

BATTLE RAGES ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Tremendous Struggle Between French and Germans May be Climax of War

POPE IN FAVOR OF ALLIES

Although Vatican Maintains Its Attitude of Absolute Neutrality

HOPES FOR JUST PEACE

And Strenuously Condemns Deportation of Belgians

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Is Met With Approval at Vatican

By Courier Leased Wire.

Rome, March 22.—via Paris.—For the first time since the world war began, Pope Benedict in an address to the private consistory, made no reference to international affairs. Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, who left for France immediately after the consistory said:

"The Vatican continues its attitude of absolute impartiality toward all belligerents, but I must frankly confess that I have seen no sign of lack of interest on the part of the pope for the allies. He has always displayed the greatest desire to lessen the horrors of war and ameliorate the conditions of prisoners as well as to obtain favorable treatment for Belgium."

The pope conducted negotiations for the provisioning of Belgium, obtaining German guarantees not to torpedo steamers taking supplies there as England required. He obtained the internment in Switzerland of those who had been prisoners for eighteen months and parents of at least three children. He obtained the exchange of prisoners of war between England, France and Turkey. Latest reports caused the Vatican to hope that its insistence against Belgian deportations will be accepted by Germany and all Belgians will return to their homes. The Vatican is arranging to supply Syria and Lebanon, where the population is dying of starvation, with provisions conserved in neutral steamers, mostly Spanish.

"The pope has taken a great interest in the flags of the allies, which are being sent to the famous shrine of the Sacred Heart at Paray le Monial in France on Sunday. I myself, an Italian, the British flag. We go to pray for our victory, bearing the Holy Father's blessing and his prayers for a speedy, just and stable peace, which is his constant wish. The pontiff must remain impartial thus rendering it easier for him if the circumstances arise to act as mediator between the nations."

"The Russian revolution was greeted with satisfaction at the Vatican as Catholicism was among the greatest sufferers from lack of liberty in the Muscovite empire. Cardinal Consalvi, the great papal secretary of state in Napoleonic times, said that no change was possible for the Catholic church in Russia as long as the Czar was there."

Bishop of Monterey.
Rome, March 22.—via Paris, March 23.—The pope to-day appointed Monsignor Peter James Muldoon, bishop of Monterey. Bishop Muldoon was formerly auxiliary bishop of Chicago and has been bishop of Rockford, Ill. since September, 1908.

It is worth something to you to know that our furniture values cannot be beat in the city. J. W. Burgess, 44 Colborne Street.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, March 22.—The depression which was late in the southwest was yesterday in the west, centered in Wisconsin, with much increased energy. Light rain or snow may fall over Lake Superior, while the weather is now becoming showery in the peninsula of Ontario.

Forecast.
Strong southerly winds, showering with some local thunder storms. Saturday, fresh to strong westerly winds, generally fair.

CZAR AND HIS FAMILY INTERNED

Ex-Emperor Nicholas of Russia Confined in Alexandrovsky Palace

LITTLE EXCITEMENT

Evidenced in Neighborhood of Palace

By Courier Leased Wire.

Tsarskoe Selo, Russia, Thursday, March 22.—via London, March 23.—On his arrival here to-day in the custody of four members of the Duma, Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed emperor, was turned over immediately to the Tsarskoe Selo commander and taken to the Alexandrovsky Palace, where the former Emperor Alexander already was interned. The special train carrying the former ruler arrived at 1.30 o'clock on the branch line outside Alexandrovsky Park. On leaving the train Nicholas entered an automobile, accompanied by his adjutant, Prince Dolgoroukof, the only courtier of the first rank who accompanied him, and by the four Duma commissioners. They were driven to the palace.

Nicholas was met at the door in the left wing of the palace by Count Benckendorff, who was his marshal of the court, and is now under arrest. The former ruler held himself erect, looking calm and indifferent, although he stepped from the automobile with nervous haste. A battalion of the first rifle guard regiment was at the railroad depot. The commander at Tsarskoe Selo is Col. Koboullinsky, formerly commander of the Petrogradskiy regiment, stationed in peace times at Warsaw. To him the Duma commissioners announced:

"Our mission of handing over the emperor is finished. We now go to Petrograd to announce this fact to the Duma."

