

NEW OFFENSIVE BEGUN IN WEST BY ALLIES TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON RUSSIANS IN EAST

CAPITAL OF BUCKOWINA OCCUPIED BY FORCES OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY

First Day of German Submarine Blockade Passes Without Unusual Incident—News From War Zones Takes Second Place to Diplomatic Questions—Russians by No Means Beaten in East Prussia—More Forces Being Rushed From Interior to Check German Advance.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Occupation of Czernowitz, capital of Bukovina, by Austro-Hungarian forces, was officially announced in Vienna foreign office despatch received tonight by the Austro-Hungarian embassy here.

London, Feb. 18.—No incidents, so far as is known, have yet marked the opening of Germany's submarine blockade of the British Isles, although it has been in force for nearly 24 hours. Nor has the British government thus far announced its promised retaliatory measures.

Precautions, however, are being taken on this side of the North Sea, and although the German government has warned the German people not to expect any sensational developments for some days, the regular cross-channel passenger services have been somewhat curtailed and altered. Otherwise the sea-borne trade of the country is proceeding, much as usual.

The White Star steamship Adriatic, from New York Feb. 10, crossed the Irish Sea during the night, but did not resort, as did the Lusitania some days ago, to the use of the American or other neutral flag to evade German submarines. Other ocean liners and freight steamers are maintaining their regular schedules.

A fleet of freight steamers left Denmark for England with provisions aboard, and it was to keep track of these it is believed, that German airships yesterday and another of which was reported wrecked today on the Danish coast, have been so active.

In England Germany's reply to the American note of protest against interference with neutral ships is creating more interest than the threatened blockade, and there is a great deal of curiosity as to what the United States will say in response.

ALLIES BEGIN NEW OFFENSIVE

Even Germany's victory over the Russians in East Prussia and Northern Poland, and the claim of the Germans to have taken 64,000 prisoners, take second place to these diplomatic questions between the Germans and the neutral nations. In Germany, however, this second victory of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg in the province, of which he had long made a military study, is being celebrated with great enthusiasm, and the expectation there is that the Russians will take a long time to recover from this blow, even should they succeed in making a stand.

SPECIAL HONOR ACCORDED OFFICER IN ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

London, Feb. 18, 7:55 p. m.—Arthur Martin Leake, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, has been awarded a class to the Victoria Cross, an extremely unusual honor.

Lieutenant Martin Leake won the Victoria Cross in the South African war, and, as this decoration is bestowed only once on any individual, the class has been given him for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty throughout the campaign, especially during the period from the 29th of October to the 8th of November, near Zonnebeke, in rescuing, while exposed to a constant fire, a large number of wounded who were lying close to the enemy's trenches.

Lieut. Col. E. V. Alexander, of the Royal Field Artillery, has been awarded the Victoria Cross for saving his guns at Elouges, Belgium, while under a flank attack, and for rescuing wounded men while under a heavy fire.

Among others who received the Victoria Cross are Drummer William Kenny, for rescuing men on five occasions while under fire, and twice saving machine guns by carrying them out of action; Lieut. J. A. O. Brooks, of the Gordon Highlanders; Captain John Franks Vaillet, and Lieut. F. A. Depass, all of whom were killed, for leading attacks on German trenches and rescuing wounded; James MacKenzie, of the Scots Guards, who also was killed and Private Henry Robson, of the Royal Scots; A. Acton and James Smith, of the Border Regiment, and Lieut. Philip Nesme, of the

FRENCH TAKE VILLAGE OF NORROY, IN LORRAINE

Drive Germans From Village and are in Command of Surrounding Positions—Drive Enemy Back at Bayonet Point in Violent Attacks in Champagne—Allies Holding the Ground Captured on Heights of the Meuse.

Paris, Feb. 18.—The official statement issued tonight says: "In Champagne, in the region of Souain, Perthes and Baussejour, the enemy delivered an attack in the night of Feb. 17-18, then on the morning of the 18th, two very violent counter-attacks along the whole front, for the purpose of recapturing the trenches lost by him on the 16th and 17th. These two counter-attacks were completely repulsed, our troops driving back their assaults at the point of the bayonet.

"In maintaining these gains we have taken three machine guns and several hundred prisoners. According to the declaration of these prisoners, the German regiments engaged suffered very heavy losses, reaching in some cases one in four, and in other cases one-half of their effectives.

"On the heights of the Meuse, in the vicinity of Espargues, where, on Feb. 17 we gained some ground, this ground has been retained, notwithstanding a counter-attack by the enemy.

