

The Evening Times & Star

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French, Driving On, Face the Last Great Barrier Between Them and Laon

Southern Wing of German Army Slowly Recoiling Before Nivelles Onslaughts—Enemy Still Fighting Desperately Around St. Quentin

The southern wing of the retreating German army is slowly recoiling along a ten mile front under the furious onslaughts of the French. The first section of the great Coucy-St. Gobain forests has been completely cleared of the invaders and General Nivelles' troops are now face to face with the last formidable natural barrier which lies between them and Laon—the plateau of St. Gobain.

This densely wooded plateau lies between the Oise and the Ailette and is about 10,000 acres in extent, rising from about eighty to 200 feet in height. No railways or highroads traverse it, but an important railroad sweeps around its southern border and runs north to Chauny. This road is in the hands of the French up to within about three miles of Asly, which is ten miles west of Laon. To the north the French are about two miles from the town of St. Gobain, centre of the most famous glass factories in Europe. St. Gobain is thirteen miles northwest of Laon.

No change has taken place in the neighborhood of St. Quentin, where the Germans are still making desperate efforts to wrest from the French the Esigoye Battery plateau, undisputed possession of which will, according to military critics, render the fall of the city inevitable.

Further north the British have made some slight progress, but no material change in the situation has taken place. Bad weather is reported to be seriously interfering with operations on this portion of the front.

Spontaneous fighting has occurred in several of the other war theatres, but nothing to indicate the commencement of major operations.

RUSSIA HEARS CALMLY OF RUMORED GERMAN PETROGRAD CAMPAIGN

London, March 27.—The Times' Riga correspondent, writing from his post in that region, says: "I am grieved to state that the Jews are not behaving well. They have become citizens of free Russia, but they do not display a sense of responsibility befitting their new position. The declaration, which is signed by half a dozen locally prominent names, favors a vigorous prosecution of the war, leaving the demands of the social democracy in abeyance until the country is safe from the danger of a return of the monarchy."

DEATHS IN MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF I. C. R. ASSOCIATION

- Moncton, March 28.—The secretary of the Canadian Government Railway Employees Relief and Insurance Association submits the following report for the month ended March 26:— Alex. Gordon Pratt, B. M. helper, Campbellton, killed in war; insured for \$250. Edward B. Bernard, freight checker, Newcastle, killed in war, \$1,000. Gordon Manning, night foreman, St. John, killed in war, \$250. Arthur C. Major, clerk, Lewis, killed in war, \$250. John Hackett, retired employe, Moncton, Bright's disease, \$250. Nell McNeil, clerk, Sydney, apoplexy, \$250. Gordon H. Doak, brakeman, Moncton, accident, \$250. John Wesley Lutes, agent, Newcastle, organic heart disease, \$250. Levi David Cormier, machinist, Moncton, operation, \$1,000. Ralph Gammon, truckman, Moncton, tuberculosis of throat, \$250. John C. McQuarrie, retired employe, Sydney, valvular heart disease, \$250. Leslie Roy Steamman, brakeman, Moncton, accident, \$250. Joseph Roy, agent, River Du Loup, acute indigestion, \$250. Giles Lelacheur, retired member, Moncton, total disability, \$250. F. X. Anctil, retired member, Campbellton, total disability, \$1,000. Joseph Demour, retired member, total disability, \$1,000. The death of Mrs. A. S. Murray occurred in the City Hospital on Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock. She leaves a child only seven days old, besides her husband, also father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McKinnon, Moncton, and the half-brother, William A. of Moncton, and two half sisters, Mrs. F. Goldweight and Augusta of Haverhill, Mass.

Unique in Germany Berlin, March 28.—For the first time in the history of the Reichstag, a woman is to appear before the committee as a representative of the government. Miss Edite Luidl will present her views to the ministry of war regarding the protection of female labor in munition factories.

