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WEATHER—FAIR.

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THE BRITISH CAPTURE LIGNY AND MAKE FURTHER SUCCESSES

ADDITIONAL PROGRESS MADE BY BRITISH

In the Ancre District, Village of Ligny, South-west of Bapaume, Has Been Occupied.

London, Feb. 27.—Additional progress has been made by the British forces north and south of the Ancre region, in France, and also to the south of Lens. In the Ancre district the village of Ligny, south-west of Bapaume, has been occupied, and north of Stream the western and northern defenses of Puisseux have been taken from the Germans, according to the British official communication, issued tonight. The communication says:

"We have made further progress north and south of the Ancre. During the night we captured the village of Lebarque. Today we have occupied Ligny and established ourselves in the western and northern defenses of Puisseux.

Enemy Raided.

"We raided the enemy's positions this morning southward of Lens, and destroyed a number of dugouts and machine gun emplacements and took a few prisoners. Another successful raid was carried out by our troops during the night east of Armentieres on a front of a half mile. Three lines of hostile trenches were entered and considerable damage was done to the enemy's defenses. We captured seven prisoners and brought back searchlights and a machine gun.

"Artillery activity has continued on both sides north and south of the Somme."

French Statement.

Paris, Feb. 27.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"During the course of the day quite spirited artillery fighting took place in the sectors of L'Eschelle-Staurin and Beauvaines (south of the Ancre) and in the Argonne, in the direction of Vouziers.

"In the region of Vailly an enemy surprise attack failed. We effectively shelled German organizations in the Maincourt Wood and the sector of Hill 304. In the Vosges an attack on the enemy lines south of Col Ste Marie enabled us to take prisoners. There is nothing to report on the rest of the front.

"Vessels sunk: French steamer Lamentin, 2,780 tons; British sloop Hannah Crossdel, 151 tons; British steamer Tritonia, 4,415 tons."

U. S. AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY NEAR THE BREAKING POINT

Complete Arrangements for the Withdrawal of American Diplomats and Consular Officers Have Been Made by Ambassador Penfield.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Complete arrangements for the withdrawal of American diplomatic and consular officers from Austria-Hungary have been made by Ambassador Penfield, on instructions from the state department. It was learned today that the ambassador had been directed to take this step the belief at the department being that a break in relations is inevitable. The Spanish government has been asked to take over American interests, and plans have been made to expedite the withdrawal of all Americans if the break occurs. The last report from Ambassador Penfield, a brief cable received after these instructions were sent, suggested a slight possibility that Austria's reply to this government's aide memoire, asking a definition of her attitude in the submarine situation, might be favorable. No real hope was raised here, however, and no change in instructions followed.

The state department recently notified the Austrian embassy here that Count Tarnow, the new Austrian ambassador, who landed at New York the day the German proclamation was received, could not present his credentials to President Wilson until the issue between the two countries was cleared up.

The feeling prevails here that while both this country and Austria are seeking to avoid a break, Germany is determined that her ally shall support, to the greatest degree possible, the submarine campaign.

GERMANS PREPARED THEIR RETIREMENT CAREFULLY

Sharper Resistance Being Offered All Along Line of Hun Retreat Than Any Time Since the Forward Movement Began.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British headquarters in France, Feb. 27, via London.—There was sharper resistance all along the line of the German retreat today than at any time since the movement began. There is no indication yet of a fixed purpose by the Germans to make a definite stand, but they are doing everything possible to hold up and interfere with the British advance. To the rear, outposts were immensely strengthened and this led to stiff fighting with the British forward patrols.

Fall Back Carefully.

The Germans prepared carefully for their retirement, apart from choosing the moment when spring was just beginning, bringing with it

new depths of clinging mud. Bell after bell of barbed wire marks the German trail. Always great believers in the method of Létransday, the Germans appear to have outdone all previous efforts in the way of wire barriers in the Somme and Ancre areas.

The British, however, pushed forward today all along the eleven mile line stretching from south of Gommecourt to west of Létransday. They pushed further into Puisseux-Anmont, southeast of Gommecourt, in which more fires were visible last night. Searchlights were also playing anxiously about.

British Objective.

The present objective of the British is a great which overlooks the high ground running between Achiet-Le-Petit to Bapaume, where the Germans

SINKING OF LAGONIA MAY MEAN HOSTILITIES

The Killing of Two American Citizens, Passengers on the Steamer May be Cause of United States Going to War with Germany.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The administration waits upon Congress to give the answer of the United States to the German campaign of ruthlessness, which has reached a climax in the sinking of the liner Lagonia and the killing of two innocent American women.

Official accounts of the unwarned night attack on the Cunard Lagonia, regarded as the first clear cut case of violation of American rights since the severance of relations with Germany, were laid before President Wilson and the cabinet today by Secretary of State Lansing. It was decided that no step should be taken until Congress had time to grant the request for additional authority to protect the lives and rights of Americans.

Little Progress Made.

In Congress little progress was made during the day toward enacting the legislation for which the president asked in his address yesterday. The senate foreign relations committee by a divided vote reported out a bill similar to the one introduced in the House, to authorize the president to arm merchant ships and employ such other instrumentalities as he may deem necessary.

The formality of referring the measure back to the committee was blocked by Senator La Follette, and as the senate is working under an agreement to consider nothing except by unanimous consent until the revenue bill has been voted on tomorrow night further action is delayed until Thursday.

On the House side, the foreign affairs committee talked through two sessions over phraseology, those opposing action objecting chiefly to the words, "other instrumentalities," the committee finally adjourned until tomorrow without taking a vote.

Not Disturbed.

