

GERMAN SPRING OFFENSIVE OFF

U.S. BELIEVES Foe WILL NOT LAUNCH DRIVE UNLESS FORCED

Teuton Threats of Imperpetrating Thrust Discredited

NO GERMAN OFFENSIVE UNLESS FORCED BY EXIGENCIES OF THE SITUATION, VERDICT OF U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT--WEEKLY REVIEW

Hostile Preparations Still Being Continued, But Teuton Bluff Has Been Laid Bare; German Lines Too Dense to Permit of Extensive Movements; Concentration of Troops For Defence Only

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, March 18.—Germany's threat of a great spring offensive on the western front no longer impresses military men. In its weekly review to-day, the War Department records the conclusion that the enemy, in spite of his vast preparations, will not take the offensive unless forced into it.

While hostile preparations for an offensive in the west are not slackening, the review says, "it is becoming more evident that the enemy will launch the offensive only if compelled to do so by the exigencies of the general strategic situation."

The nature of the information upon which the opinion is based is not disclosed. It is noted that fresh German divisions have arrived on the western front and the German lines are said to be approaching the point in density beyond which it would be impossible to go without choking communication lines and hampering free movement of reserves.

Much of the statement is devoted to the activities of the American troops now engaged on five separate fronts, one of the sectors lying close to the Swiss border. The official communique, however, adds nothing to recently published press reports of the raids and trench fighting in which the Americans have been involved.

Elsewhere on the western front, the experts find no evidence of impending major activity by either side. The period of inactivity, the statement says, is being prolonged. It notes, however, indications of Austro-German concentrations in the Italian theatre which may forecast assaults on Verona or Brescia as their objectives.

In the eastern theatre, the statement says, the chief operation of the week, culminated in the capture of Odessa. The occupation of Odessa will be no doubt of economic importance to the enemy.

"In Finland, fighting continues. German infantry has landed at Abo and the arrival of important additional German forces on the Aland Islands is reported.

"In Palestine the British have pushed their lines 17 miles north of Jerusalem."

FRENCH OFFICIAL. Paris, March 17.—French raiders were very active last night and brought back more than 130 prisoners. In four raids, according to an official statement from the war office to-day, the statement reads: "North of the Chemin des Dames the artillery on both sides showed great activity."

"On the left bank of the Meuse, French troops carried out at night-fall a large raid in the region of the Chepy wood which resulted successfully. Under protection of the French artillery which dominated the German artillery, our troops penetrated the opposing trenches on a front of 300 metres to a depth of 300 metres. After destroying the shelters, block-house defences of the enemy, the French detachments returned to their own lines with eighty prisoners—belonging to three different regiments and seven machine guns. Our losses were slight."

"During the night detachments were active and successful in entering enemy positions. Near Vauquois they brought back ten prisoners in a raid. Near Malancourt an incursion, carried out under heavy bombardment, enabled the French to bring back 40 prisoners. On the right bank of the Meuse German batteries during the night bombarded violently all points between the Meuse and Besonvaux. French counter-fire also increased. Immediately north of St. Mihiel our patrols made prisoners."

"On March 16th one German airplane was destroyed and four others damaged severely by French aviators. Our bombing squadrons dropped 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on military establishments behind the enemy front."

BRITISH AVIATION. London, Friday, March 15.—The report on aviation operations issued to-night reads: "Rain prevented flying Thursday morning. The weather cleared in the afternoon and bombs were dropped on enemy rest billets and railheads near Lille and on an airfield 20 miles south-east of St. Quentin by night flying machines. Another hostile airfield east of St. Quentin was bombed and one hangar was set afire and two others damaged badly. None of our machines are missing."

BRITISH OFFICIAL. London, March 18.—"English troops carried out a successful raid last night south of Acheville and captured several prisoners with little loss to themselves," says to-day's official communication. "Casualties were inflicted on the enemy in patrol encounters northeast of Zonnebeke."

APPEAL TO PEASANTS. Petrograd, March 18.—Maria Spiridonova, Bolshevik leader, in an appeal to the peasants, declares that ratification of the German peace means that they will lose their land and freedom.

SWISS DEMAND INDEMNITY OF FOE Send Note Insisting on Reparation For Destruction of Grain Steamer.

By Courier Leased Wire. Bern, Friday, March 18.—The Swiss government has sent a note to the German government demanding the payment of an indemnity for the destruction of the grain steamer Sardinero. The note also requests a careful investigation of the circumstances by the German authorities. The Spanish steamer Sardinero, under charter by the Swiss government, was torpedoed on February 26. She was conveying 3,000 tons of wheat from the United States. The sinking aroused a strong feeling in Switzerland and pro-ally newspapers there urged that the Swiss nation of the German colony in Switzerland be cut as a reprisal.

