

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Moderate winds, mostly northerly, fair and not much change in temperature.

The St. John's Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY MATINEE AND TONIGHT 8:15
"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

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GERMANS FIND VERDUN COULD BE TAKEN HARDER THAN THEY EXPECTED; ARE RUSHING MEN FROM OTHER FRONTS

FRENCH DRIVE ENEMY FROM TRENCHES AT LE MORT HOMME AND IN CAILETTE WOOD

Crown Prince Throwing Forces Brought from Russia, Serbia and Macedonia into Action at Verdun, Where Strong Resistance of Allies Have Upset German Calculations.

ENEMY CLAIMS CAPTURE OF 600 METRES OF BRITISH POSITIONS AROUND YPRES, BUT BRITISH REPORT SAYS TWO CRATERS AND A TRENCH NEAR ST. ELOI ONLY GAINS ENEMY MADE.

Coincident with the arrival of the Russians on the western front comes the statement from Paris that the Germans, owing to the strong resistance of the French at Verdun, are withdrawing large forces from their fronts in Russia, Serbia and Macedonia, and throwing them into this hotly contested theatre.

Here the French, according to the latest official communication, have delivered an attack near Le Mort Homme, northwest of Verdun, and succeeded in driving the Germans out of portions of a trench previously captured by them. The Germans admit the entry by the French of German trenches in the Cailette wood, west of Vaux, after a heavy French attack, but say that otherwise the attack was repulsed with heavy losses.

Around Ypres the Germans, according to Berlin, attacked and occupied a number of British positions. The British official report concedes a German gain here, but says that except for two craters and one trench near St. Eloi, and the Ypres-Langemark road, the Germans were expelled from all the positions they captured.

In Asiatic Turkey the Russians are giving no rest to the Turks. They have now dislodged them from mountain positions south of Bitlis, and pushed forward their forces toward Sighert, which lies ninety miles east of Diarbekr, their objective in the operation which seeks to cut off communication between the northern and southern Turkish armies.

Heavy fighting continues in the Tehoruk region, where the Russians are pressing forward in their attempt to capture Daburt and come into contact with their army now occupying Trebizond.

The usual bombardments are going on along the Austro-Italian front, and the Germans are dumping up their rain of shells on the Russian positions at the Ikskill bridgehead.

Germany's submarine campaign goes on apace, and the British steamer Cairngowan and the British bark Raven Hill have been sunk. The crews of both vessels were landed.

The British cabinet crisis over conscription has been ended by an agreement between the members of the ministry who held divergent views on the subject.

British Statement.

London, April 20.—The British official statement on the campaign in France and Belgium, issued tonight, reports quite heavy fighting around Ypres. The Germans succeeded in penetrating the British line, capturing two craters and one trench. At other points they were repulsed. The statement reads as follows:

"Last night the enemy, after a heavy bombardment attacked our line about Ypres at four points—St. Eloi, the Bluff, Wieille, and on the Ypres-Langemark road.

"His infantry penetrated our line, but has been ejected everywhere except at St. Eloi, where he captured two craters, and on the Ypres-Langemark road, where he retains one trench.

"Near Mametz a hostile raid failed to reach our trenches.

"There has been some mining activity today about the quarry and south of Givenchy-En-Gohelle, in which we had the advantage."

French Report.

Paris, April 20. (11.30 p. m.)—The communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"In the Argonne our artillery commanded the roads of communication behind the enemy front and the Malancourt wood.

"West of the Meuse great artillery activity prevailed in the sectors of Hill 304 and Avocourt. An attack launched by us in the region of Le Mort Homme enabled us to drive the

SECRET SESSION OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Next Tuesday When All Information About Army's Number and Needs Will Be Supplied.

THE LAST SECRET SESSION WAS IN 1878.

Real Crisis Surmounted and Settlement Satisfies all Sections of Opinion Represented in the Government.

London, April 20.—The whole nation was surprised and the great majority of the people were cheered, by the unexpected announcement that the cabinet meeting this morning that the cabinet decided, over the question of extending military conscription had been compromised.

