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SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 17 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,275

RUSSIAN DYNASTY IS AT AN END GRAND DUKE MICHAEL ABDICATES

Emperor Nicholas Officially Renounced the Throne on Behalf of Himself and Heir Apparent, in Favor of Grand Duke Michael, Who Also Abdicated, Thus Bringing Romanoff Dynasty to an End After Three Hundred Years.

DEMOCRACY NOW FOR RUSSIA; GOVERNMENT ISSUES APPEAL

RUSSIA'S NEW CONSTITUTION

London, March 16.—The provisional government in Russia has issued the following appeal to the people, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent:

"Citizens: The executive committee of the duma, with the aid and support of the garrison of the capital and its inhabitants, has succeeded in triumphing over the obnoxious forces of the old regime in such a manner that we are able to proceed to a more stable organization of the executive power, with men whose past political activity assures them the country's confidence."

The names of the members of the new government are then given, and the appeal continues:

"The new government will base its actions on the following principles:

"FIRST—An immediate general amnesty for all political and religious offences, including terrorist acts and military and agrarian offences.

"SECOND—Liberty of speech and of the press; freedom of alliances, unions and strikes, with the extension of these liberties to military officials within the limits admitted by military requirements.

"THIRD—Abolition of all social, religious and national restrictions.

"FOURTH—To proceed forthwith to the preparation and convocation of a constitutional assembly, based on universal suffrage which will establish a governmental regime.

"FIFTH—The substitution of the police by a national militia, with chiefs to be elected and responsible to the government.

"SIXTH—Communal elections to be based on universal suffrage.

"SEVENTH—The troops which participated in the revolutionary movement will not be disbanded, but will remain in Petrograd.

"EIGHTH—While maintaining strict military discipline for troops on active service, it is desirable to abrogate for soldiers all restrictions in the enjoyment of social rights accorded other citizens.

"The provisional government desires to add that it has no intention to profit by the circumstances of the war to delay the realization of the measures of reform above mentioned."

Obnoxious Forces of Old Regime Have Been Overthrown and New Government Will Proceed at Once With Universal Suffrage, Immediate General Amnesty for All, Liberty of Speech and Press, Communal Elections and Vigorous Prosecution of the War.

Petrograd, March 16, via London, March 17.—Emperor Nicholas abdicated at midnight last night on behalf of himself and the heir apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch.

At 2.30 o'clock this afternoon Grand Duke Michael himself abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end. The government, pending a meeting of the constitutional assembly, is vested in the executive committee of the duma and the newly chosen council of ministers. A manifesto to this effect was issued by the duma committee today and it will be telegraphed to the general army headquarters this evening.

PROMPT ORGANIZATION.

London, March 16.—The new provisional government of Russia, according to the latest despatches received here, is proceeding promptly to organize itself on a stable and strongly democratic basis, to reconstitute the governmental departments and to prepare steps for the vigorous carrying on of the war. There is no sign of any serious hindrance to the completion of the work of this extraordinarily swift and successful revolution. A large number of the principal cities of the empire already have notified the executive committee of their acceptance of the new regime, and there is no record thus far of any part of the country withholding consent.

The latest news from Petrograd and despatches to the British Government leave even the whereabouts of the Russian emperor unknown. The latest report is that he is on the way to Tsarskoe Selo Palace.

Prof. Paul N. Milukoff, the foreign minister of the new government, and one of Russia's strongest men, who has surrounded himself with an able cabinet, is said to favor a limited monarchy based on a parliament as the best government for modern Russia.

ITS EFFECT IN GERMANY.

Considerable discussion is indulged in by the press and public here as to the effect the revolution is likely to have in Germany. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Prussian diet on the need to democratize Prussian institutions after the war is regarded here as having been delivered with the knowledge of what was happening in Russia and with the consciousness of the advisability of taking stock of the possible developments in his own country as the result of the overthrow in Petrograd.

ORDER GROWING RAPIDLY.

Russia today appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which, perhaps, any nation was ever confronted. Order is growing with incredible rapidity out of the chaos of the past week, and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of national and municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution. The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts, and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open for official business. The banks, all the commercial and financial houses and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to effect as quick a recovery as possible from the paralysis of the past week. The soldier policemen are guarding the streets in the place of the old gendarmes.

Hundreds of messages have been received from all over the country declaring the allegiance of important cities and fortresses to the new regime. Moscow, Kharkov, Tsaritsyn and Vologda already

FIFTY THOUSAND MEN FOR CANADA'S DEFENCE

Volunteer Force Will Be Enlisted in Connection With Present Militia Regiments and Will Go to Camp in May With Overseas Units.