HOLLAND IS RESENTFUL Objects to Use of Her Ships by Britain and America.

By Courier Leased Wire. Amsterdam, March 18.—Discussing the Dutch shipping question, The Tijd says: "We shall have to acquiesce, but such rough misuse of power will not be forgotten by our people."

In an article vehemently denouncing the Allies, The Handelsblad says: "We cannot think what our government will do. Will it publish a protest refusing to give its approval to piracy and leave the matter as it is, or will it make the best of a bad job and make an exchange for what will be taken away? If it is not exchanged, will it request the ministers of these practical powers to pack their trunks and depart? We should not lose much thereby."

"We do not know what the government will do, and would like to advise it. At such a moment it must be left to the government's discretion to take that decision which is least harmful to the country and the people."

In the same article, however, the Handelsblad admits that it is unfortunately true that Holland is the only northern neutral which has done nothing to combat German submarine methods. It attributes the country's recent position to the spirit which has dictated such an attitude.

The Telegraaf advocates acceptance of the offer of the Entente governments, adding: "Holland's existence as a free and independent nation and the possession of its colonies are at stake. By choosing the right path, the government has it in its power to maintain the liberty of the nation or irrevocably delivering it to the mercy of Germany, which, in its bid for world domination, has long had envious eyes on Holland. The Dutch nation will not permit itself to be delivered over to the German junkies."

SURVIVORS OF WRECK. Halifax, N. S., March 18.—A captured ship's boat containing the bodies of three sailors, either Japanese or Chinese, was washed ashore at Crow Island, Tusket, Yarmouth county, yesterday. The name on the boat was partly erased, but looked like Basi-cian, or Bahsan. This may have been the Dominion Coal Company's steamer Batician, which is due at St. John with a cargo of coal from Cape Breton, but of this there is no certainty. The Batician has a Chinese crew.

THIRTY REPORTED DEAD IN DISASTER NEAR PARIS

Two Explosions in Factory North of French Capital Caused Destruction of Property and Loss of Life—Percussion Fuses Exploded Box of Grenades.

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, Friday, March 15.—Two very violent explosions to-day in a factory at La Courneuve, north of Paris, caused the death of sixteen persons and the injury of a large number, mostly slightly, according to an official announcement made to-night. It is said that the number of dead was thirty. General Dubost, the military governor of Paris, has instructed Captain Lucher, the judge advocate of the first court-martial of Paris, to open an investigation of the accident. The cause of the explosion has not been determined clearly. La Courneuve is seven kilometres from the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the direction of St. Denis. Fifteen persons were unable to approach the burning factory, nearer than 800 yards. Survivors declare that the accident was due to the dropping of a box of percussion fuses which set off a box of grenades. Most of the workmen realizing the danger, took to their heels and escaped with more or less severe injuries. The roof and windows within a circumference of miles of the building were demolished, while buildings collapsed like houses of cards from the violence of the explosion. In every quarter of Paris windows were shattered and furniture overturned. In a public school at Aubervilliers there was a panic and four girls died from fright. Nearly 1,000 persons are homeless as the result of damage to their homes. The American Red Cross co-operating with the prefecture of the Seine and the local authorities is providing for them.

PEACE SIGNED, BUT HUNS CONTINUE INVASION

Odessa Occupied, German Forces Advance Northward From Black Sea; Bolsheviks Call on Local Soviets To Rally People to Defense of Nation.

By Courier Leased Wire. Having occupied Odessa and Nikolayev, important naval and grain ports, the Germans, Southern Russia, continue their advance northward from the Black Sea toward Kerass, an important commercial centre and capital of the province of the same name. The all-Russian Congress of Soviets has declared Moscow to be the Russian capital and Petrograd. The Bolshevik leaders, although they urged and obtained ratification of the German peace treaty, are said to have little hope that the treaty will bring peace, and are calling upon the local Soviets to their invasion continue further into the heart of Russia. Bakhmach and Konotop, in the province of Tchernigov, about 350 miles southwest of Moscow, but were forced to retire from Briansk (in the province of Orel, 200 miles southwest of Moscow), towards the main base, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, dated Saturday. Austro-German troops are moving on Voroshba and Kharkov (capital of the province of the same name and about 500 miles south of Moscow). Orders have been given to evacuate Kharkov.