RUSSIAN ARMY TO FIGHT ALONG

Officers and Men For Carrying on the War

DUMA DELEGATES RETURN

Some Democrats at Home Also Favor Vigorous Prosecution of War—Jewish Students Reported to be Making Some Trouble

London, March 28.—Several Duma deputies, who have been to the front, have returned to Petrograd, says a Reuters' dispatch, convinced from their conversations with officers and soldiers that the spirit of the army is excellent. They report that all those with whom they spoke were fully aware of the absolute necessity of continuing the war.

General Ruskay, in a conversation with President Rodzanko, declared that perfect order prevailed on the northern front, and that the army was in excellent spirits.

First Win the War Petrograd, March 28.—A group of Social Democrats has put out a declaration which, as far as can be determined, fairly represents the attitude of the majority of that party toward the government. The declaration, which is signed by half a dozen locally prominent names, favors a vigorous prosecution of the war, leaving the demands of the social democracy in abeyance until the country is safe from the danger of a return of the monarchy.

Young Jews Make Trouble London, March 27.—The Times' Riga correspondent, writing from his post in that region, says: "I am grieved to state that the Jews are not behaving well. They have become citizens of free Russia, but they do not display a sense of responsibility befitting their new position. The declaration, which is signed by half a dozen locally prominent names, favors a vigorous prosecution of the war, leaving the demands of the social democracy in abeyance until the country is safe from the danger of a return of the monarchy."

Armed Forces in Petrograd London, March 27.—The Times' Riga correspondent, writing from his post in that region, says: "I am grieved to state that the Jews are not behaving well. They have become citizens of free Russia, but they do not display a sense of responsibility befitting their new position. The declaration, which is signed by half a dozen locally prominent names, favors a vigorous prosecution of the war, leaving the demands of the social democracy in abeyance until the country is safe from the danger of a return of the monarchy."

Regiments of Revolution London, March 28.—An army consisting of several corps is being created in Petrograd from regiments in the Petrograd district, which were organized by the revolution, says Reuters' Petrograd correspondent. The army will be given a designation of measures to discourage the activities of these regiments in the revolution.

EVEN COUNTRY PEOPLE IN BAVARIA HAVE NOT SUFFICIENCY OF FOOD

Conditions in Germany Grow Worse—All Coal Miners at Penzberg on Strike

Berlin, via Paris, March 28.—Advices from Munich say that after having failed to induce the imperial authorities to increase the regular allotment of food so as to make provision for the customary spring and summer visitors who swarm to the numerous Bavarian resorts, the Bavarian officials have had to take energetic measures to discourage every possible visit of tourists from other parts of Germany.

The restrictions will be extended to the newest war product, the city dweller who visits the country regularly for the purpose of purchasing at any price the food he cannot get in his home town. The food in Bavaria already is so scarce that even the local country population has not sufficient.

The entire personnel of the coal mines at Penzberg, Upper Bavaria, is on strike, according to the Munich post, because the men were insufficiently fed. The authorities are negotiating with them and at the same time trying to better their conditions.

CHATHAM MAY GET IT

That the town of Chatham is likely to be the headquarters for the newly authorized forestry company to be raised and commanded by Major Lionel Hannington was the opinion of military men this morning. When the forestry company under the command of Major H. S. Hannington, Chatham, was mentioned as headquarters, but it was later changed to Sussex.

Major Kirkpatrick, a former company commander in the 14th Battalion, and of late assisting in recruiting work throughout the province, is likely to receive the second in command of Major Hannington's new unit.

The Kirkpatrick has had quite a lot of military experience and although his accepting the position as second in command of the forestry unit would necessitate his being reduced in rank, yet his experience in military work would be of great benefit to the new unit. Retaining his rank might be possible.

GERMAN THREAT AGAINST ITALY

Believed That Predicted Great Offensive Will be Tried With Hope of Striking France From New Quarter

Rome, via Paris, March 28.—The predicted great offensive against Italy by the central powers continues to be the chief topic of discussion in military and political circles.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is credited with aiming at an invasion of France, across a possible Italy.

In this connection General Di Rossi, commander of the Montenegrin troops serving with the Italian army, writes: "A terrible and desperate attack is in preparation against our lines. Every moment is being used to intimidate us by threatening Italy with the fate of Roumania and Serbia."