Ottawa, March 16.—Sir Edward Kemp, minister of militia, announced tonight that fifty thousand men were required for home defence in case of emergency. It will be a volunteer force. The men will be organized and enlisted in connection with the present military regiments. They will be clothed and equipped similarly to the overseas troops, but the latter will wear a distinguishing badge on the arm. Until May the men will train in the evenings, and then they will go to camp along with the overseas units. Pay will be slightly less than for active service.

Sir Edward stated that in event of hostilities between the United States and Germany, there might be trouble along the border, and these home defence troops would be required. The service would be for one year, but if the war lasted longer, until it was over, and for six months afterward if necessary. With regard to the question of national service in connection with necessary industries, the minister said that tribunals would be appointed to decide whether a man who wanted to enlist in the new force could be spared from his civilian duties. Sir Edward gave out the following statement:

Must Hasten Overseas.

"Of the troops which have volunteered for service overseas there still remain in Canada approximately 50,000. It is necessary that the country should not be left without an adequate force for home defence in case of emergency. The prime minister, who has recently visited the front, states that we are entering upon the most critical period of the war."

It is not only the desire of the men who have already enlisted, and who

(Concluded on Page 10, Column 3).

Army and Navy Veterans To Stimulate Recruiting

Ottawa, March 16.—Application will be made to parliament this session for an act incorporating "The Army and Navy Veterans in Canada." The notice of application is dated from Winnipeg.

Among the objects mentioned are "to increase the influence of such veterans, to stimulate patriotism, to promote closer unity of Canada with the mother country, and to assist recruiting."

Premier Borden's Appeal

Ottawa, March 16.—Sir Edward Kemp has received the following cable from Premier Borden in London:

"Upon my visit to the Canadian divisions in France, from which I have just returned, I found their spirit, their physique and their training all that could be desired. Having traversed some of the ground won from the enemy during recent months, I was very proud to know that at Courcellette and elsewhere our troops distinguished themselves by a courage, dash and determination which evoked the highest admiration. Including Railway Construction and Forestry Battalions, the value of whose services cannot be overestimated, Canada now has one hundred and thirty thousand men in France."

"We are entering upon the most critical period of the war, and I voice the feeling at the front when I appeal to Canadians to support with the most earnest efforts the proposals which you are putting forward to partially mobilize the active militia of Canada. Splendid response to these proposals is vitally necessary in order that the full strength of our Dominion, in co-operation with the whole empire, shall be thrown into the struggle with the least possible delay."

"R. L. Borden."

BRITISH OCCUPY WOOD IN FURTHER ADVANCE

Germans Lose Three Thousand Yards More of Trenches, Besides Most of St. Pierre Vaast Forest, Before British Progress North of Somme.

London, March 16.—The British troops in the Somme region of France have occupied almost all of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood and 3,000 yards of German trenches north and south of the wood, according to the British official communication issued this evening.

The communication says:

"Our advance north of the Somme continues. We now hold nearly all of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood and enemy trenches for a thousand yards south and 2,000 yards north of it."

"This morning the enemy attacked one of our posts northeast of the Somme, but was beaten off. We carried out successful raids during the night south of Arras, east of Souchez and east of Vermelles. Our troops inflicted many casualties, bombed several dugouts and secured a few prisoners."

"A number of reconnaissances were carried out successfully yesterday by our aeroplanes. Several flights took place in the air, during which four German machines were destroyed and three others driven down damaged."

German Minister to China Has Been Given Passports

Peking, March 14.—(Wednesday)—The German minister to China, and his staff and also the German consuls in the country were handed their passports at noon today.

A note accompanying the passports explained that the German reply to submarine warfare protest was unsatisfactory. The passports, the note added, were "for protection, while leaving Chinese territory."

FRENCH RAIDS GAIN POSITIONS ON AVRE

Paris Reports Making of Progress at Various Points Near Lassigny.

WIN IN CHAMPAGNE

Surprise Attack East of Butte de Mesnil Succeeds Against Foe.

Paris, March 16.—The French war office communication issued this evening says:

"On both sides of the Avre our detachments made further progress during the day at various points on the front from Andehy to the south of Lassigny. We made prisoners."

"Between Soissons and Rheims a rather spirited artillery action took place in the region of Berry-au-Bac."

"In Champagne we carried out a surprise attack on German trenches to the east of the Butte de Souain. Our destructive fire shattered German organization in Bois le Pretre. Nothing has been reported from the remainder of the front."

"Belgian communication: 'During the day there has been reciprocal cannonading, which was particularly violent to the east of Ramscappelle, to the south of Dixmude and at Steenstraete.'

Shells Sink French Ship Crew Has Been Landed

Queenstown, March 16.—The French ship *Eugenie Peroussin* is reported to have been shelled and sunk. Her crew has been landed.

Food Production in Britain Bigger Problem Than Army

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 16.—Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, said in the commons today that the government regarded food production as of greater importance at the present time than the sending of additional men into the army.

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