

Weather Forecast:

Fair and Milder

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HOME
EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS

FRENCH BEAT DOWN POWERFUL ATTACK OF GERMAN CONSPIRACY TO HAMPER WILSON IN CONGRESS DISAFFECTION IN RANKS OF THE RETREATING BOSCHES

KAISER, THROUGH NEUTRAL, TO OFFER MEDIATION TO U.S.

Washington Learns That Berlin Plots To Divide Congress and Upset Wilson's Plans For Protection of Merchantmen.

Washington, March 22.—Offers of mediation, to prevent actual war between the United States and Germany, are expected among the next developments. Administration officials heard today that a European neutral was contemplating such a plan, and they frankly regarded it as another effort, backed by Germany, to divide sentiment in Congress and embarrass the president.

No Consideration.
It was declared authoritatively today that no proposals of mediation for discussion would be considered unless Germany first abandoned the campaign of ruthlessness.

All administration officials from the president down take the position that the United States never has, and does not now desire war with Germany, but is being forced into it to protect lives and rights of its citizens against unlawful aggression.

Unless Germany is prepared to completely change his position, it was declared today, offers of mediation and discussion are useless. Germany it was recalled, never accepted former Secretary of State Bryan's proposal to sign one of his "peace" investigations. Treaties, which would have bound the United States to inaction for a year, while a commission investigated the situation.

Preparing for War.
Meanwhile every preparation for an eventuality is being carried forward by the army and navy and the president is awaiting the assembling of Congress.

Unless there is some great change in the situation before April 3 it is expected he will detail, in his address, how Germany has a fact been making war against the United States by the ruthless operation of her U-boats, and leave it to Congress to decide whether war existing and vote money and men to protect the interests of the United States.

BULGARIANS FOR REVENGE
ONCE MORE 'GAS' MONASTIR, KILLING MANY CIVILIANS

Corfu, Greece, March 22.—Via London.—A semi-official Serbian statement from Saloniki today declares that the Bulgarians, in order to avenge themselves because they were being forced by the pressure of the Allies army to retire gradually from Monastir, renewed on March 8 and 19 their bombardment of the open town of Monastir.

Six hundred additional shells, many of which contained asphyxiating gases were dropped upon the city. The victims, it is said, were not only old men, women and children. The death list numbers 25, while 20 persons are dying, and 10 others are suffering from serious wounds. Fifty-nine houses were demolished.

The previous gas bombardment of Monastir occurred on March 17, when more than 80 civilians, a Serbian statement announced, were killed by the asphyxiating bombs and by ordinary gunfire.

BAND AND RECEPTION FOR RUSS "POLITICALS" RETURNED FROM SIBERIA

London, March 22.—A Petrograd dispatch to Reuters today states that political prisoners released from the Hertschinsk Prison in Siberia have arrived at Chita, where they were given a big reception and welcomed by military bands. Among the prisoners was Maria Spiridonova, who was carried through the streets on the shoulders of the crowd.

Maria Spiridonova is the daughter of a Russian general, who shot and killed Chief of Police Luzhnevsky of Tambov in 1906. She was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to 20 years imprisonment.

ROBERSON TRAVELOGUE
Coupon
This coupon and 10 cents will entitle bearer to seat in balcony at any of the traveltours to be presented under the auspices of THE ADVERTISER at the Lyric Theatre, beginning Thursday night, March 22. With 25 cents this coupon will entitle holder to reserved seat downstairs.
Reserved seats may be purchased in advance, others only before the travelogue for which it is good.
THE PROGRAM.
Thursday Night—"England."
Friday Night—"Bonnie Scotland."
Saturday Afternoon—"England."
Saturday Night—"Around the Mediterranean."
Admission without this coupon, FIFTY CENTS.
Advance sale daily from 11 a.m.

KAISER'S SOLDIERS IN MUTINIOUS MOOD

London, March 22.—A Reuter's dispatch says: "There are many stories of disaffection in the ranks of the Germans. It is known that they are finding difficulty in maintaining their food supplies during the retreat, and that some of the later prisoners had not eaten anything for some time."