ENGLAND WANTS THOUSANDS OF SKILLED FARMERS

Task of Making Every Available Foot of Soil Produce its Maximum of Food

London, March 28.—Five thousand skilled American farmers on English soil would go a long way toward countering Germany's plan to starve us into submission through her submarines," Sir Arthur Lee, head of the newly-formed food production department said to the Associated Press correspondent.

"I told you recently," Sir Arthur continued, "that we intended to bring from America some 3,000 tractor ploughs for night ploughing. We need the skilled American farmers to supplement them."

Sir Arthur Lee is British military attaché with the United States army during the Spanish-American war and later military attaché at the British embassy in Washington. He has seen service in the present war. His present post is an outgrowth of the intensified submarine warfare begun on February 1. Sir Arthur is charged with the gigantic task of making every available foot of soil produce its maximum amount of food.

"I hope that we may be able to attract to these shores at least 5,000 skilled farmers from the United States," he said. "We will, of course, give them skilled agricultural help from Canada—already being benefited to some extent by the labor of Canadian farmers who have come over to fight for us. But we cannot have too many. Skilled farm labor is our crying need at this moment."

FRENCH TO BRING OUT FACTS OF SAVAGERY IN RETREAT OF TEUTONS

Paris, March 28.—General Nivelles, secretary for war, has appointed a commission of officers to report on the devastation caused by the Germans in the evacuated portions of France.

The commission is instructed "to inquire into and draw up detailed reports, with proofs attached, of all acts of barbarity and devastation committed without any military necessity and with the sole object of ruining one of the richest regions of France."

N. H. GIRLS HAVE A PLAN OF CANNING PREPAREDNESS

Manchester, N. H., March 28.—Hillsborough county school girls are enlisting in the war effort by canning vegetables and are going a step further. They are planning not only to raise and can vegetables for home consumption, but also to can any excess as a preparedness measure against the possibility of a shortage of home-garden canned goods next winter.

Home garden cabbages and canning clubs already have been formed in seven towns and others are being organized. The work is being directed by the Hillsborough county farm bureau, and assisted by Agent F. L. Ballard, and Miss Beulah Hayward of Durham in the extension work.

WEATHER REPORT

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

Synopsis—The depression which was over Georgian Bay yesterday, now covers the St. Lawrence Valley, causing strong winds, gales and showery conditions in Quebec and the maritime provinces. In Ontario the weather has cleared and become cool.

Ottawa, Valley—Strong westerly winds, generally fair and cool. Thursday, fair with stationary or a little higher temperature. Fair and cool. Maritime—Strong winds and moderate gales, south to west; showery at first, then clearing. Thursday, fresh to strong westerly winds, fair and cool. New England—Fair tonight. Thursday, fair, warmer in Connecticut and western Massachusetts; strong westerly southwest winds.

Cut Coal Price Fifty Cents

Philadelphia and Reading Company Announces Reduction—Believed Others Will Follow Lead

New York, March 28.—The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company today announced a reduction of fifty cents a ton in the price of coal, to become effective on April 2. The reduction applies only to stove, egg and nut sizes.

According to custom, ten cents a ton will be added to the prices of these sizes each month until September 1. Coal dealers say they believe all the producing companies will follow the lead of the Philadelphia and Reading, notwithstanding earlier prediction that, on account of unusual conditions this spring, the customary reductions would not be made.

PROFESSOR SMITH OF MOUNT ALLISON DIED THIS MORNING

For Many Years Professor of Classics—Prolonged Student and Man of High Literary Attainment

This morning at his home in Seckville, N. B., Dr. Alfred D. Smith, professor of classics of the University of Mount Allison, passed away. Professor Smith is well known in the city of St. John by professional men. Speaking of him to a Times' reporter this morning, H. A. Powell, K.C., who was a close friend of the professor, said:

"In the death of Professor Smith the maritime provinces have lost its most widely read and learned classical scholar. Sidney Smith called Macaulay a 'book in lace,' and Professor Smith was a walking encyclopedia. He was a man who delved deep into almost every branch of knowledge and had supplied himself with its riches stores. He was not a mere book-worm, as he had opinions and strong opinions on almost every subject."

