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 VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,278

TUESDAY MORNING MARCH 20 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

SIXTY MORE VILLAGES ARE TAKEN IN BIG ADVANCE

Further Gains Made by British and French, Who Continue Relentless Pursuit of the Enemy—British Advance Another Eight Miles, Taking 40 Villages, While French Gain Ten Miles and Take 20 More Villages, With Important Town of Ham.

NEXT STAND IS COMING NEAR ROAD TO CAMBRAI

Germans Have Fallen Back Behind Handecourt, South-east of Arras, and Only Two Miles From Main Road to That Town, Which Will Be Attacked.

(Special Cable to The Toronto World.)
 LONDON, March 19.—On a front extending between Arras and the River Aisne, the Anglo-French forces swept forward in pursuit of the Germans today and occupied sixty more villages as well as the important railway junction of Ham, southeast of Peronne.

The allied aeroplanes swept on ahead of their advancing forces of cavalry and infantry. British horsemen, out in force and eager to display their mettle against Uhlans and infantry that protected the retreat of the Germans, dashed themselves with great ardor on the retreating waves of the foe and everywhere broke up the German formations. In some villages, the enemy waited for a fight, in other places he fled at the allies' approach.

Pillage and Incendiarism.
 The Germans are depending on villages for the chief protection of their rearwards. These rearwards combine the trade of the soldier with that of the pillager and the incendiary, and in villages where the flames fall to complete their work, it is found that the German pillager has destroyed things almost as effectively as the flames.

The British advanced over a belt of territory having a maximum breadth of eight miles, and the French advanced over another belt of a maximum breadth of ten miles. The British have now thrown their lines well across the railway between Arras and Bapaume, showing that the enemy has retired a considerable distance east of that line. The French are moving forward in crescent shape, with their cavalry well ahead forward on the horns.

A sharp lookout is being maintained by the allies for any German counter-move and their aeroplanes are flying far afield. Great congestion still appears in the German lines and the enemy is destroying great quantities of war material.

According to Reuters' British headquarters correspondent, the British advance has reached a line east of Bapaume, extending from Vaulx-Vraucourt, four miles northeast of Bapaume, to Ypres, six miles east-southeast of Bapaume.

The correspondent, describing the vagaries of the German retreat, says:
 "Sometimes the British find villages held by rear-guard forces; sometimes the enemy has completely disappeared. For instance, after the occupation of Peronne, a patrol passed forward two miles to the north-east without getting into touch with the enemy. In another case a patrol crossed the Somme by a partly damaged bridge and hurried into a village a mile away, only to discover it empty."

Can Soon Repair Roads
 "Perhaps the most striking feature of the situation is the fact that our patrols got astride the railway between Arras and Bapaume in various places between the two towns without encountering any resistance. While this does not prove that we possess undisputed use of these routes, it proves that the Germans are back behind them. They have greatly damaged both the railway and the roads, but the British can soon repair them and restore communication.

"It is an interesting fact that the British are now holding practically the line which Joffre chose for an attempt to make a stand during the great retreat, but was unable to hold under the great pressure of the Germans."

"Between Beugny and Ypres, a seven mile line, run-

RUSSIA SOON TO HAVE WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY

Manifesto Declares Government Will Strain Every Effort to Bring the War to Victorious Conclusion—Liberty on Broad Scale Soon.

London, March 19.—The following manifesto has been issued by the Russian provisional government to the nation, according to Reuters' Petrograd correspondent:
 "Citizens: The great work has been accomplished. By a powerful stroke the old regime has been overthrown. A new Russia is born after long years of struggle. This coup d'etat has set the keystone upon long years of struggle.
 "Under pressure of awakened national forces, the act of October 20, 1905, promised Russia constitutional liberties which were never put into execution. The first duma, the mouthpiece of national wishes, was dissolved. The second duma met the same fate and the government, being powerless to crush the national will, decided by the act of June 16, 1907, to deprive the people of part of the legislative rights promised them.
 "During the ensuing 10 years the government successively withdrew from the people all the rights they had won. The country was again thrown into the abyss of absolute ruin and administrative arbitrariness. All attempts to make the voice of reason heard were in vain, and the great world struggle into which the coun-

UNITED STATES IS IN VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR

Wilson Expected to Make Announcement Within Forty-Eight Hours.

TENSION IS EXTREME
 Confirmation of Reported Loss of American Sailors Adds to Gravity.

Washington, March 19.—President Wilson is expected within the next 48 hours to indicate definitely that he believes a virtual state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

News received from Plymouth that 15 men, some of them Americans, had been drowned when the American merchantman Vigilantia was sunk without warning by a German submarine, added, if possible, to the already grave view of the situation held here as a result of the destruction of the Vigilantia, the Illinois and the City of Memphis.

LATE NEWS BULLETINS

Gen. Maude Takes Bahriz and Bakubah

London, March 19.—The following official statement was issued tonight:
 "During Saturday night Gen. Maude's troops effected a crossing of the Diale River and occupied the village of Bahriz and a part of the town of Bakubah, on the left bank of the river. The enemy retired hastily toward Khanakin.
 "Bakubah is a prosperous town, spread over a considerable extent on the river bank and is a good supply centre. The inhabitants are friendly and ready to trade."