GERMAN RETREAT SHOWS HORRORS OF HUNS' ACTS

Old People and Children Are Deliberately Destroyed by Foe.

200 KILLED AT ONCE

Human Wrecks Found in Villages Evacuated by Germans.

(Special Cable to Advertiser.)
The horror of the German retreat grew today, when it became known that the Teutons at Roule-Petit collected about 200 old people and children in addition to the usual population of the place, and then deliberately shelled the village. A number of these defenseless innocent people were killed.

Hideous Vandalism.
As the Germans fall back under the relentless Anglo-French pressure, the ugliest side of the war is uncovered. Hideous evidence of vandalism abounds everywhere.

But most tragic of all are the human wrecks left behind. They stare at the invading British and French troops with eyes made wild by suffering. Their faces wear a blank expression, because back of them are brains dulled by lack of proper sustenance.

The faces of babies and the younger children are especially pitiful. Colorless they are, with great staring eyes. No one has tasted meat for six months or more.

(Special Cable to The Advertiser.)
With the French armies advancing from Novon to Chaumont and Tergnier, March 21—(By Auto to Paris, March 22)—Retreating German troops sacked even supply houses of the American Relief Commission to leave the French civilian inhabitants utterly without food. They took every vestige of every metal in the French villages, and their policy of wanton destruction marked every step.

(Continued on Page Eleven.)
CANADIANS TAKE PART IN NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS
[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, March 22.—First casualties reported amongst the Canadians who have enlisted in the British navy were announced today by the naval service department. Canadians are evidently serving today on ships which have taken part in the naval engagements of the Baltic Sea.

Alexander, commander of the ship, has been slightly wounded. Edward A. Woodley is reported missing and is believed to have been drowned. Both these men enlisted as ordinary seamen.

Most of the investment houses report that they are well ahead of last year in medium-sized subscriptions, running around \$5,000 to \$10,000, which roll up quickly into big amounts. Local experience is probably being repeated elsewhere.

BIG MONTREAL LIBERAL SAYS ANTI-WAR MOVE IS MONUMENTAL ERROR
Montreal, March 22.—Protesting against the intervention of the Young Men's Liberal Association in the anti-war propaganda being conducted in Montreal, Alphonse Lafontaine has resigned the office of vice-president of the organization. In the letter in which he announces his resignation, Mr. Lafontaine says:

"We know from the letter of Gen. Gueffroy, minister of war, to Gen. Alexoff, that Sturmer and Belafleur refused England's offer to give half a million rifles to the Russian army. Simultaneously a committee of the Russian defence committee of the Russian army, headed by Gen. Souk, was formed to organize a Russian spy organization. Our military secret service knew that the Russian defence committee was a Russian device for costing millions of lives. What are we to do now? Allow Nicholas to live in beautiful Livadia, among the conditions of freedom he always denied to others? Allow him to do so, so that he may organize other dark forces for the re-establishment of the Romanoffs?"

SPIES SENTENCED.
New York, March 22.—Albert O. Sander and Charles N. Wunnenburg, who pleaded guilty yesterday to a charge of having sent spies to England from the United States to gather information for the German military authorities, today were sentenced to serve two years in the federal prison at Atlanta and to pay a fine of \$2,500 each.

THE FAVORITE TARGET



Advertiser Illustration.
Germany's decision to sink hospital ships at sight has staggered the civilized world.—London Opinion.

366 TOWNS WON BACK BY FRENCH

Paris, March 22.—The total amount of French territory liberated from the German invaders by the Somme offensive up to March 21 is 824 square miles, situated in the departments of Pas-de-Calais, Doubs, Aisne and Somme. It includes 366 towns and villages, the houses of 181,325 Frenchmen. The Germans are still in possession of 7,126 square miles of French territory.

Dr. Henri De Rothschild is a grandson of Nathaniel Rothschild, the founder of the famous banking house. He is well known as a philanthropist, and has taken a prominent part in the war against cancer.

WAR LOAN PROMISES TO BREAK RECORDS

Total Subscription May Be \$250,000,000.

