian, which arrived here today from Philadelphia, reported that while passing 25 miles southwest of Fire Island, N.Y., yesterday morning he sighted an unidentified submarine heading toward the American coast.

Huge Store of Grain Burned in Spectacular Detroit Fire

Detroit, March 9.—A spectacular fire, caused, it is believed, by spontaneous combustion, today destroyed the grain elevator of the Detroit Railroad Elevator Company. Adjoining buildings and valuable railroad property also were damaged.

Russians Offer to Persia Towns Evacuated by Turks

London, March 10.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegram Co. from Petrograd says:

Nizam, of Hyderabad, Gives Half-Million to Fight Subs.

London, March 9.—The Nizam of Hyderabad, ruler of the largest and most populous of the internal states of India, has sent to the government £1,000,000 for use in the anti-submarine campaign.

FRENCH CRUSH FOE'S ATTACKS IN CHAMPAGNE

Heavy Battle Proceeds Before Lines Retaken by Ally

MAKE LARGE GAINS

Onsets of Poilus Advance Front on Breadth of Mile

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

Paris, March 9.—A heavy battle is proceeding in the Champagne, where the French made their successful surprise attack yesterday. The Germans launched no fewer than three violent counter-attacks on the positions taken by the French, but French barrage and machine gun fire broke down these onsets, obliging the foe to withdraw from the fighting. A great many German dead lie before the French positions. The lines seized by the French have a breadth of nearly a mile, and an average depth of half a mile. The total number of prisoners taken by the French in this region has reached 170.

TWO ARE KILLED IN RAILWAY WRECK

Grand Trunk Passenger Train Crashes Into Freight Near Utterson, Ont.

THREE ARE INJURED

Two Men Seriously Hurt and One Woman Receives Minor Injuries

By overrunning orders, the northbound Grand Trunk passenger train No. 41, engine 404, crashed into a freight train, which was standing on a head-on collision about one mile north of Utterson yesterday afternoon at 3.45, killing two men, seriously injuring two others, and slightly injuring a woman passenger. The dead are Albert Banbury, of Allandale, fireman on the passenger train, and Anthony Barclay, Toronto, a railway mail clerk.

PREPARED TO CONTINUE SUB. WARFARE TO END

"Decision Is in President Wilson's Hand," Says Dr. Zimmermann.

Amsterdam, via London, March 9.—Dutch newspapers published the following statement made by Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, to a representative of a Budapest newspaper:

WILSON GIVES ORDER TO ARM MERCHANTMEN

President Finds He Can Take Step Without Action of Congress

CALLS EXTRA SESSION

Attack by German Submarines on American Ship Will Precipitate War

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson from a sick bed today ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of congress to meet April 16.

BRITISH HOLD BAGDAD

CHRONICLE ASSERTS Gen. Maude's Cavalry Has Dashed Thru City Towards Samarra

London, March 10.—The Daily Chronicle says today that it is virtually certain the British troops are now in Bagdad and that official confirmation of this may be expected at any moment. The Chronicle's military correspondent upon whose information the assertion apparently is based, writes:

WILL BUY WHOLE OF THE CROP

Ottawa, March 9.—The imperial government is prepared to take the whole of this year's Canadian wheat crop.

TRANSPORT SINKS MANY LIVES LOST

Ten Europeans and Six Hundred South African Natives Perish RESULT OF COLLISION

Two Hundred Survive Disaster off Isle of Wight in Fog

London, March 9.—The British transport Mendil, carrying South African native laborers, was sunk after a collision on Feb. 21, and 675 persons lost their lives. Ten of the persons lost were Europeans, according to the announcement made today to the South African Parliament by Gen. Louis Botha, the premier. The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight. The official announcement says:

POWERFUL ARAB TRIBES UNITE AGAINST TURKEY

Strong Arabian Forces Join British in Mesopotamia in Pursuit of Defeated Turks—Four Million New Allies.

New York, March 9.—The Associated Press tonight sends out the following: "The British advance in Mesopotamia, which has covered more ground than almost any other movement of the war, has been assisted materially by extensive defections of the native tribes from Turkish rule."

WHEAT SHORTAGE SERIOUS PROBLEM

French Parliament Discusses Big Gap Between Requirements and Supplies BIG CUT IN ACREAGE

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This was the third day of the debate, during which Fernand David, who was minister of agriculture in M. Viviani's cabinet, and Anatole de Monzie, former under-secretary of state for merchant marine and other duties, sharply criticized the government's action on economic problems during the war. It developed during the debate that the wheat acreage of France was reduced about 800,000 by the invasion, out of a total of 16,250,000, while the deficiency for 1917 is estimated at 2,500,000 acres, which 600,000 at least is expected to be made up by spring sowing of Manchuria wheat, which it was conceded will grow successfully in French soil.

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