Thus the country is saved from the anxious days it would have suffered until parliament re-assembled on Tuesday, and from the newspaper controversy which would have raged meantime.

The Labor party, which was the only political group united against further measures of compulsion, is credited with paving the way to the agreement. The leader of the Labor party, Arthur Henderson, president of the board of education, proposed, according to the report, a further trial of voluntary enlistment, with the promise that the Laborites would consent to a gradual extension of conscription if it proved necessary in order to secure the number of men which the military authorities consider essential.

The Labor members, together with others demanded that they be informed on the exact position—what number of men had already been enrolled and pledged; how many the war office requires to enlarge the army and replace the wastage by casualties and other causes. Consequently a secret session of both houses will be convened Tuesday, at which the government will supply full information.

All Parties Satisfied.

An official statement tonight declares that the settlement satisfies all sections of opinion represented in the government, and emphasizes that the sole reason for the secret session of parliament is to supply confidential information to the members.

Until Premier Asquith's statement yesterday the public failed to realize that the government was actually on the brink of dissolution, as hostile newspapers have strenuously advertised previous crises, which failed to crystallize. This perilous crisis, which is now surmounted, for the present at least, was not a division on party lines. The Northcliffe press, so-called, supported by the Conservative Morning Post, has attacked the coalition cabinet, and particularly the prime minister, for failure to frame and execute a vigorous war policy, and has demanded general conscription under the watchword "Equality of sacrifice for all."

The Liberal papers, with the Conservative Daily Telegraph, and most of the provincial papers, supported the government.

Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, has strongly supported conscription, but it is believed that he placed the retention of the coalition cabinet above every other consideration in importance.

Some of the newspapers have hinted that Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, secretary of war, and Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. R. Robertson, chief of headquarters staff, threatened to resign unless the government met the war office requirements for troops. But the Nation defies this, and says:

"No pistol has been put at Mr. Asquith's head, save by his own friends," referring chiefly to Mr. Lloyd George.

The King, the prime minister and most of the cabinet members left London this evening to spend the Easter holidays in the country.

A secret session of parliament is almost unprecedented. The last secret session of the House of Commons was held in 1878.

Only the most important officials of

FRANCE DEEPLY MOVED BY COMING OF THE RUSSIANS

ARRIVED ON GREAT FLOTILLA OF TRANSPORTS AND NEWS OF COMING KNOWN TO FEW—WILL FILL GAPS CAUSED BY RECENT FIGHTING—OCCASION OF GREAT DEMONSTRATION IN THEIR HONOR.

Marseilles, April 20, via Paris, April 21.—France's principal seaport was gay with busting today in honor of the arrival of a force of Russian troops—the first manifestation of greater cohesion and unity of the Entente Allies growing out of the resolutions of the Paris conference.

The Associated Press correspondent of the troops, was informed in a high quarter that the arrival of the Russians was chiefly a demonstration of Russia's friendship. The public attached special significance to the event.

It knows that the French army is not short of effective; further it believes that the European war must be decided on the western front, and feels therefore that the Russians have come so that all elements of the Allied hosts may be represented when that decision is reached. Hence the Russians are looked upon as the heralds of happy days of great moment.

This feeling manifested itself in enthusiastic cheering as the drab columns of men filed down the gangways and marched through the city, singing their marching choruses. A Moscow boy of thirteen named Ignatieff, who has been adopted by one of the regiments, was the first person to land. He received an ovation. He has been eight months on the Austrian front.

The Russians are all picked men. Most of them are decorated with the St. George's Cross.

The arrival of the Russian troops is regarded here as an event of great importance, and of significance from both a military and political standpoint. It represents realization of hopes aroused earlier in the war by reports that large bodies of Russians were coming.

The Russians came on a great flotilla of transports. Not a single word of their coming was permitted to become generally known until they actually had concluded the journey, and were landing on French soil.

The Russian forces will be used to fill in gaps on the western front caused by the recent fighting.