Montreal, March 22.—With the time for applying for war loan stock ending tomorrow, banking and investment circles, where estimates of the last loan proved very conservative, confidence was expressed today that, exclusive of the chartered banks, applications for the new loan, which is estimated to be in excess of \$250,000,000. Counting in the banks some optimists hold that the total may show the same excess over the amount called for as on the occasion of the last loan, i.e. \$100,000,000, or a total subscription of \$250,000,000.

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HINDENBURG HARD HIT IN NIGHT BATTLE, FRENCH CARRYING SEVERAL STRONGPOINTS; NEVILLE BREAKS DETERMINED RESISTANCE

FRENCH ARE IN CONTACT WITH MAIN GERMAN ARMY

French troops are in contact with the main German army, and what may prove to be the initial stage of the greatest battle of history has opened before the gates of La Fere. For the first time since the great German retreat began patrol and rear guard fighting has given way to the thunder of artillery and the clash of major forces. The Germans are making a stand on a line running north and south of La Fere from St. Simon to the forest of Coucy, a distance roughly estimated at about 20 miles.

FRENCH DRIVE WEDGE.
The position settled by the Germans is protected by the Crozat Canal and the Ailette River, a tributary of the Oise. In this line the French have driven a great wedge directly in front of La Fere, and reaching to within two miles of that important town. On this wedge is based the hopes of French military critics that General Nivelle has out-manoeuvred Field Marshal von Hindenburg, and that La Fere is doomed, and with it the whole of the famous Hindenburg line. Paris believes that the extraordinary speed with which the French have advanced has disconcerted the German plans, and renders probable a continuation of the retreat to the Belgian frontier. The official Berlin reports throw no light on the situation, but it seems certain that a few days, or even hours, must decide the fate of La Fere.

ON BRITISH FRONT.
The situation on the British front is somewhat more obscure owing to the rather vague character of the British official reports. The latest reports from London say that General Haig has pushed ten miles east of the Somme at some points. Measured from the vital point of St. Quentin, and this estimate is supported by unofficial dispatches from the front.

The German retreat is pivoting from their positions east of Arras, and in this pivotal region Haig reports steady progress, but no localities are mentioned, which might give a clue to the relative importance of the advance.

IN MESOPOTAMIA.
Apparently the spasmodic fighting in the Champagne and Verdun sections has ceased, for the time being at least, but important news comes from another and far-reaching field of the world war. The Russians, moving forward from Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian border at one point, while a second party is continuing its advance from Kermanshah in support of the British advance from Bagdad. This means that the retreating Turks are being menaced from three sides and according to Allied military observers, are threatened by far greater disaster than even the loss of Bagdad.

WINTRY WEATHER SLOWING BOTH BRITISH AND ENEMY MOVES, BUT HAIG NEARS ST. QUENTIN

London, March 22.—4:10 p.m.—Telegraphing from the British army headquarters in France today Reuter's correspondent says: "Wintry conditions continue on the western front with considerable falls of snow, rendering the tactical situation difficult. The British, however, is as unfavorable to the Germans as to ourselves, as they cannot get observations on the strength of direction of our advance."

NEARING ST. QUENTIN.
"This advance during yesterday and last night was of the same character as on the previous day, that is to say, it was most rapid. The Southerly plateau, west of St. Quentin, and was the slowest along the front of about 20 miles, extending southward from Arras.

The latest report that our cavalry patrols were in contact with German rear guards within five miles of the St. Quentin. Enemy resistance was most active in the sector between Arras and Ypres, the latter place being defended by a series of strong points.

GERMAN RETREAT TO NEW LINE COMPLETE; LOSE ANOTHER SALIENT; LINES OF ALLIES ARE NOW LEVEL

Paris, March 22.—The German retreat to the Arras-St. Quentin-La Fere line is now practically complete since the French are now within artillery range of St. Quentin and La Fere. The movement has been carried out by echelons, according to approved principles, one section holding firm while the next fell back. The Allied operations are now being carried out in the last of these sections which are still resisting. At the latter point the French positions are less than two and a half miles from Arras, southeast and east of Peronne, east of Ham and the Valley of the Ailette and north of the Crozat Canal.

