

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

Great Loss of Life When the Provence Sank
Explosion Near Fort in Paris Kills Twenty
Germans Claim to Have Sunk Two Cruisers

OVER 3,000 LIVES LOST
ON CRUISER PROVENCE

French Ministry of Marine Announces That Nearly 4,000 Were on Board and Only 870 Saved—Most of Troops Are Algerians.

Paris, March 4.—It was announced at the French Ministry of Marine today that there were nearly 4,000 men on board the French auxiliary cruiser Provence when she was sunk in the Mediterranean on February 26. It was stated that on board the Provence were the staff of the Third Colonial Infantry Regiment, the Third Battalion, the Second Company of the First Battalion, the Second Machine Gun Company and one extra company, in all nearly 4,000 men. As the Ministry of Marine on February 29 announced that the number of survivors of the Provence disaster was estimated at 870, it is indicated by the foregoing despatch that upwards of 3,130 lives were lost. The loss of more than three thousand lives in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser Provence is the greatest ocean disaster of modern times. Up to the present the largest number of lives ever lost in one wreck was the White Star Liner Titanic, which struck an iceberg off the Newfoundland Banks on April 14th, 1912, and sank with the loss of 1,595. The rescued numbered 743.

OTHER MARINE DISASTERS
Among the other great sea disasters in addition to the Titanic already mentioned were: the Cunard Lusitania, which was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk off the Head of Kinsale, Ireland, on May 7, 1915, with the loss of 1,206 lives; the burning of the excursion steamer General Slocum in the East River, June 15, 1904, when nearly 1,000 persons met their death; the French Line steamer La Bourgoyne, sunk in collision with the steamship Cromartyshire, July 4, 1898 with the loss of 860 lives; the Japanese steamer Kicker Maru, sunk off the coast of Japan, September 28, 1912 with the loss of 1,000 lives; the burning of the Uranium Line steamship Volturino in mid-ocean, October 9, 1913 with the loss of 136 lives; the Canadian Pacific steamship Empress of Ireland, sunk in collision with the Danish collier, Storstad in the St. Lawrence River, May 29, 1914 with the loss of more than 1,000 lives.

Take Their Seats.
Regina, March 4.—H. C. Pearce, Wadena and S. Simpson, Battleford, members of the Legislature, who have been committed to trial on charges of corruption, have taken up their seats in the Legislature, explaining that their withdrawal from the House on Tuesday last was because charges then were before the committee of the House. However, in view of the fact that a royal commission has been appointed and that their trial will come up in the Supreme Court, they feel justified in once again taking their seats in the Legislature.

THREE SUNK,
GERMANY CLAIMS
BERLIN, March 4.—(By wireless to Sayville)—The sinking of two French auxiliary cruisers and one British patrol boat by German submarines is announced by the admiralty.

CONSERVATIVE NOTICE

The annual ward meetings of Wards 4 and 5, will take place at the rooms of the Association, corner of King and Dalhousie Streets, on Wednesday night, March 4th at 8 p.m. sharp, for the election of Ward Chairman, sub-chairmen and other business. All Conservatives of said Wards, cordially invited. N. D. Neill, H. Cockshutt, Secretary.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON



Mr. John Slingsby Bull: "They say you are mine—I'm sure I hope so."—London Opinion.

BRITISH OFFICERS DISCUSSING PLAN OF BATTLE IN MESOPOTAMIA



A GENERAL AND HIS STAFF AT WORK IN IMPROVISED HEADQUARTERS IN MESOPOTAMIA. HERE IS SHOWN A SCENE IN MESOPOTAMIA, WHERE THERE IS A BRITISH ARMY OF 50,000 MEN BESIEGED AT KUT-EL-AMARA AND WHERE A SECOND FORCE OF 35,000 OR 40,000 MEN IS HELD IMMOBILE TWENTY-ONE MILES AWAY BY TURKS AND BAD WEATHER. THE PICTURE SHOWS A GENERAL AND SOME OF HIS OFFICERS DISCUSSING A PLAN OF BATTLE.

FOUR FRENCH GRENADIERS HELD
ENTRANCE TO TRENCH FOR MORE
THAN 20 HOURS; KILLED MANY HUNS

French Eye-Witness Tells Tale of Wonderful Bravery of the French in Holding Herbe-Bois Against Attacks of the Germans—The Defence Most Glorious in Annals of the Regiment.

