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Unique Conference Workmen and Officials Delegates Meet to Discuss War Materials Measure—Labor Leaders and High Officials to Solve the Problem of Keeping Up Supply of Munitions of War

London, March 17.—Factory owners, labor leaders, and representatives of engineering, transport and other industries had a meeting to-day with Lloyd George members of the Committee on Imperial defense, naval and military officers of high rank, and other Government officials, to discuss the problems arising from the decision of the Government to assume control of factories in England and thus increase the production of war materials.

The conference was unique in history, at the same time being one of the most important meetings held since the beginning of the war. The first step decided on was the appointment of a committee of seven composed of labor officials and representatives of all industries concerned to act in an advisory capacity to the Government. Selecting a man to head this great organization was discussed, as was the remuneration workmen should receive under the new arrangement.

Lloyd George delivered a brief address, and the Labor delegates promised the Government their whole support.

THE BRITISH CASUALTY LIST

London, March 17.—The British casualty list for five days from March 10th to 14th, during which the battles of Neuve Chapelle and St. Eloi were fought, show 112 officers killed or died of wounds, and 193 officers wounded or missing. The list of casualties among the men has not been published, nor have any figures been given out, but some competent critics estimate that at about two-thirds of those suffered by the Germans, which General French said were between 17,000 and 18,000. One Canadian officer was killed and three wounded.

Big Demonstration In Milan, Italy

Crowds Shouting "Down With Austria; Down With Germany"—Were Dispersed by Police

Paris, March 17.—The Hague Agency has received the following despatch from its correspondent at Milan:—There was a great demonstration here last night in favor of intervention by Italy on the side of the Allies. Crowds of manifestants marched through the streets and gathered in front of the Cathedral. The police charged and dispersed the crowds which were shouting, "Down with Austria. Down with Germany."

H.M.S. AMETHYST BADLY DAMAGED

Was Fired Upon by Concealed Field Artillery—22 Killed and 30 Wounded

London, March 17.—A Tenedos despatch dated March 15, says, the British cruiser Amethyst was fired upon by field artillery, brought to bear from an unexpected spot. She was hit by several shells at close range, and had nineteen men killed and several wounded. The vessel is damaged, but her fighting efficiency is unimpaired. An Athens despatch to the Telegraph says twenty-two men were killed on the Amethyst and thirty wounded.

TAY PAY SETTLES STRIKE

New York, March 17.—J. P. O'Connor settled the coal strike of coal passers on the Liverpool docks, which tied up the trans-Atlantic liners for more than a week, in 24 hours, by agreeing to have the strikers each advanced a shilling a day for beer, according to passengers on the steamer Philadelphia, which reached here to-day.

JAPAN TO MEND HER CHINA WAYS

Or Else She Will Find Herself Outside Diplomacy's Charmed Circle

Peking, March 17.—Official information reached Peking to-day that the Russian and British Ambassadors at Tokio called on the Japanese Foreign Minister on Saturday, and informed him that if Japan persisted in pressing upon China demands beyond those contained in her original communication to the Powers, it would be difficult for Japan's Allies to negotiate diplomatically with her in future.

Steamer Atlanta Damaged by Torpedo

Ship on Fire Was Abandoned by Her Crew, Who Were Later Picked up

London, March 17.—The Atlanta was badly damaged and towed to port. Her captain said there was no doubt his vessel was struck by a torpedo. The crew of sixteen men were driven from the Atlanta by fire which started after the explosion. The men took to the boats and were picked up.

Seattle, March 17.—Dr. Wm. Mulloe, Imperial General Consul at Seattle, with his Secretary were served with notice of arrest to-day at the Consulate. They are charged with conspiracy in attempting to influence corruptly, John Murdered, an employee of the Seattle Construction and Dry Dock Co., by inducing him to sell business secrets of his employers.

London, March 17.—The House of Commons adjourned to-day, until April 14th.

German Submarine Torpedoes Steamer

U-28 Sends Leeuwarden to Bottom—Took Crew in Tow in Small Boats To Pilot Ship

London, March 18.—The British steamer Leeuwarden from London for Harlingen, Holland, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-28 four miles Southeast of the Maas, Holland lightship. The crew of seventeen men were given five minutes to take to the small boats which the submarines towed until a pilot steamer was met. The men were then transferred to the pilot boat and landed at the Hook of Holland.