"In Lorraine, in the region of Xon, we delivered an attack which enabled us to occupy and capture the village of Norroy, and occupy the whole position. It is further stated that the Germans have, as announced in their communication, evacuated Norroy. They have been driven out of it.

"In Alsace supplementary details show that the southern peak of the Sudel farm, conquered by us on Wednesday, constituted a formidable organized redoubt. There we took a bomb-thrower, five machine guns, some hundreds of rifles, shields, bombs, utensils, barbed wire entanglements, thousands of cartridges and sacks for holding earth."

KAISER GONE TO WILHELMSHAVEN TO TAKE CHARGE OF BLOCKADE

Reported Germans, in Past Six Months, Have Built 120 Mine-Laying Submarines, Each With a Carrying Capacity of Over a Hundred Mines.

London, Feb. 18.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Copenhagen, dated Thursday, says: "Emperor William, with his brother, Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia, and Admiral Von Tirpitz, the Minister of the Navy, and their respective staffs, left Berlin today for Wilhelmshaven, Heligoland, and other naval stations to direct the arrangements for blockading England.

"It is reported that the Germans have built 120 big mine-laying submarines during the last six months, each with a carrying capacity of over one hundred mines."

Calling Elderly Men To Serve in German Army

All Those Attached to Landstrum, Whether Trained or Not, Called Out by Decree of Jan. 28—Service to Continue Until End of War—Holding Younger Men in Reserve for New Army After War.

Hanover, Germany, Feb. 18.—All German men attached to the Landstrum, or last reserve of the army, whether they had previous training or not, were called out by decree on Jan. 28.

The order applied to all men who had not completed their 45th year by August 14, 1914. In the case of those who had been trained, or by December 4 in the case of untrained men. The service of the men is to continue till the end of the war. The German War-Department is calling on the elderly men at the present time, and is keeping its eyes open to the future. The announcement was made by the Minister of War in a recent interview, that the recruits due to come up this year, in the ordinary course, would not be called before the normal date in the fall. This apparently holding back from active service of good material, in the shape of young men, was decided on as a precaution for the future. The recruits of this year will be needed to form the basis of the new army when the war is over, since the ranks of the standing army, whenever may be declared, will certainly be found to have been depleted by casualties to a large extent. To this depletion must also be added the large number of men who will be entitled to return to civil life before the expiration of their full term of service with the colors, since war service will give them the right to claim their discharge before they otherwise would have been able to do so under conditions of peace. As this will leave the army much below its proper strength, the war office has resolved to retain the younger men to build the nucleus of the standing army at the conclusion of peace.

SAYS GERMAN DIPLOMAT HIDING BEHIND RATTLING SWORD OF MILITARIST

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 18.—"If Germany had only to do with the 'United States,'" says the Amsterdam Telegraaf, "this answer would perhaps have been drawn up in somewhat kinder terms. It is, however, a question of intimidating, at the same time, a number of small neighboring countries where every concession is regarded as a sign of weakness.

"As usual, the German diplomat is hiding behind the rattling sword of the militarist. The eyes of all neutral states in western Europe are now fixed on Washington, and their owners are awaiting the next move of President Wilson."

THE LONDON PAPERS ARE NOW PUBLISHING CANADIAN CASUALTIES

London, Feb. 18.—The military authorities have at last recognized the unnecessary inconvenience and anxiety caused relatives and friends in England of the First Canadian Contingent through the system of notifying only Ottawa of casualties.

As a previous cable pointed out soldiers' relatives and friends living in the British Isles were not notified of casualties unless they were next of kin. Canadian casualties appeared in the London newspapers today for the first time. Ottawa will still be given two days' preference. The new order of things will do more justice to the Canadian contingent by reminding people here of their participation in the war.

CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN THE VERSIONS

Memorandum of Tokio Government's Demands Lacks Seven or Eight Items Contained in Chinese Copy.

Washington, Feb. 18.—China has instructed her ministers in the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia to deliver to these powers a memorandum of the demands originally made by Japan for concessions and privileges in return for the restoration of the territory of Kiao-Chow to China.

Kai Fu Shah, the Chinese minister here has just presented the memorandum to the State Department.

This, on comparison with the memorandum which the Japanese foreign office, on Feb. 9, gave to the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia and the United States, contains several other demands, about seven or eight in number.