Driving Them Ahead.
Just in the middle of the line, east of Peronne, and between the Crozat Canal and the Ailette, the British are driving the Germans back. The British are now within artillery range of St. Quentin and La Fere. The movement has been carried out by echelons, according to approved principles, one section holding firm while the next fell back. The Allied operations are now being carried out in the last of these sections which are still resisting. At the latter point the French positions are less than two and a half miles from Arras, southeast and east of Peronne, east of Ham and the Valley of the Ailette and north of the Crozat Canal.

VOLUME SAVES LIFE OF MONTREAL PROFESSOR AS ATTACKER USES KNIFE

Montreal, March 22.—A thick volume saved the life of Dr. Adrien Plouffe, professor at Leval University, when he was attacked last night on St. Mark street by a would-be assassin. The professor's assailant plunged a dagger into his breast, and the blade penetrated through the book, but only made a slight incision in the neighborhood of the heart. As he was stabbed the professor heard his assailant say: "Will you cease writing, Judas."

Struggles With Attacker.
Professor Plouffe struggled with his assailant and tried to get a revolver from his pocket. He was wounded again in the forehead. He then to his assailant and when he came to his senses he found his assailant in the act of stabbing him again. He was stabbed in the chest and the blade penetrated through the book, but only made a slight incision in the neighborhood of the heart. As he was stabbed the professor heard his assailant say: "Will you cease writing, Judas."

BURIED AT ST. PETER'S.
Mrs. Annie Sterling, who was found dead at her home, 562 Piccadilly street, by her 12-year-old son on Monday was buried today at St. Peter's Cemetery. No services were held at the church.

Spirited Fighting During Night Between Somme and the Ancre.

Paris, March 22.—Noon.—The Germans made energetic resistance to the French last night between the Somme and the Aisne, but after spirited fighting north of Tergnier, the French forced them out of several strong positions. The French occupied a number of villages.

BIG CONFLICT IS ON, SAYS GERMAN REPORT

French Continue To Add Villages and Town To Gains—Kaiser's Cousin Missing.

Paris, March 22.—Noon.—The Germans made energetic resistance to the French last night between the Somme and the Aisne, but after spirited fighting north of Tergnier, the French forced them out of several strong positions. The French occupied a number of villages.

The villages are situated in the north of Soissons. They were carried in the face of determined resistance by the Germans.

REAL BATTLE ON, IS BERLIN REPORT.

Berlin, Tuesday, March 20.—Via Wireless to the Associated Press, via St. Paul, March 22.—German cavalry is now in contact with the French on the Somme front. Several attacks on small French posts east of the St. Hilaire-St. Souplet road, near Fontaine-aux-Charmes, in the Argonne, and in the vicinity of Courcy Wood were repulsed by our fire. Elsewhere the night passed in quiet.

COUSIN OF KAISER MAY BE PRISONER.

Berlin, March 22.—Via Spvgeltelegraph.—A report is being spread in Berlin that the Kaiser's cousin, Prince Friedrich Karl, who is reported in today's official communication to have been captured, has no further evacuation of territory.

NAT. COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN SESSION AT OTTAWA; LADY ABERDEEN THERE

Ottawa, March 22.—Sessions of the executive of the National Council of Women were held here yesterday, with Mrs. Torlinton of Toronto, the president, presiding. The council is now in session at the Hotel McLeod, Alberta; Saskatoon, Missions; Miss Wilson of New Glasgow, N. S.; Miss Plumtree of Toronto and Miss Mary Wood of Toronto were made life members.

The question of moving pictures censorship was again taken up, and it was decided to petition the provincial governments to have a woman member on their boards.

Temair, founder of the organization, who is attending the sessions, was entertained at luncheon by the Ottawa Ladies' Aid Society. In brief address she urged the women of Canada to prepare for the reconstruction of the country, stating that the international council expected much from them.

INCREASE SUBSCRIPTION.

Winnipeg, March 22.—The Grain Growers' Grain Company has increased their subscription to the Canadian war loan to \$350,000, from \$150,000.

CALLED TO OTTAWA.

Ottawa, March 22.—Rev. A. N. Macdonald, assistant pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Toronto, has been called by the congregation of the First Baptist Church here. It is not known whether he will accept.