The arrival of these soldiers has made a profound impression in France which is deeply moved by this manifestation of Russian good will in the substantial form of their presence.

No exact details are yet available regarding the number of Russians.

Salutes of Cheers From French Soldiers.

General Lochowecy, commanded the Russian forces. He was received with military honors by General Menassier, governor of Marseilles, and General Guerin, representing General Joffre. A notable gathering of Russian and French officials joined in an exchange of salutations, and the Russian and French soldiers let loose salvos of cheers while the cannon roared in an exchange of salutes.

The Russians were given a tremendous ovation as they marched from the quay to the Boulevard Maritime, where flags were flying and vast crowds had assembled. They presented a sturdy appearance as they swung along, waving their hands in answer to the enthusiastic cheering of the populace. The men were marched to a camp which had previously been prepared for their reception, and which contains every convenience for camp life.

One of the happiest greetings they received was the appearance in a daily Russian newspaper, which has been started for their benefit, of the first news that Trebizond had been captured by their brother soldiers in the east. Among other preparations for the Russians is a Russian church, similar to the Orthodox church in Paris.

Throughout the afternoon vast crowds surrounded the camp and kept up a continuous demonstration of enthusiasm.

Under Spanish Flag Financed With American Capital, Spanish Gov't to Guarantee Earnings of 5 per cent.

New York, April 20.—Plans for the organization of a \$20,000,000 corporation to operate the proposed steamship line under the Spanish flag, between Vigo, Spain, and New York, were announced here today by the local Spanish-American Chamber of Commerce, which confirmed recent reports that the Spanish government would, in June, grant executive sanction to the project.

A fleet of eight fast passenger and freight vessels will be operated, according to the plans, and the Spanish government intends to guarantee the corporation earnings of five per cent. It is proposed to have the line financed with American capital, and local financial interests are understood to have expressed confidence in the success of the venture. Pending the construction of vessels of modern type, a provisional service will be established with three steamers and sailing every ten days. No date for the first sailing has been determined.

Wm. Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, who resigned because he thought the President's policy in the Lusitania case was leading to war, came to Washington today. He did not disclose his plans, but said he had come to render any aid possible to prevent trouble between the United States and Germany.

BERLIN HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM WILSON

Chancellor at Army Headquarters Has Not Seen it Yet.

BERNSTORFF CALLS ON SEC. LANSING.

Lansing, However, Refuses to Accept Views of German Ambassador as Official—Wilson Showered with Congratulations.

Bulletin—London, April 21 (3.05 a. m.)—The American note to Germany was handed in at the German foreign office Thursday evening by James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, says the Exchange Telegraph Company's Amsterdam correspondent.

The Chancellor, the correspondent adds, has not yet seen the note, as he is at army headquarters, but he has communicated with the foreign office by telephone.

Washington, April 20.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, called at the state department today, and had a twenty-five minute conference with Secretary of State Lansing regarding the latest phases of the submarine controversy. Mr. Lansing listened with much interest to the suggestions made by Count Von Bernstorff, which he understood the ambassador was ready to make for his own government for its guidance in framing a reply to the American note. The secretary, however, was not disposed to accept the views expressed by the ambassador as being official. He was described authoritatively as having declined to regard them as the ambassador's own opinion and informative of the latter's desire to prevent a break between his country and the United States. The President, having laid the condition that there must be an abandonment of the present submarine methods, Secretary Lansing takes the view that there must be a direct and formal response from the German government itself before there can be discussion of the various phases of the subject, or of any alternative propositions, short of absolute compliance with the American demands.

As a result of his conference Count Von Bernstorff sent another communication to his government this evening. It was made clear at the German embassy later that the ambassador did not expect to call upon Secretary Lansing again until after his government had made formal reply to the American note.

Just how long the United States is willing to wait for the German reply has not been disclosed. All officials agree that "a reasonable time" will be allowed. Press dispatches announcing that the note had arrived in Berlin were read with much interest, but official word of the delivery of the communication was lacking.