Threats Against Montreal Conscriptists

Montreal, March 19.—Z. Hebert, president of the Montreal Board of Trade, received an anonymous letter today threatening that unless he called another meeting of the board of trade and had its recent resolution in favor of compulsory service rescinded he would be assassinated.

Big Interests Back Wilson

New York, March 19.—Directors of the National Safety Council, representing 2800 firms and corporations throughout the country, today pledged their support to the president in the present international crisis. An appeal, it was said, would be made direct to 3,000,000 workmen employed by the council's members to do likewise.

Grand Duke Not to Command

London, March 19.—Grand Duke Nicholas will not, after all, be commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, according to the Petrograd correspondent of The Times, the new government having found it necessary, in order to checkmate the mischievous propaganda, to appoint a generalissimo not connected with the Romanoff family.

RELIEF STEAMER'S SAILORS MURDERED

Submarine Shells Lifeboat and Kills Three Mates and Five Sailors.

STEAMER GETS AWAY

Selien, Dutch Vessel, Puts on Full Speed After Brutal Attack.

AMERICANS LOST WITH VIGILANCIA

Fifteen Members of Crew Victims of German Submarine's Attack

NO WARNING GIVEN

Captain Says the Ship Sank in Ten Minutes After Being Struck.

London, March 19.—A boat containing the first, second and third mates and five seamen of the Dutch steamer Selien (Selene), chartered by the Belgian relief commission, has been shelled by a submarine and all the occupants killed, according to a Reuters despatch from Stavanger.

"The Dutch steamer," says the despatch, "has reached here (Stavanger, Norway), bound for New York in ballast. She left Rotterdam on Saturday bearing the usual designations of the Belgian relief committee, and was attacked at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon by a German submarine. The Dutch Selien did not stop, but, after some shots, lowered a lifeboat, in which the first, second and third mates and five seamen embarked. The boat was then struck by a shell and all eight were killed.
 "The Selien put on full speed and the submarine disappeared."

HAD BIG HOPES FROM ASSAULT UPON STRAITS

Greece Offered Britain Three Divisions to Attack Dardanelles.

DIPLOMATS DECEIVED

Sir Arthur Paget Thought Bulgaria Would Move Against Turkey.

London, March 19.—In anticipation of speeches by former Premier Asquith and Winston Spencer Churchill, former first lord of the admiralty, in the house of commons tomorrow on the Dardanelles campaign, the government tonight issued a white paper to parliament containing in its own words "certain notes which so far as the public interest will allow, will replace the sense of some portions excised from the full report of the Dardanelles commission."

The chief effect of the revelations is to show that Mr. Churchill at the end of August, 1914, being of the opinion that Turkey was about to join the central powers, proposed a plan for the seizure of the Gallipoli Peninsula "by means of a Greek army of adequate strength," with a view to admitting the British fleet to the Sea of Marmora.

Difficult Operation.
 Gen. Charles E. Callwell, director of military operations at the war office, pointed out that this would prove an extremely difficult operation, and that it would not be justifiable to undertake it with an army of less than 60,000. It is also shown that the admiralty officials believed the appearance of a British fleet would be the signal for a revolution in Constantinople, and that the Dardanelles forts were short of ammunition.

On March 1, 1915, the British minister at Athens telegraphed that M. Venizelos, then Greek premier, proposed to offer the co-operation of a Greek army corps of three divisions. The British minister the following day added that the King of Greece already had been sounded on this proposal and that he had heard the king wanted "war."

Thought Bulgaria Friendly.
 On March 17 Gen. Sir Arthur Paget, who was engaged on a special mission in the Balkans, sent a telegram to Earl Kitchener, secretary for war, as follows:
 "The operations against the Dardanelles have made a deep impression. All possibility of Bulgaria attacking the Balkan states is now over, and there is some reason to think that the Bulgarian army will move against Turkey to keep in the Dardanelles operations."

NEW FRENCH CABINET IS FORMED BY RIBOT

Paul Painleve is Minister of War Under Reconstructed Administration.

Paris, March 19.—Alexandre Ribot has formed the following cabinet: Ribot, minister of foreign affairs; Alexandre Ribot, minister of interior; Louis J. Malvy, finance; Joseph Thierry, public instruction; Jules Steeg, public works; Georges Desplas, commerce; Etienne Clementel, agriculture; Fernand David, agriculture; Maurice Violette, labor; Leon Bourgeois, colonies; Andre Maginot, under secretary of aviation; Daniel Vincent.

New Instructions Regarding Letters Sent to Soldiers

Canadian Associated Press Cable.
 London, March 19.—In view of the great importance of preventing information concerning embarkation of troops becoming generally known, letters for officers and men must be addressed to last station in the United Kingdom of their unit. Any letters contravening this will be treated as undeliverable. Incidentally, it should be noted there is a chronic and doubtless unavoidable delay in delivery of mails, some letters posted in Toronto, Feb. 14, only reaching here tonight along with others mailed 12 days later.

DINEEN'S FIRE SALE.

Dineen's store will be closed today and the fire sale will be resumed at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.
 The sale, so far, has only been from our displayed stock. The contents of the Dineen workrooms, and the furniture in storage that have not been touched directly by flame or heat, are yet to be disposed of at the same liberal reductions—at prices representing only a fraction of their actual cost.
 The bargains displayed on Wednesday will convey a visit to Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

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