PARLIAMENT OPENED AT OTTAWA THIS MORNING

Animated Scenes Preceded Formal Opening of the New House; Election of a Speaker First Issue—Speech From the Throne Read

By Courier Leased Wire. Ottawa, Ont., March 18.—Animated scenes preceded the formal opening of the House this morning for the purpose of electing a Speaker. The corridors of Parliament were thronged with members new and old. The new members, who number 125, were mostly here. In the Commons chamber, Mr. W. B. Northrup, the new clerk of the House, and the other officials were busily engaged swearing the members who after taking the oath signed the roll. The first couple of sheets of the roll, which as usual is a brilliantly illuminated document is devoted to the names of the ministers of the Crown with the exception that the names of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. W. S. Fielding appear in the first page.

The bell summoned the House to meet promptly at eleven o'clock and the members soon thronged the chamber. There was much hand-shaking and every appearance of good fellowship prevailed. Sir Ernest Borden and several of the cabinet ministers were not in the Commons before the members were summoned to the Senate to receive instructions to elect a speaker. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who arrived early, shook hands with Hon. C. C. Balfour, Major General Masburn, Hon. N. W. Rowell, Hon. J. A. Calder and other ministers and a large number of members on both sides of the House. It was observed that Hon. W. S. Fielding took a seat at a considerable distance down the aisle on the opposition side of the House, while Dr.

Michael Clark, and Mr. Fred Pardee occupied seats near the ministers on the Government.

Mr. J. G. Foley, clerk of the Crown in chancery, presented the roll of members to the clerk of the House and immediately after Col. Ernest Chambers, usher of the Black Rod, with the customary tapping on the door of the House of Commons chamber arrived to summon the commoners to the Senate, where they were instructed by Sir Charles Fitzpatrick to return to the Commons and elect a presiding officer.

Mr. Northrup, the clerk of the House, had previously made the formal announcement that the Commons was without a speaker. Speech From Throne. Honorable gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons: You have been summoned to the first session of a new parliament, in the midst of a world-wide struggle which vitally concerns the liberties, the institutions and the destiny of our country and of the whole world. Thus the responsibilities and duties imposed upon you are even graver and more far-reaching than in the ordinary course of public affairs. Bearing with you a new mandate from the people and animated by the unflinching spirit which has inspired them during the long anxious years of effort and sacrifice, I am confident that you will bring to an end the discharge of your public duties an unflinching resolve to sustain

(Continued on Page 4)

TRENCH RAIDS ORDER OF DAY ON WEST FRONT

Dozens of Raids and Minor Operations During the Past Fortnight

BOTH SIDES ACTIVE British, French and American Forces Assume Offensive in Turn

SOUNDING THE ENEMY No Indication Yet as to Whereabouts of Great German Offensive

By Courier Leased Wire. French Front in France, Friday, March 15.—(By The Associated Press)—There have been dozens of trench raids and minor actions everywhere along the western front during the past fortnight, and the British, French and American soldiers have started just as many of them as have the Germans, but the activity of the enemy forces on any particular sector must not be taken as an indication that the long proclaimed offensive is about to occur there. It would be hasty judgment to conclude anything of the kind.

Each side is sounding the other at this moment and occasionally these soundings develop into sharp encounters without any sequel. It is possible that the Germans who have an approximate idea of the positions of the other side are endeavoring to disperse the latter over a long front by their tactics. Such demonstrations may be expected to become more important and more violent as the spring advances.

It seems likely that the Germans, when they decide to begin, will make an attack on a wide section at some point of the line, where it would be easy for either side to capture a thin slice of territory. They are just as well as the Allies aware of the existence of such positions and know that such local successes would not take them far, but might give them the advantage of a moral victory.

While this attack is proceeding the enemy may attempt a surprise attack somewhere else in an effort to break through by a hammer-blow with some new war contrivance. Should they make such a determined effort and wherever it may be they will meet with even more obstinate resistance.

The correspondent has been able to observe all defensive preparations and precautions and is confident that all that foresight can do has been achieved, while the spirit of the French troops has never been better than it is now.

In every respect the French army seems to be in a better condition than when the Germans made their first rush into France in 1914. The railroads are better organized; munitions and supplies are abundant and the heavy artillery and aviation arms are in a better state than they were in 1914. Their German adversaries' troops of every branch of the service have a feeling of superiority, and have been encouraged immensely by the arrival of increasing numbers of Americans, whose first efforts in trench warfare have shown their high quality.

The French troops have passed through a particularly favorable winter, during which their fighting spirit has been kept to the highest point of efficiency by frequent raids, reconnaissances and small operations which almost invariably have been successful, while similar actions from the Germans side usually have broken down before French tenacity.

Thus, the already existing confidence of the French soldiers has been increased and this is true not only among the men, but among the French and other Allied commanders, who have done everything possible to prepare a reply to any blow delivered by the German army.

