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All Of St. Quentin, On Hindenburg Line, Regarded As Certain

Turks Again Beaten; British And Russians Near Junction

Believe Allies Are Breaking Back Bone Of German Defence

of Town is Set Afire—Looting Going on—British Forge Lead on 30 Mile Front—Capture of La Fere as Well as St. Quentin Expected

British and French are knocking at the doors of St. Quentin, the main town that marks the backbone of the so-called Hindenburg line. Of the roads entering the city, two are in possession of the allies and the rest are under the fire of their guns. This means that the garrison is on a precarious supply line operated at night and that the value of a base is gone.

Their rapid advance in the last few days, unaccompanied by any fighting, proves that General Haig is not yet in touch with the main line.

St. Quentin and La Fere practically in the grip of the allies, the Lille appears doomed and military critics express the opinion that either the Hindenburg never contemplated a stand there or that he was led by the amazingly rapid advance of the French toward La Fere, sent the French seem to have relinquished the initiative to the British, driving a wedge in the direction of the important town of Le Cateau, north of St. Quentin and now within five miles of the Arras sector, the news indicating that important operations are on foot in this, the western part of the battle line.

A sharp salient activity is mainly in evidence east of Soissons, where a sharp salient formed in the German lines, the breaking of which will lay bare the Craonne plateau, the most formidable barrier to General Nivelle's plan.

Allied capitals are filled with rumors of a coming great counter-offensive. Germans, nothing has developed to show where such a blow, if it comes, will fall. The thaw on the eastern front is believed to have danger of German aggression in that direction and neither British nor American attention to Rome reports.

There are persistent rumors, however, of efforts by Germany to mass reserves back of the fighting lines. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg will try to effect on public opinion caused by his withdrawal in Picardy by a blow in some other direction.

April 2—Despatches from London on the western front indicate that the Germans have done part of St. Quentin by the allies. They add that the town is looted all the treasures, houses, museums and pictures, that the cathedral, up to now, has not been damaged.

April 2—French patrols advanced to the German positions near St. Quentin, which they held in force. South of the town, the French drove the Germans back. The war office issued the following account of the situation of St. Quentin on the forward northeast of the line of Castris (these towns are about 10 miles from St. Quentin), the enemy lines, which they held strongly. In the sector of Oise there was heavy fighting, advanced posts. South of our troops followed up their advance and drove the Germans beyond their machine guns.

April 2—Armed provincial detachments, strong, protected strikeable climbers on Saturday and Sunday and Quebec against a group of striking linemen. At other missiles were thrown on Saturday, and some were injured in mix-ups. A few have been arrested.

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SOME DAYS YET BEFORE ACTION IN WASHINGTON

That Is Belief As Congress Goes Into Extra Session

STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL

Thought Likely That Democrats Would Win and Would Re-elect Champ Clark as Speaker—Wilson Ready to Meet Both Houses

Washington, April 2.—Congress met in extraordinary session today to decide the question of war with Germany. First came the struggle between Democrats and Republicans over organization of the house. With that completed, congress will be ready to hear President Wilson's message on the most serious international crisis that has confronted the nation since the civil war.

Even at the last moment tremendous moral pressure for or against war was being exerted on members of congress by their constituents, mainly through the medium of telegrams which continued to pour in today. To these were added personal appeals of pacifists and anti-pacifists who came here in force, each side to combat the arguments of the other. All signs early today pointed to a speedy Democratic victory in the re-election of Champ Clark as speaker over Representative Mann, Republican candidate and the result of a dictation of committees by Democrats.

A resolution to declare war between the German Empire and the United States, as prepared by Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, Republican, says "that war be and the same is hereby declared between the German Empire and the United States of America and the president is authorized and directed to use the whole land and naval forces of the United States against the said German Empire, its subjects and dependencies."

The preamble set out that "the triumph of Germany would destroy the liberty of the world; that the grandeur of the United States will not permit its share of the burden of war to be borne by other nations, and that Germany has continued to destroy American ships and to take American lives."