"Unfortunately, Dr. Smith has left no great monument of the erudition of his great ability beyond that in the minds of those who had the privilege of attending his lectures at college.

"Unobtrusive and unostentatious," continued Mr. Powell, "his life was very simple. He loved his home and his library, and to be there or at his beautiful tables was one of the delights of his life. He was one of the wittiest men and could summon from his vast stores of knowledge facts and make interesting any subject that he discussed. During the last twenty-five years it is estimated that he has given more than 100 lectures at the University of Mount Allison, in which he lived. On account of his peculiarities he was not popular outside of the college walls, but the many students who attended Mount Allison all regard him as the most learned man with whom they ever came in contact."

"Association with him was itself the greatest of educational influences. I think I will be talking for thousands of young men, now occupying prominent positions in Canada, when I say that they were more to Dr. Smith, in the way of their mental development, especially along literary lines, than to any other influence," said Mr. Powell. "Often I have thought as I have come in contact with men of reputation as scholars and thinkers in other lands, how far below Dr. Smith were they all in scholarship and literary attainment."

Dr. Smith was born in one of the islands of the West Indies about seventy years ago. This also gave birth to Alexander Hamilton, probably the greatest of American statesmen. He spent a portion of his boyhood in Newfoundland and received his college education at Mount Allison University. He became professor of classics there about 1871, which position he filled until the time of his death.

Unfortunately, Dr. Smith did not take to authorship and has left little in the way of literary contribution for the benefit of his country.

His wife was an aunt of George Henderson, police clerk of this city. He had three children, one a daughter who died early in womanhood, and two sons, one who is now manager of the Royal Bank of Canada at Dorchester, and the other, a commercial traveler. Thousands of students who have attended Mount Allison University will learn with sorrow of his death. Among the prominent New Brunswick men who were well acquainted with Professor Smith and who attended his lectures were Judge Willie Judge McKeown, H. A. Powell, M. G. Teed, Judge Jonah, Judge Wells and Rev. G. M. Campbell.

IS LIKELY TO SEEK VOLUNTARY INTERNMENT

San Francisco, March 28.—Federal authorities said today it was probable that Lieut. Wilhelm Von Brincken, German consular attaché, who was convicted several weeks ago, together with Franz Bopp, former German consul-general here, and others, of violating American neutrality would seek voluntary internment. It is said that Von Brincken had been notified that his bonds of \$25,000 were to be recalled by the bonding company.

RECOVERING

William Hogan, who was kicked by a horse yesterday afternoon, is much improved at the hospital today. He received a nasty gash in the leg.

WAR PRISONERS

London, March 28.—(New York Sun cable.)—Great Britain holds more than 71,000 prisoners of war, of whom 35,379 are Germans, while Germany has 32,500 British war prisoners. Very few Britons are held as prisoners outside of Germany.

Proposals for exchanges of prisoners have been considerably advanced with Turkey, but Germany and Austria-Hungary have not replied to the British suggestions.

Are We To Hear New Peace Suggestions?

London, March 28.—(New York cable.)—A despatch to the Morning Post from Amsterdam, says: "In Berlin public circles great importance is attached to a visit by the Austrian foreign minister to the German capital, which coincides with a visit by Enver Pasha, Turkish minister for war, who arrived on Sunday evening. It is persistently rumored in some circles that these visits are associated with new peace suggestions."

RAIN STORM NOT HEAVY ENOUGH TO CLEAN STREETS

Men of Water Works Department Had Hopes It Would Continue—Commissioner Fisher Gives Three Reasons for His Stand on Hose Matter—Break in Lancaster Stop Cock

The officials of the street department were in a class by themselves this morning when they noted with regret that the rain which was forecast for the day had not materialized. Commissioner Fisher said that the driving rain he had anticipated had not come, and that the street department was disappointed. He said that the street department was disappointed because the rain was not heavy enough to clean the streets. He said that the street department was disappointed because the rain was not heavy enough to clean the streets. He said that the street department was disappointed because the rain was not heavy enough to clean the streets.