Washington was deluged with telegrams during the day. Great numbers which arrived at the White House congratulated President Wilson for his stand. Congressmen representing districts with large German populations received hundreds of messages from individuals and organizations protesting against any action by congress which might lead to war between the United States and Germany.

Senators and members of the house were reluctant to enter into any discussion of the situation. The address read by President Wilson recesses in the respective committees dealing with foreign affairs. It was sent to the committees merely for their information. No formal action on it is possible.

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FOR OTHER FELLOWS TO DO WORRYING, SIR SAM SAYS

Minister Spending Greater Part of His Time on Matters That May Come Before Royal Commission.

Ottawa, April 20.—Major General Sir Sam Hughes left tonight for London to spend Easter with his family, this being the first opportunity of a reunion with them since his return from England. Sir Sam is still attending to the business of his department requiring his immediate attention, but the major portion of his time is being devoted to conferences with his counsel, going over all the details of his connection with any matters which may be investigated by the Royal Commission. Sir Sam still expresses absolute confidence as to the result of the investigation and maintains that "it is the other fellows who need do any worrying."

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HUNDREDS OF DEAD FOUND IN TURK TRENCHES

Following Fighting with British Sunday and Monday on Right Bank of the Tigris.

London, April 20.—The following British communication concerning recent fighting in Mesopotamia was issued this evening:

"Further details of the fighting on the right bank of the Tigris river, April 16-17, previous to the Turkish counter-attacks, show that the enemy left between 200 and 300 dead in the captured trenches and two field guns and five machine guns. Prisoners amounting to 180, including eight officers, also were taken. Our losses were comparatively small.

"An aeroplane reconnaissance after the enemy's counter-attack the night of April 17-18, disclosed the fact that a large number of Turkish ambulances were busy all day removing the wounded."

Turks Say British at Kut-el-Amara in Critical State.

Constantinople, April 20, via London.—The war office announces that the position of the British army which is being besieged at Kut-el-Amara is becoming very critical, and that the British commander has ordered the civil population to evacuate the town on account of the scarcity of food.

The statement follows:

"Mesopotamian front: There are no new developments. The position of the enemy invested at Kut-el-Amara is becoming very critical. The hostile commander, in order to avoid difficulties in connection with the food supply, recently ordered the population to evacuate the town and has been expecting aeroplanes to drop small bags of food in the town."

Gold Strike Near Sturgeon.

Fort William, Ont., April 20.—According to authentic reports there has been another mild strike made in the Canadian Government Railway west of here near Sturgeon, and the utmost secrecy is being maintained regarding it. For some time there has been a quiet influx of prospectors into the district, and yesterday saw the arrival here of four Buffalo men whose intentions are to make a prospecting trip along the line of the railway.

SAY TURKEY ASKING PEACE

Making Overtures to Russia—Meanwhile Czar's Forces Sweep Towards Biahurt and Erzincan.

Petrograd, April 20, via London.—The fall of Trebizond has given rise to a fresh crop of rumors that Turkey is approaching Russia with peace overtures, but it is authoritatively stated in official circles that no such proposals will be considered for a moment by the Russian government.

Vowing a conviction that Turkey is a defeated nation, and not in a position to make any terms, the Petrograd Gazette declares:

"We may now consider one of our enemies finished. The taking of Trebizond has so disorganized the Turkish defensive plans that all that remains for her is to lay down her arms and ask mercy. She already has sought ways to a separate peace, but has met with the absolute refusal of her opponent, who is determined to close no separate agreements. Turkey's hour has struck, and it is not probable that she will, in the near future, entirely disappear from the map."

No longer impeded by Turkish pressure on the coast, the Russian armies west of Erzerum have begun a swift advance on Biahurt and Erzincan. With three groups of Russian armies from the Black Sea to Bithia in close co-operation the westward campaign through Asia Minor is expected to develop rapidly.

PRINCETON CREW WINS.

Princeton, April 20.—Princeton's varsity crew defeated Harvard's eight on Lake Carnegie late today by about a half foot. The junior varsity race was won by Harvard by two lengths.