FRENCH REPORT SOME PROGRESS

Paris, March 17.—The events of yesterday on the French and Belgian army front are described in a statement from the War Office.

The British army, after having retaken St. Eloi, has also recaptured the trenches to the southwest of the village and compelled the enemy to evacuate the trenches to the southeast of the same point, which have been completely demolished by artillery.

In the Champagne, fresh progress has been made to the northeast of Souain.

In the forest of La Pretre we have recaptured the trenches won by them yesterday morning, or to be precise, the site of these trenches, for the defensive works have been completely shattered by mine explosions.

On the southern slope of Great Reich Ackerkopf, an attack by the enemy yesterday morning carried a trench. We have retaken it and made some prisoners.

Glasgow, March 17.—The captain of the British steamer Apollo reported to-day that his ship had collided with a German submarine while enroute from Rotterdam to Bristol. The submarine sank immediately, he said.

HEAVY LOSSES AMONG OFFICERS

British Lose About 10,000 Men and 200 Officers in Fighting Around Neuve Chapelle

Paris, March 17.—Heavy casualties among British officers was a distinguishing feature of the four days' fight at Neuve Chapelle. The estimated British loss is nearly 10,000 men in killed, wounded and missing. Of these, about two hundred were officers.

General Carranza Executed by Villa

Washington, March 17.—General Almanza Carranza, commander, and his entire staff have been court-martialled for treason and executed at Torreón by Villa authorities.

Fatal Accident Capt. Hatherly Killed

Halifax, March 17.—Capt. Hatherly, of the Allen liner Mongolian, was killed to-day by falling of the hatch beam. The Mongolian is undergoing repairs in the dry dock.

Later Particulars

London, March 17.—A casualty list issued by Admiralty to-night, discloses that in the fighting in the Dardanelles on Saturday night, the light cruiser Amethyst, which, according to an Athens despatch, made a dash through the Strait as far as Nagara, had 23 men killed and 19 wounded severely, and 18 slightly wounded. The battleship Ocean had two men killed, and the battleship Prince George 2 men wounded, while two trawlers between them had 3 men killed and 2 wounded.

How the "Karlsruhe" Was Destroyed

London, March 18.—Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent sends the story of the sinking of the German cruiser Karlsruhe, taken from "Stifts Tidende," which asserts that it obtained the story from an authoritative source.

According to this story the crew of the Karlsruhe were having tea one evening when a sudden explosion broke the cruiser in two. One half of the vessel sank immediately, carrying part of the crew down with it. The other half floated for some time, which enabled between 150 and 200 men to be rescued by an accompanying steamer which reached a German port with the survivors who were sworn to secrecy concerning the sinking of the cruiser.

Allies Warships Support Belgians

Who Have Consolidated Their Ground—British Do Likewise—Such Activity Points to a Titanic Struggle Coming

London, March 17.—With the increasing activities of the British, French and Belgian armies, the re-appearance on the coast of Belgium of British and French warships and the time near for a big effort in the West, the public is following with renewed interest the daily reports of operations.

The Belgians, who are being supported by the warships of the Allies, have consolidated the ground which they have won in the last few days, while the British have done likewise with the strip of territory which they took from Germany near Neuve Chapelle, and have recovered most, if not all, of the trenches which they lost in the region of St. Eloi.

All these operations are believed here to be preliminary to a general offensive which the Allies will undertake when the ground dries, enabling a more rapid movement of troops and guns and use of cavalry which has been out of action all the winter, except where the troopers left their horses and took to the trenches.

The Russians on the Eastern front are even more active than their Western allies. The Russians have themselves undertaken the offensive, and according to their own reports are advancing successfully along both banks of the Orzye river, and have occupied the village of Stigna, which is on one of the main roads leading to Przasnysz from the northeast.

The Allied fleet continues operations in the Dardanelles and off Smyrna, but no official report of the progress of the warships has been made for several days.

The interesting statement was made to-night by Lord Southwark at a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce that since the outbreak of the war Britain's output of war material has increased three hundred fold.

