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VOL XXXVII.—No. 13,293

The Toronto World

ALLIES BREAK INTO HIDDENBURG LINE

U.S. Prepares for Aggressive Action Against Germany

BRITISH ADVANCE IN ARRAS REGION

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PARIS, April 3.—A series of powerfully organized points of support held by large German forces and about eight miles in extent have been captured by the French to the south of St. Quentin. Various villages and heights fell into the hands of the French.

The official communication from the war office, announcing this latest successful operation, reports that the Town of Rheims has been violently bombarded by the Germans, more than 2000 shells having been thrown into it, resulting in some casualties to the civilian population. The text of the statement reads:

"East and west of the Somme, after violent artillery preparation, our troops attacked an enemy position, which extended north of the line of Castres, Esigny and Benay, from l'Épine de Dallon as far as the Oise. Notwithstanding the stubborn resistance of the enemy our troops everywhere reached their objective and occupied on a front of about 12 kilometers a series of points of support, solidly organized and held by large forces. L'Épine de Dallon and the villages of Dallon, Giffecourt and Cerisy and several heights south of Urvillers are in our power.

Gain South of Ailette. South of the Ailette River we continued to progress in the region of Laffaux, the southern and northeastern outskirts of which we hold. Our troops likewise captured Vauverny and have taken foot on the ridge north of that hamlet. Our batteries took under their fire a German column marching in the direction of Laffaux mill.

The enemy violently bombarded the Town of Rheims, into which more than 2000 shells were fired. Several of the civilian population were killed. "The cannonade was intermittent on the rest of the front."

WASHINGTON, April 3.—War plans—military, economic and financial—for aggressive hostilities against Germany were rushed forward today by the administrative branch of the government, and only await action by congress on a war resolution to be put into execution.

Enactment of the resolution not later than Thursday was confidently forecast at the capitol after a delay of 24 hours had been caused in the senate by Senator La Follette's objection to its immediate consideration. Debate will begin in both houses tomorrow, with action before adjournment probable. Sentiment in favor of the resolution is almost unanimous, and the only question is how much time shall be devoted to speechmaking.

President Wilson and his cabinet went over the war plans at a two-hour session, and previously the national defence council with its civilian advisory commission and several subsidiary organizations developed policies and details of momentous consequence to the nation. Meanwhile the war and navy departments were going ahead with the most immediate preparations for defence.

Already the navy has taken steps to ensure co-operation between the American fleet and those of the entente allies, to become effective upon the formal entry of the United States into the war. The most important plans under preparation by the administration include:

Selective Conscription. Enlistment by selective conscription of young men for a national army, in addition to the regular establishment and national guard, in increments of 500,000 until enough have been trained to make certain the defeat of Germany.

Organization of the nation's commercial interests for economical and effective distribution of commodities among the civilian population; Rapid provision of adequate means of combating the submarine menace; The raising of a very large sum of money as much as possible to be obtained by taxation, and the definite amount of the first budget not to be fixed until the exact needs of the army and navy of the entente allies are ascertained.

purchase of supplies and equipment of all kinds for the army under a provision of law which allows the secretary of war to fix a "reasonable" price; and Division of the young men of the country into service classes, those needed more in industries than in the army or navy to receive insignia showing they are performing duty equivalent to fighting.

Will Hurry Legislation. Most of these plans will require the authorization of congress, but front opinions expressed at the capitol it is believed that once the war resolution is adopted further legislation to empower the executive branch to go full speed ahead will follow quickly. There is every indication that the nation, thru its representatives, will follow out President Wilson's words to congress and "exert all its powers and employ all its resources to bring the government of the German Empire to terms and end the war."

The council of national defence, composed of Secretaries Baker, Lane, Daniels, Wilson, Houston, and Redfield, following a conference with its advisory commission, decided to name soon a commercial economy board to organize the commercial interests of the nation for effective distribution of all necessary commodities among the people generally. Its aim will be to deal ahead of time with problems of wartime distribution.

To Raise War Sins. In line with the president's suggestion to congress in his address that the present generation bear as much of the financial burden as possible, the ways of providing money under consideration today included increasing the excess profits tax, lowering the minimum for exemptions and increasing the super-tax under the income tax law, increasing internal revenue taxes on small articles and placing stamp taxes on some articles not now included. The general idea is to place taxation most heavily on those best able to pay.

It is realized, however, that some of the necessary funds will have to be raised by bond issues in the form of popular subscription loans. It was estimated by one cabinet member that \$10,000,000,000 in small interest loans can be raised quickly in the U. S. Opposition has developed to the guaranteeing of foreign bond issues, but it appeared probable that the U. S., having raised money in this country, would purchase the bonds of one or more of the entente allies at low rates of interest and in that way furnish them with ample capital with which to further their own war plans.

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"What will Edison do?" "What unexpected discovery will he offer to his country?" are questions that are being asked by the French people in view of the prospect of the United States joining the entente. The greatest curiosity is being manifested in possible new war inventions. Polish Prospects Brightened By Entry of U. S. into War. Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 3.—Roman Dmowski, leader of the Poles and a former member of the Russian duma, in a statement today concerning President Wilson's address to congress said: "From the Polish standpoint the participation of the United States in the war is most desirable. We are sure of our rights and of our duty to civilization as well as more than the public here expected. Despatches from America in the past month had represented the president as so reluctant to enter the war that recommendations to congress limited to defensive measures for the protection of American commerce would have fulfilled the general expectations. That the Russian revolution did much to pave the way for American co-operation with Germany's opponents and made President Wilson's policy possible as one of the most important of the situation which the newspapers seize on. Blame German People. The only feature of President Wilson's message which evokes dissent is his accusation of the German people from responsibility for the policies of the German Government. Liberal papers, like The Daily Chronicle, contend that the German people have supported with apparent enthusiasm such proceedings as have been going on in Belgium and have demanded its annexation. That the press regards the entry of America as one of the most important events of the war is shown in the (Concluded on Page 11, Column 4).

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DINEEN'S FIRE SALE. Another big day for the Dineen Fire Sale opens at 10 o'clock. This sale is drawing to a close, as workmen are already encroaching upon the salesrooms in making necessary repairs and alterations to the building. The bargain offerings are referred to in an advertisement on page two of this morning's World. Visit the store early. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

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