Philadelphia, Pa., April 2.—The police refused to allow the holding of a peace meeting under the auspices of the Emergency Peace Federation, which was advertised for a local theatre last night. In a letter to the manager of the theatre, the superintendent of police said: "I desire to notify you that we will not permit the proposed meeting to take place, and I have notified the police to see that this order is carried out."

Croisilles And Some Other Towns Taken By The Lads In Khaki

London, April 2.—The British have captured Croisilles, after a desperate defence by the Germans, so Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports.

The towns of Longatte and Dolgais also have been captured by the British, who took some prisoners.

LATEST WORD CHEERFUL

British Headquarters in France, April 2.—Via London.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press.)—British forces today widened the wedge they had inserted in the German line in the region of St. Quentin and captured the villages of Attily and Villaholles, respectively southeast and northeast of the village of Vermand.

British today are within three miles of St. Quentin and are working eastwardly in that direction, while the French are pressing from the south. Yesterday the British drove a wedge in the outer German line at Savry, also taking Savry Wood.

A FOURTH BRIDGE OVER EAST RIVER AT NEW YORK OPENED

Helgate Span Links New England and South in All Rail-Route

New York, April 2.—With the opening of the Helgate Bridge, the fourth to span the East River here, last night, an all rail route was established connecting New England with points south and west of the Hudson river. The bridge, which took four years to build and cost \$27,000,000, links the Pennsylvania and New Haven railroads. It is the longest steel arch bridge in the world, having a span of 1,017 feet between the faces of opposite towers, which rise to a height of 280 feet.

FERRY ACTIVITIES FOR MONTH OF MARCH

Falling Off in Traffic by Single Teams; Increase by Doubles

Matters along the harbor front are slack at the present time. Commissioner Russell this morning gave out a statement as to the activities of the ferry department during March, as follows:— March, 1915—Single teams, 8,908; double teams, 1,461; police, 628; military, 16,782. March, 1914—Single teams, 9,018; double teams, 1,245; police, 649; military, 48,846. It will be noted that during March of this year there was a falling off of 650 in the traffic by police officers and a dropping off of 29,068 in the military passengers on the ferries.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AGAIN TAKES OVER LINE

Mexico City, April 2.—The railroad between Mexico City and Vera Cruz was last night again placed under government control. The property, which is owned by British interests, was taken over by the government two years ago, but was returned to the stockholders last November. Military and governmental necessity is the reason given for the present action.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis—A disturbance of considerable energy is passing eastward across the lower lake region. The weather is rainy in Ontario and Quebec and fair and cool in the maritime provinces, while in the western provinces it is decidedly cold.

Maritime—Increasing westerly winds, mostly fair and cool today. Rain tonight near the Bay of Fundy and generally to-morrow. New England—Rain and somewhat warmer tonight. Tuesday, fair, colder in western Massachusetts and Connecticut, strong south, shifting to northwest winds.

GENERAL MAUDE AND THE RUSSIAN COMMANDER ARE BUT 50 OR 60 MILES APART

Turks, Re-inforced, Attempt to Regain Offensive in Mesopotamia But Are Repulsed—Several Places Captured by Russians

In the theatre of war other than the west front, interest centres in Mesopotamia, where the Turks have suffered further reverses and the union of the British and Russian armies appear to be on the eve of consummation. An attempt by the reinforced Turks to take the offensive has been crushed and, although the official reports are meagre, the indications are that General Maude is within fifty or sixty miles of his Russian ally.

Petrograd, April, via London.—Russian troops moving westward from Kerind in Persia, are approaching the Mesopotamian border near Khanikin, continuing to drive the Turks before them. Today's war office statement indicates this. Two additional towns have been occupied by this column. The more northern column, which already has crossed the Mesopotamian border of Banah, has held its newly won ground there, breaking up a Turkish offensive movement. The official statement reads:—

Caucasus front.—In the direction of Penwin in the region of the village of Ganganich, about ten miles south of Banah, our troops repulsed a Turkish offensive. In the direction of Khanikin our troops occupied Matague Point and Serpoules. The pursuit of the Turks, who are retiring in the direction of Kaschich continues."