The correspondent drove to the old Tsarskoe Selo Palace, which is entirely deserted and without guards and then to the new palace, where the former imperial family is interned. The palace lies in a large park which is surrounded by a plain spiked fence, five feet high, coated silver paint. From the corner nearest the old palace the new palace is partly visible through the thick wood, the chief facade, facing the north, being entirely in view. The first noticeable sign of the revolution was that no imperial standard floated from the roof. Within the park over the broad expanse of snow, not a single person was visible. Apparently there were no guards within the park, but outside the fence every fifty yards along the roadway, were double sentries from the Petrogradskiy regiment, in long blue coats with fixed bayonets.

An astonishing circumstance in view of the attitude of Nicholas toward the population of Tsarskoe Selo, which lived entirely upon imperial favor, was the lack of public interest. During a drive of 5 miles along the palace fence, the correspondent saw no civilians.

ABOLISH MISRULE OF A CENTURY

Duchy of Finland to be Restored of Its Status of 1812

By Courier Leased Wire.
Petrograd, March 22.—via London.—Elucidating the manifesto extending new liberty to Finland, the foreign office explains that the aim of the present government was to abolish completely all the restrictions which stripped the grand duchy of the historical rights conferred upon it in 1812. In that year Finland became part of the Russian empire. All laws illegally imposed upon Finland during the reigns of Alexander III. and Nicholas II. are declared void.

Russian members of the Finnish senate who, contrary to the constitutional rights of the country, had been appointed by the imperial government instead of being elected by the Finnish parliament, have been removed and will be replaced by Finns chosen according to law. Full self-government, including the right to initiate legislation, determine the revenue and expenditures of the duchy and assess taxation, will rest exclusively in the control of the Finnish legislative bodies.

Furious Battle in Northern France Gives First Fruit of Victory to Invincible Forces of Gen. Nivelle—Further Evacuations by Huns Looked For

The initial phase of the tremendous battle which has opened in northern France has apparently turned in favor of the French, who are reported to have forced their way across the Ailette river and the Crozat canal at several points. Along these waterways the Germans elected to make their first stand in defence of La Fere, toward which General Nivelle is rushing his advance troops in a desperate effort to break the Hindenberg line before the German defense is consolidated.

Further south the French are attempting to batter their way toward Laon, but between them and their goal lie the great forests of Coucy and St. Gobain and the comparatively meager advances reported from Paris indicate that the issue is still very much in doubt. Some ground has been gained northeast of Soissons, but the fact that the French report having inflicted "very heavy" losses on the Germans is an intimation that the invaders are holding this section in force.

French refugees from the devastated wilderness over which the retreating Germans advanced add their evidence to accumulating proof that Field Marshal von Hindenberg's purpose is to give battle to his pursuers on a line running from Lille to Laon. This means that, in the event of the French failing to break through at La Fere a further withdrawal of the Germans is due to take place on the British front. The sharp salient running from Arras to Cambrai must be evacuated, and in support of this assumption London reports explosions and incendiary fires in the district about Arras. This additional retirement would mean the evacuation of about 500 more square miles of French territory, including the great coal mines around Lens.

The whole question at present appears to be whether the allies can move their heavy artillery fast enough so as to strike a smashing blow at the Germans before the latter can effectively organize their positions. Military critics in Paris and London believe that a few days will decide this question.

Berlin's Claims

Berlin, March 23.—via Sayville.—Heavy losses were inflicted by the Germans yesterday upon French troops who had crossed the Somme-Crozat canal in the vicinity of St. Simon army headquarters announced to-day. The French were repulsed and 230 prisoners and several machine guns taken.

The statement reads: "Western front: In connection with several advances of our army and of hostile reconnoitring detachments the artillery activity in the coast, Flanders and Arras sector temporarily increased. A number of prisoners remained in our hands."

"French troops which on both sides of St. Simon has crossed the Somme-Crozat canal were repulsed by an attack against and beyond those sectors. The enemy suffered sanguinary losses and 230 prisoners as well as several machine guns and carts. "Between the Oise and the Aisne during the evening hours engagements developed west and south of Margival. Attacks by strong French forces were repulsed with heavy losses under our fire, and by a counter attack. "Our artillery outside this field of engagement also found favorable marks in troops assembling and on the move. "In the forest of Laville-Aux-Bois a French attack which was launched after strong fire, failed. Near Watronville, on the plains of France, an enterprise conducted by us resulted in twelve prisoners and two machine guns being brought in."