The bitter harvest of their misdeeds. Nationalists of Fernanagh and surrounding counties gathered in large numbers for the meeting. Addresses were presented by the Enniskillen urban council, the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians to Mr. Dillon said he came to Enniskillen as chairman of a party whose ideal was to obliterate forever religious distinction and party conflict, which had been the curse of the Irish nation.

Enniskillen, Ireland, Saturday, March 16.—From the grave of John Redmond there is a great lesson to be learned by British statesmen," says John Dillon to-day, on making his first public appearance as chairman of the Irish Nationalist party. "Redmond faced misunderstandings and horrible calumny in his endeavor to conciliate the Irish and British people. Had the English ministers been honorable men and stood by him and imitated his statesmanship, Ireland to-day, instead of being an embarrassment to England would be a source of strength and support. The English ministers were false to their honor and their pledges. They betrayed Redmond, while he was faithful and loyal and are reaping

Rioting in Dublin Followed Closing of Nationalist Meeting Hall MANY IN HOSPITAL Sticks, Clubs, Stones and Revolvers Used on Both Sides

Belfast, March 18.—In the rioting between a mob of Sinn Feiners and the police in the Nationalist quarter of Belfast early Sunday, hurley sticks, clubs and stones were the chief weapons, but some revolver shots were heard. The trouble lasted from midnight until 4 a.m. in the morning, and many persons, including some policemen were sent to hospitals.

The Sinn Feiners had announced they would hold a meeting in St. Mary's Hall, a Nationalist gathering place, but the authorities closed the hall. During Saturday Sinn Feiners were brought in from different parts of the country to begin imprisonment at the Belfast jail. Many sympathizers came along.

Prof. Edward De Valera, member of parliament, for East Clare and a Sinn Feiner, arrived in an automobile at midnight accompanied by a bodyguard armed with hurley sticks and others carrying blazing torches. The hall being closed De Valera moved his meeting to a vacant lot one hundred yards from the hall. He had talked ten minutes when the police declared their intention to break up the crowd numbering about 2,000.

Sticks were brought into play at once. The police drew their batons and charged at the double quick. A stiff fight ensued, some times leading to back blows. It was not until the military were brought to the scene that order was again restored.

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ORSHIP WITH US TOMORROW AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

11 A.M. BUILDING CHRIST'S THRONE

3 P.M. and Rally of all the Baptist Sunday Schools

(Park excepted) John McLaurin, of Toronto, will speak. Rally at 3 sharp, please, as Mr. Laurin must leave on 4 car.

7 P.M. PATRICK AND THE MODERN SAINT

Out the Light" (Gounod) The Choir. Solo by Mrs. Secord.

ert by the Choir Thursday n. General admission 25c.

MEN Crowd The M.C.A. Rotunda

NDAY, MARCH 17. 4.15 p.m. to Hear B. H. McCLAIN, New York, late from the Inad Mesopotamia campaigns

Subject: "Changing Orient" H. J. JONES, Soloist. Healthy Song Service.

Thompson leads the S. S. in Study, Saturday night 7.30 p.m.

NT AVENUE METH- ODIST CHURCH. 7 a.m.—Brotherhood. 10 a.m.—Rev. J. D. Fitzek. Subject, The Cen-

at the Cross. 7.15 p.m.—Sunday School. 8 p.m.—Rev. J. D. Fitzek. Subject, St. Patrick's Morning Service.

lo, selected. them. Come unto me. Evening Music. lo, selected. them. How calmly the (Elgar) loist for the day, Miss Wilson. gantist and Choirmaster, Clifford Higgin.

meets at 2.30 p.m., then pro- to First Baptist Sunday for combined Sunday School

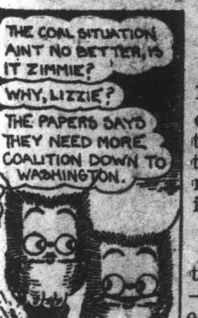
TALKS CAMERON

as talk seems never to enter ada. Patient Waiting for a Chance to Speak.

ten, you understand, I mean more than just keeping still, ing in more than patient wait- the other person to stop so that one may have one's to speak again. Something peptive than watching for a p about what the other per- or waiting for a cue to floor and bring out one's edotes.

are many people in the full no never listen in the full the word. And there are ce of us who only pay that occasionally.

Wise Men Would Listen. That a lot we miss! How we condemn ourselves to nar- dness. Human expe- as to why they that there are the most ignorant man orld could tell the wisest. old listen. And he unques- would, else he would never one the wisest man. us so strange that we should go to talk about our own view, our own experiences, n these are an old story ay aren't we eager to hear story of the other man's e, the other man's point of



PROBS. Toronto, Mar. 18.—Fair weather prevails over the Dominion, attended by quite mild conditions in most districts.

Forecasts Fair and mild to-day, Tuesday Fair and mild.