Paris, March 3, 7.05 p.m.—The French official eye witness gives the following description of the defence of Herbe-Bois, three miles to the north of Fort Douaumont, where the great battle of Verdun began twelve days ago: "It was on February 21 at 7.30 o'clock in the morning that the Germans began the preparation for the attack. They unloosed a formidable artillery fire on the positions which they wished to capture, and shells of all calibres fell like hail from those of 150 millimetres to shells of 305 millimetres. It was a veritable drum fire of an intensity unknown till now, and this drum fire played by series on objective points selected for attack. A zone 200 metres broad and a kilometre deep for example was pounded in such a fashion that the earth was ploughed up on the entire superficial extent in a mathematical fashion. Lacrimatorial shells and suffocating gas shells were also employed by the enemy to accentuate the moral effect. However, despite this formidable rain of projectiles, the Germans, on the first day only succeeded in entering our first line of defence at Herbe-Bois and taking a small supporting work compared with the mechanical effort and the human effort which they had put forward against our advanced line of resistance. It was then that my regiment was called upon to counter-attack and to try to recapture the first line lost. When I say line it must be understood that there were only some chaotic elements of trenches and furrows torn up with shell holes. PRISONERS HAPPY. "At midnight accordingly on the 21st the men were in position and were rather happy at having at the first moment of our appearance on the ground taken 63 prisoners, who seemed to be very glad not to have to measure themselves against us at least the equivalent of a battalion. This attack, in a body, excited to the highest degree the valor of our men. They sighted the Germans at fifty metres and under methodic volleys the latter fell, howling in terrible fashion. It was a veritable game of massacre. Our 75 millimetres on these sides had excited a certain fire, preventing the enemy from retiring and very few of the assailants succeeded in getting to the rear. Almost all in getting to the field of battle. That did not prevent the Germans attacking us once more during the course of the day, but without any better success. "THE FOUR 'GRENADIERS' "Four of our grenadiers, posted at the entrance of a communication trench, which united our old firing trench now occupied by the Germans with a supporting trench, which we still held, killed groups of the enemy as fast as they presented themselves. They carried on this work for more than twenty hours. During these hours was revealed one more of the warlike ardor of the French. Despite the losses incurred (almost all exclusively from artillery fire, for in the infantry engagements we had constantly the upper hand) their morale did not waver for a moment. Our troops manoeuvred as during fire practice. They saw without a murmur their comrades fall around them and they continued their work as quietly as at exercise. One has reason to be proud of commanding such men. TACTICAL RETIREMENT. "At 4.15 o'clock on the afternoon of February 23, while we had not retired a single foot, order was given us to withdraw carefully, for the Wavrille wood having been taken, we ran the risk of being surrounded. We waited for the night to come. Some of our men, when they learned that we were to leave Herbe-Bois, protested, asking to be allowed to fight and die on the spot. However, tactical reasons obliged us to evacuate Herbe-Bois and we had to reckon with the general situation. COULD NOT ADVANCE "During the course of the night of February 23, the Germans renewed their offensive. A bombardment of amazing violence and of a moral precision did not permit them, however, to advance an inch. When their infantry in turn attempted to strike, our men made them suffer sanguinary losses. It was still worse during the day of the 23rd. After having once more copiously rained shells on our lines, the Germans sent against us at least the equivalent of a battalion. This attack, in a body, excited to the highest degree the valor of our men. They sighted the Germans at fifty metres and under methodic volleys the latter fell, howling in terrible fashion. It was a veritable game of massacre. Our 75 millimetres on these sides had excited a certain fire, preventing the enemy from retiring and very few of the assailants succeeded in getting to the rear. Almost all in getting to the field of battle. That did not prevent the Germans attacking us once more during the course of the day, but without any better success.

IN CONTROL OF RUSSIANS

LONDON, March 4.—Two Turkish divisions reinforced by troops that had fled from Erzerum are the forces that had been operating against the Russians on the line running through Mush, Bitlis and Van, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent. With the occupation of Bitlis, he points out, the entire Van region passes under the control of the Russians, while the Russian success separates the two Turkish forces operating in the regions of Mush and Lake Urumiah respectively. With the loss of Bitlis, it appears, Turkish reinforcements coming from Mesopotamia would be compelled to travel by the roundabout routes in order to reach the third Turkish army.