AMERICAN CRISIS IS INCREASED BY SINKING OF THE HEALDTON

Another Grave Addition to Long List of Hun Aggressions Against the Liberty of U. S. to be Cited to Congress by Wilson on April 2nd Next

By Courier Leased Wire.
Washington, March 23.—Sinking by a German submarine of the American steamer Healdton with the probable loss of a score or more of her crew, many of whom were Americans, while another grave addition to the long list of German aggressions against the commerce of this country, cannot cause any immediate change in the situation between the United States and Germany, it was said here to-day. A virtual state of war exists, government officials believe, and they are doing everything possible to prepare the nation to meet that condition.

The destruction of the Healdton, however, will be included by President Wilson in his summary of German attacks on American commerce when he goes before congress, which will convene in an extraordinary session on April 2.

The president received his first official reports on the incident early today. The news came in a cable report last night from American Consul Mahin at Amsterdam after the president had retired. The consul reported that the vessel, which was unarmed, was torpedoed without warning off the coast of Holland on Wednesday.

The president is devoting his almost undivided attention to preparations for national defense, and it is expected that he will continue to do so in the interval between now and the convening of congress.

Wilson Blamed
Berlin, Thursday, March 22, via London.—The Lokal Anzeiger accuses President Wilson of criminal carelessness in his conduct of American-German relations. The paper says: "Despatches from America and other neutral countries, repeatedly play with the idea of the possibility of Germany according American ships different treatment from that given other neutral steamers, on the ground that Germany must have an interest in avoiding a conflict with America. It seems a fact that America is also keeping alive the hope that at the last minute we find a way to compromise with the American standpoint. After the chancellor, as well as the other officials involved, have repeatedly emphasized that there can be no going back for us, it is only necessary now to lay stress upon the following: "Criminal Errors. "The policy of President Wilson, since the breaking off of diplomatic relations, has been characterized by careless and criminal errors. He has declared void the destinies of great peoples. He desires to make his further course depend upon whether Germany commits an overt act, that of an openly hostile action against an armed American merchantman. At the same time he lets it be known that he has commanded these armed merchantmen to open fire on their part on all submarines immediately. "In face of the reasons we have given the whole world, as the basis for unrestricted submarine warfare, it is unparalleled rashness if the president risks the lives of American citizens in the careless belief that we will not dare to injure them. Even apart from the fact that our naval authorities declare that it is practically impossible to distinguish American from non-American merchantmen, the German government must emphatically decline to consider any discrimination. If President Wilson rashly wants a war, he should start it and he will have it. On our side it only remains to assure him that we have put an end to negotiations about submarine warfare once for all. The monstrous guilt for a German-American war should it come, would fall alone upon President Wilson and his government."

BREAKING THE BLOCKADE OF OUR SELF-RESPECT



Cartoon from the New York Tribune

CHRISTMAS IN CANADA IS THE CALL

Of Canadians at the Front To-day; Optimism Supreme

ARTILLERY FIGHTING

Increases in Violence on Both Sides

By Courier Leased Wire.

(By Stewart Lyon, correspondent of the Canadian Press).

Canadian Headquarters in France, March 22.—Evidence was supplied this morning by the enemy on the Canadian front that the general retirement south of Arras has not yet extended to the region held by the Canadians. Heavy fire. The German guns which have been returning a spasmodic fire to the increasing volume of our fire, suddenly opened up with great vigor yesterday. After artillery preparation a raiding attack was made in the early dawn on the Canadians who took a number of prisoners in the raid the previous evening. The Canadians were ready for the enemy and a heavy fire was at once directed on the attacking force which sustained considerable losses without at any point penetrating our lines. The nature of the enemy's barrage is considered evidence that his artillery is still in position along this part of the front. Prisoners recently taken profess entire ignorance of any measures looking to a withdrawal.

Christmas in Canada. The great event transpiring south of Arras have made many people optimistic, and once more cry "Christmas in Canada."

Heavy Fighting. Paris, March 23.—Noon.—A violent attack was made by the Germans last night, north of St. Simon, in the region east of Ham. To-day's war office announcement says the Germans gained at the beginning, but were counter-attacked and immediately sent driven back as far as Seraucourt le Grand, three miles northeast of St. Limon. The French continued to advance north of Soissons. Fresh detachments crossed the Ailette.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg is also exerting his greatest strength to prevent the allies closing in on St. Quentin and La Fere, but so far without success. There is every indication of the most severe fighting in the immediate future.