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German Steamer Macedonia Captured

Was Interned in Canary Islands and Made Her Escape Last Monday

London, March 18.—The interned German liner Macedonia, which escaped from Las Palmas, Canary Islands on Monday, has been captured by a British cruiser, according to the Daily Mail's Madrid correspondent.

Rear Admiral Falls Overboard And Is Drowned

London, March 18.—Rear Admiral Grogan has fallen overboard from his ship and has been drowned, according to announcement made by the Admiralty. The name of the ship is not given.

NIEUPORT AGAIN UNDER SHELL FIRE

Belgians Carry German Positions—Warships Bombard Westende—Destroyers Keep off Submarines

Paris, March 17.—The enemy is again furiously bombarding Nieuport, this time with howitzers, says an undated message from the Petit Parisien's war correspondent, who adds that thirty shells have fallen in the town, making enormous holes and demolishing several buildings, but no one is hurt.

The Belgian troops, profiting by the slight recession of the waters in the district they occupy, carried two German advanced positions. The first was on the Keosterhoek farm, near Stuvekenke, while the second was a line of trenches on the road from Pervis to Schoorbanke.

Warships and monitors of the Allies vigorously bombarded Westende. The Germans replied feebly, but none of the shells took effect. Torpedo-boat destroyers protected the bombarding ships, shell a German submarine which tempted to approach.

Partridge Berries On Canada's Free List

Ottawa, March 17.—The House went into Committee on Ways and Means to-day, and took up Hon. W. T. White's resolution to increase the customs duties in accordance with the announcement made in his budget. The Finance Minister said, that at the request of the Newfoundland Government, the Canadian Government has consented to admit, free of duty, wild edible berries, known as partridge berries. The Finance Minister explained that bananas were added to the list of exemptions at the request of the Government of Jamaica.

General Carranza Executed by Villa

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German Losses Between 17 and 18 Thousand Men

British Retake St. Eloi—Russians Report Progress on Northern Front—Capture quantities of Machine Guns and Many Prisoners

London, March 17 (Official).—General French reports German losses between the 10th and 13th on the Neuve Chapelle front cannot well be less than 17,000 to 18,000.

The French Governments that the British Army has retaken St. Eloi, recaptured trenches southwest, and compelled the enemy to evacuate trenches southeast.

Germans Shell British Warships

Brought Their Mighty Sixteen Inch Guns to Plan on Ships That Bombarded Westende—Frenchman's Story of the Horrors of War

Paris, March 18th.—The British warships which bombarded Westende in Belgium have been shelled by the Germans with their 16 inch guns. It was these guns which bombarded the trenches of the Belgians and Indians at Nieuport.

Wounded French soldiers declare that the meagre, laconic official bulletins fail to give any idea of the fierceness of the fighting in the Champagne district. Nearly a quarter of a million men have been engaged there in a mighty conflict on the Les Mesnil-Perthes-Beaunejour line, between Rheims and Argonne forest.

Thousands of big guns have been thundering night and day for weeks. Fields are covered with rotting corpses, the ground is torn with shell fire and explosions of mines. Horror of the long fight, the tension of battle and ghastly stench of decaying flesh and burning gun powder, together with the fumes, have driven hundreds of soldiers into stark madness. Fighting is again in progress near Arras and Albert where the Germans are trying to win back some of ground they have previously lost.

Russians Attack German Rear Guard

General Von Fichern's Army Gets Severe Drubbing—Hindenburg Fears to Test His Strength

London, March 17.—A Daily News correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd that the rear-guard of General von Fichern's army has been beaten repeatedly in the last few days, in attempting to protect the transport as it withdraws from Suwalki, across the frontier, into East Prussia.

THE GERMAN STAFF QUITS HEADQUARTERS

London, March 16.—The Daily Mail's correspondent telegraphs from Northern France so much progress has been made by Allies in direction of Lille that large proportion German headquarters staff there has left town and retired to Tournai. General impression is that the Germans will very soon be compelled to evacuate Lille.

After the performance of "Shaun Aroon" last night, the boys held an impromptu concert at the B.L.S. rooms and where lunch was served. The event was very enjoyable.

The Meigs left Hermitage Cove at 3.30 p.m. yesterday, coming east.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.