TWENTY KILLED IN EXPLOSION

PARIS, March 4, 1.57 p.m.—Twenty persons were killed and a large number injured in an explosion near St. Denis, in the suburbs of Paris, this morning.

The explosion occurred near the fort called Double Couronne, at Courneuve, near St. Denis. Part of the ramparts east of the fort were blown up. The cause of the disaster has not been ascertained.

A quantity of explosives, including hand grenades, was stored in this position. Fire followed, and there were further explosions, although of less severity on account of the flames.

Pea coal, popularly known as "poor man's coal," is to be withdrawn from the market, according to a report generally credited by Philadelphia retail dealers.

GALLIENI IS SATISFIED WITH VERDUN FIGHT

Great German Attack on Key of Position, the Salient of Douaumont.

ENEMY MADE THREE ATTACKS

Another Attempt Made in Darkness by Prussians Gets Footing.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, March 4.—General Gallieni, minister of war, has told the commission on military affairs of the chamber of deputies, that he is satisfied with the situation at Verdun. He gave details of the reserves of men and stocks of ammunition now available. Military writers say that it was in keeping with all the precedents that the Germans should attempt to reduce the salient of Douaumont plateau, for this key position must be taken before solid progress could be made elsewhere. The attack began after a long preliminary bombardment on Wednesday. German columns started to deploy from Hardaumont wood on the right at the same time a division advanced on the village of Vaux. The latter attack failed with heavy losses to the Germans. The French artillery fire was so fierce that evening that the Germans were unable to push the attack on any point of the Douaumont plateau. They profited of the night, however, to bring up masses of reserves and the fighting began with renewed fury on Thursday. During the morning and the afternoon three desperate assaults were made by Pomeranian and Brandenburg regiments. In the first and second attacks, the assailants, who fought with great bravery, reached the French barbed wire, but so fierce was the hail of bullets from the machine guns and rifles that the gray-coated legions melted away. The officers rallied them again and again until no more were left to rally. The third attack began about three o'clock in the afternoon. It was even more violent than those which had preceded. For more than an hour the Germans came on in serried ranks, hurling themselves, regardless of cost, against the ridges held by the Frenchmen. At last the defenders' line wavered at two points, but only momentarily, and the counter attack, driven home with the bayonet, drove the Germans back to the shelter of the Chambrettes of the Hardaumont raynes. The Germans then resumed the bombardment, ploughing up the ground, pulverizing the rocks with hundreds of big shells. The fourth advance was made after dusk by fresh Prussian brigades, who had replaced the troops engaged in the morning and afternoon attacks. After desperate fighting they managed to get a footing on the extreme edge of the plateau, whence they pushed forward into the houses on the north side of the village. The Germans now hold Douaumont village, but the French dominate them from commanding heights. As both sides were fairly evenly matched, it is likely that the village will change hands more than once before the battle ends. The experts say that German possession of it is only temporary and that the technical advantage remains with the French, whose lines continue unbroken.

MAYOR BOWLBY ILL

Acting Mayor Dowling was today in receipt of the following telegram:—Pittsburg, March 3. The strain on me has proven too great, resulting in a breakdown and a doctor's attendance. Temperature up to one hundred and two. Can't leave my apartment; am marooned. The moment it is safe for me to travel home I will go. Doubtless you are running things all right.

Plans for the reorganization of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company have been perfected.

THEATRE
FEATURES
BERT & CO.
ED FROLIC
Novelty
FE & SHAW
HARMONY SINGERS
DIAL
MOORE
"Hidden Out West"
RAMOUNT COMEDY

March 3rd
a Picture Show
NG OF
WORTH
and original company playing
RUG STORE."

TUESDAY
March 7th
ady, Ltd. Presents
Young Actor

Brown
English Company in
NY COOKS
company will appear in congenial roles
the "Feathers," you will simply take them to
"Too Many Cooks." This comedy ran for a
had in London, vogue, Montreal and Tor
is the funny side of "Home, Sweet Home,"
sides with laughter, and then some.

5c & 10c
O THEATRE
AND TUESDAY
s of Elaine"
Y AND THURSDAY
d From The Sky"
AND SATURDAY
me of Interesting Features

AL THEATRE
oken Coin"
versal Feature Films
VAUDEVILLE

UMBRELLAS
Recovered and Repaired
Always make sure to get the right
man if you want a first-class job. H.
Attention, 31 Jarvis St. Bell phone
804. Work called for and delivered.