Officials of the American government had under consideration today directing an informal inquiry to the American Ambassador at Tokio and the minister at Peking, to learn which of the two versions was the present basis of negotiation, but this plan, it is believed, would not be carried out, because of the expectation that with the publicity already given to the Japanese demands a voluntary explanation of the differences in the two versions probably would be forthcoming. High officials here were disinclined to discuss the various demands.

ITALIAN PARLIAMENT CONVENED

Neutrals and Anti-Neutrals had Planned Demonstrations but Troops Prevented Them.

Rome, Feb. 18.—Parliament re-opened today. There is no indication of any immediate debate of importance concerning the international situation. Members of various parties which favor Italy's participation in the war, are expected to march from their club houses to the Chamber of Deputies today and make a demonstration in an endeavor to influence the deputies to take their view of the situation. As a counter-move the parties favorable to Italy maintaining neutrality proposed to range themselves before the Chamber of Deputies, in order to prevent the work of parliament being interfered with. The government, however, posted troops, with orders to allow no crowds to gather, and therefore there was no disorder.

WILL RECEIVE SAME INDEMNITY AS THE MEN IN THE NAVY

London, Feb. 18.—The government in its war risks plan has decided to extend to men of the crews of British merchantmen such as may lose their lives or limbs owing to attacks by enemy warships or aircraft the same scale of benefits as are payable to the men or their dependents of similar rank in the navy.

B. C. REGIMENT TO BE INSPECTED AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The Thirtieth British Columbia Regiment comprising a part of the Second Canadian Expeditionary Force, will be in Ottawa tomorrow, and will be inspected on Parliament Hill by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and Major General Sam Hughes. The regiment will complete its training at Halifax before leaving for England.

GRAVE CONCERN AT WHITE HOUSE OVER BERLIN'S REPLY

Increases Fear of Possible Complications, Although Tone is Friendly—Germany Disclaims Responsibility for Disasters to Neutrals Venturing in Danger Zone and Warns them Waters Around Great Britain and Ireland Will be Mined.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Germany's reply to the American note of warning against any attacks on American vessels or lives in the new sea zones of war served to increase, rather than to diminish, the concern of officials of the United States government over possible complications, though the friendly tone of the communication made a favorable impression, and gave some hope that an understanding for the protection of neutrals might yet be obtained.

Officials were apprehensive over the formal statement in the note that Germany disclaimed all responsibility for what happened to neutral vessels venturing in the danger areas. The additional warning, too, that mines would be laid by Germany in the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland was regarded by them not only as menacing to ships carrying legitimate cargoes, but as likely to add further to the interruptions which American commerce has suffered since the outbreak of the war.

President Wilson and Secretary Bryan read the Associated Press copy of the German note, the official text, delayed in transit, from Ambassador Gerard, being expected in the afternoon. While no comment was made at either the White House or the State Department, the feeling of grave concern was manifest.

Secretary Bryan refused to reveal today what steps the United States would take if American vessels or lives were lost, and while at the State, War and Navy Departments, the German note was the subject of discussion, details of the policy being formulated by the American government were not disclosed.

Text of the Reply

"Germany has further expressly announced the destruction of all enemy merchant vessels found within the war zone, but not the destruction of all merchant vessels, as the United States seems erroneously to have understood.

"This restriction which Germany imposes upon itself is prejudicial to the aim of our warfare, especially as in the application of the conception of contraband practiced by Great Britain towards Germany—which conception will now also be similarly interpreted by Germany—the presumption will be that neutral ships have contraband aboard.

"Germany naturally is unwilling to renounce its rights to ascertain the presence of contraband in neutral vessels, and in certain cases to draw conclusions therefrom.

"Ready to Discuss Means of Safeguarding Legitimate Means of Safeguarding."

CONSERVATIVES CHOOSE CANDIDATE FOR BOTH CAPE BRETON AND VICTORIA

Sydney, N. S. W., Feb. 19.—At a convention held yesterday at Radcliff, Dr. L. W. Johnstone of Sydney Mines was nominated to contest the riding of North Cape Breton and Victoria in the Conservative interest at the next Dominion election. Dr. Johnstone's was the only name before the convention.

N. B. LEGISLATURE WILL CONVENE ON MARCH 11TH

Fredericton, Feb. 18.—At the meeting of the local government here this evening it was decided to convene the legislature on Thursday, the 11th of March.

At the morning session the government met with the Board of Education, but only routine matters were dealt with.

A delegation of Miramichi lumbermen, Messrs. James Robinson, Allan Ritchie and E. A. McCurdy, accompanied by H. A. Powell, K. C. have had a conference with Premier Clarke

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