The last batch of repatriated French from the Somme region who have arrived here, agree that the Germans have established a defensive line running through Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Fere and Loan. One of the refugees said:

"For several months past the Germans have been concentrating in the neighborhood of this line, particularly between St. Quentin, Cambrai and Guise. All civilians deported from northern France and Belgium were forced to carry out military works feverishly constructed. They were compelled to labor under terrible threats. The Germans constructed a complete new system of railroads and dug deep shell proof shelters. Localities south of the line were systematically evacuated and the greater number of the inhabitants of the towns and villages were repatriated, only men and women captured, working, being held. None of the people in St. Quentin or Loan were repatriated however. On the contrary the Germans drew a cordon around these towns and in recent months were taken in measures to prevent anyone from either entering or leaving them."

By Courier Leased Wire.
Tsarskoe Selo, Russia, March 22.—London, March 23.—Two hundred adherents and courtiers of the former emperor are under arrest here. A correspondent of the Associated Press discovered them in the Nicholas gymnasium, a big building next to the city hall, where the commission of officers and soldiers who are now administering Tsarskoe Selo has its headquarters. In a big room on the first floor were seventy persons in civilian dress, formerly palace spies and provocative agents. Here were also four Russian officers with German names who had been arrested by old soldiers on suspicion of having sent communications from the empress to Berlin by way of Stockholm. In a neighboring room sat the director of the Tsarskoe Lyceum school, who was a general in the army and a close friend of Rasputin as well as a reactionary member of the district court.

On the second floor in a separate room, Prince Putiatin is held prisoner. Prince Putiatin was one of the reactionary Russia's most powerful men. He was formerly private secretary to the emperor and in recent years director of the palace. Putiatin is famous for his presence during the interview in 1905 between reform members of the Zemstvos and the emperor. The Zemstvos delegation warned the monarch that a revolution was impending and, before rejecting their advice Nicholas II. tended to the whispered counsel of Putiatin. Dmitri Shipoff, president of the Zemstvos council, subsequently reported that the emperor was under the control of the prince.

By Courier Leased Wire.
Geneva, via Paris March 23.—Two American engineers, who have just arrived from Vienna after being delayed for a fortnight at the frontier, say that the United States Ambassador Penfield, his staff and many American families have packed their belongings and are ready to leave the Austrian capital at any moment. The travellers say that Austrians generally believe that war with America is inevitable but are not much concerned at the prospect. They added that food was extremely dear, but could be obtained in the hotels, the poorer classes, however, were suffering horribly.

ADVANCE OF ALLIES GOES ON

German Retreat, Once Debarate, Has Now Become Enforced

FOE IS DRIVEN BACK

Beyond Points Where He Planned to Halt Retirement

DEFENSE LINE MADE

Running Through Cambrai and St. Quentin

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, March 23.—The Germans are now reacting vigorously but the allies continue their advance, more slowly on account of the inclement weather, but nevertheless surely. Military critics here consider it evident that the energy of the allies' pursuit has driven the Germans beyond points where they planned to halt their retreat and that the Teutons are now showing nervousness over the safety of their principal lines. Reports from the front show that the Germans are offering most strenuous resistance and enduring heavy losses in their efforts to hold the main points on the Lille, Loan Line. Their energies are particularly directed at defending the approaches to Cambrai on their right flank and stopping the dangerous French advance to the left, north of Soissons in the direction of Anizy. Here the French threaten to outflank the German main positions at St. Gobain.

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THEATRE
—CHUMS—
Comedy Novelty
Lion and St. Ives
PRESENTING—
"Bob's Romance"
Fred Stedman and
House Peters
—IN—
"Happiness of
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14th Episode.
The Shielding
Shadow
Fred and Jeff Comedy
Pathe Gazette.
The Valley Dodge
Thrilling Desert and
Mountain Drives.
TUES. and WED.,
ANNIE WARD
—IN—
"Happiness of
Three Women"
14th Episode.

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Brantford 10.35 a.m.—For
g and St. Thomas.
Brantford 5.15 p.m.—For
5. Port Dover and St.

South—Arrive Brantford,
6.10 p.m.
falo & Goderich.

East—Arrive Brantford,
6.05 p.m.
West—Arrive Brantford,
5.42 p.m.

T. R. Arrivals.

West—Arrive Brantford,
47 a.m., 7.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m.,
50 p.m., 6.00 p.m., 8.37 p.m.
East—Arrive Brantford,
9.05 a.m., 10.02 a.m., 3.52
p.m., 7.32 p.m., 3.10 p.m.

W. G. & B.
North—Arrive Brantford,
4.40 p.m., 8.40 p.m.