CASES OF INTEREST IN POLICE COURT TODAY

A Charlotte Street Window Breaking; Also One in Police Guard Room

Joseph B. Tremblay was in the police court this morning on a charge of drunkenness and also breaking a window in Mrs. Richardson's store, 191 Charlotte street. Detective Thomas Barrett said that he was called to the store about 10.30 o'clock on Saturday night. He noticed the defendant was drinking. The man told him that Mrs. Richardson had taken \$28 from him and afterwards he was pushed through the door and that two men ran him around the corner into Duke street.

Mrs. Richardson told the court that the defendant had come to her store on Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock. He had just joined the navy and was apparently celebrating. He went away and returned after supper. He asked her for some light drink which she gave him. She believed that the defendant had a bottle of liquor and when she was not looking he poured some liquor into the light drink and drank it. This the court said could not be done as the way was open for the proprietor of the store to be fined for having liquor on the premises. The woman said she knew the boy for several years.

Coming to the agency question the woman said that she had had the money to keep for the boy as he was in no condition himself. She later gave it back to him. On information she had received from the landlord of the premises the defendant gave her \$10 to repair the damages to the window. This the court ordered to be given to Detective Barrett, who will see that the window is fixed. Any change will be returned to the defendant. He had just joined the navy and was on his way to Prince Edward Island to see his people. The fines were struck against him by the court.

Patrick McQuillan was fined \$24 for drunkenness and using obscene and profane language. John Terry, a returned soldier, was fined \$8 for drunkenness and \$20 for damaging the windows in the police guard room. The soldier was standing in the guard room when arrested and suddenly made a dash for one of the windows putting his head through two of the panes. He was also charged with assaulting his wife.

Edward Kelly was also remanded on the charge of beating and assaulting his wife in their home in St. James street last evening. His wife testified. John A. Barry appeared for the man. Two other prisoners were fined \$8 or two months in jail for drunkenness.

AT HOME FOR INCURABLES

A pleasing entertainment was given at the Home for Incurables Saturday afternoon by the following women—Mrs. P. A. Godsoe, Mrs. Roy A. King, Mrs. J. M. Barnes, Miss Alice Rising, Miss Minnie Myler, Mrs. George Horton, Miss Gladys Myler and Blanch Dykeman. The programme consisted of vocal solos, instrumental selections, duets and readings.

ST. LAWRENCE NOT CLEAR OF ICE FOR SOME DAY.

Quebec, April 2.—Although it rained throughout the night, the ice still solid on the river above Quebec and the two government ice breakers, Lady Grey and Moncalm, are still hammering at the barrier below Three Rivers. It is not expected that the river will be clear for ten days or two weeks yet.

SAYS PENFIELD EXPECTS HE WILL GO BACK AGAIN

German Paper Reads Into Visit to Washington Teuton Desire for End of War

Vienna, Saturday, March 21, via London, April 2.—American Ambassador Penfield confirmed the impression that he expects to return to Vienna, quickly as possible after his forthcoming visit to Washington. He said he might be gone for three months. His residence here will be kept open. The ambassador and Mrs. Penfield will leave on Wednesday or Thursday.

The news of Mr. Penfield's impending departure made a great stir here, but the first impression was offset by a statement from the ambassador to the press that his trip to Washington was to be made on account of President Wilson's wish to consult him in regard to the general situation in Europe. The state department's message to Mr. Penfield says that during his absence Joseph C. Grew, councillor of the embassy, will be in charge.

At the foreign office it was learned that no significance was attached to Mr. Penfield's visit to Washington other than that given by the ambassador himself. London, April 2.—A recent interview with Count Czermin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, in which he declared that the proposal of the Central Empires for a peace conference still held good, is considered by the Berlin Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts as "almost a peace offer," says a Central News despatch from Amsterdam today.

WILL TAKE FLYING COURSE AT TORONTO

Lieutenant C. A. Mowatt of Campbellton, N. B., was in the city this morning and informed a Times reporter that he would go to Toronto this week to join the Royal Flying Corps. He will first undergo the physical test and if he passes will take a flight lieutenant's course and qualify.

He is a former member of the 26th Battalion and was wounded on the Ypres salient in the fighting last year. He has a fine record at the front and now shows renewed grit and courage offering to go into the air service.