The administration leaders are not disturbed over the situation in the House, however, as it is well understood that action under a special rule can be forced whenever it is regarded as necessary.

Moreover, while there is some real opposition, in the committee and among the specialist group in the House, both Republican and Democratic leaders estimate that it is deemed wise to delay putting through a bill until it is clear what the senate will do, so as to prevent confusion.

BANDS OF ARMED GERMANS INVADE BRAZIL, CROSSING BORDER OF ARGENTINA

Enter State of Rio Grande do Sul and March Toward Santa Catharina—Believed to be Sailors who Had Been Interned in Neighboring Republic.

(By Special Cable to the Associated Press.)

London, Sunday, 12.29 a. m.—A despatch from the Sunday Observer from Rio Janeiro says it is reported that bands of armed Germans have crossed the Brazilian border into Rio Grande do Sul and are proceeding in the direction of Santa Catharina. It is believed, the report adds, that they are sailors who have been interned in Argentina. A despatch from Rio Janeiro on February 23 said that Senor Carneiro De Freitas, once a Deputy, in an interview in the newspaper A Noite, had denounced operations carried on in Southern Brazil in connection with the Hamburg Colonization Company. The reports which caused the protest, the despatch added, were to the effect that this company purposed to colonize a portion of the country between the States of Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul, to which only colonists of German nationality would be admitted.

NEW CANADIAN LOAN DUE MARCH 12 WILL BE OFFERED SHORTLY

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Sir Thomas White announced today that the date for the launching of the third Canadian domestic loan would be March 12. On that day during the period in which the lists remain open the prospectus will appear in all the press throughout the Dominion.

The Minister of Finance has not in view any New York issue at the present time. Any financing which may be found necessary in the United States will be arranged later in the year.

It is expected that the proceeds of the coming loan will carry the Dominion until midsummer. No details as to the amount or price of the loan will be made until the prospectus is published.

may attempt to hold for a time. Puisseux-Anmont has not been so completely knocked about as most of the other battle villages, its standing walls offering cover for the defending troops.

Every bit of ground taken reveals further evidence of the thoroughness of the destructive methods adopted by the Germans just prior to retiring. Their carefully built and long occupied dugouts have been converted into a mass of wreckage by explosives and fire.

BRYAN AGAIN OPPOSES PRES. WILSON'S POLICY.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 27.—W. J. Bryan, in a statement issued here today, announced that he was opposed to granting powers to the president such as Mr. Wilson requested of congress yesterday. He announced that he would go immediately to Washington and use his influence to have the request declined.

ZEEBRUGGE BOMBARDED BY AIRPLANES.

Amsterdam, Feb. 27, via London.—Zeebrugge was bombarded on Monday by airplanes, which were subjected to a heavy defensive fire, according to frontier advices received by the Telegraph.

Gunfire was heard from the sea, the advices add.

BOY ASKS WILSON TO AVENGE MOTHER'S DEATH.

New York, Feb. 27.—A news agency despatch from London says:

Demand that the United States avenge his mother's and sister's deaths was made in a cable despatch sent to President Wilson by Austin Young Hoy. He requested the president to grant him permission to be the first volunteer in case an American citizen army was raised, and said otherwise he expected to enlist in the British army.

Cunard Statement.

London, Feb. 27.—The Cunard Company gives the following names of the Lagonia's passengers missing and supposed to have been lost:

Mrs. Mary Hoy, Miss Elizabeth Hoy, C. P. Ivatt, William J. R. Robinson, Dr. Fortunat Syndell, William Evt. Four members of the crew are also given as missing.

SIR GEORGE FOSTER TELLS PLAIN TRUTHS

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 27.—A joint meeting of the Canadian Club and Board of Trade tonight heard an address along patriotic lines by Sir George Foster. He stated that the people of Canada were at last coming to realize that wastefulness was criminal. Asked why the government had not put the militia act into force, he replied that the government had given the question very serious consideration but could not go one step further than the people themselves were prepared to go and they had not gone this far. A cablegram from Sir Robert Borden was read in which he stated that the war was nearing a climax, which might be reached at any moment, and emphasizing the need for vigorous recruiting.

COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST EMBARGO ON WOMEN CROSSING OCEAN

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Complaints are coming to Ottawa against the regulation which forbids women, girls and children under twelve to cross the Atlantic.

Lt.-Col. Hugh Clark, M. P., parliamentary under secretary of state for external affairs, said today that it undoubtedly inconvenienced many people but he added it might mean the saving of lives. At any rate the government had no option. It was a war measure requested by the Imperial government and there was no exception to it.

The order-in-council was absolute and the owners and masters of ships incurred heavy penalties if they allowed women, girls and children to take passage on a steamer that might travel through the submarine area.

Col. Clark said the same precautions were being taken in the United Kingdom and this prevented Canadian women returning to Canada.

N. B. MAN WOUNDED.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Night casualty list.

Infantry.

Missing—

Fredrick L. Sleep, Wolfville, N. S. Wounded—

Alex. Lutes, 1253 Main street, Moncton, N. B.

Charles D. B. Langille, Halifax, N. S.

Stewart McLean, Greenhill, N. S.

FREDERICTON DEFEATS ROTHEASAY.

Fredericton, Feb. 27.—The Rotheasay hockey team were outclassed here tonight by the Fredericton High School team, who won the game by a score of 5 to 0.

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN

German Chancellor in Address to Reichstag Said Germany is Willing to Continue Struggle Against Its Enemies Until They Are Ready for Peace.

Berlin, Feb. 27, via Sayville.—Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's address to the Reichstag, postponed from last week, was delivered today. The chancellor said:

"While our soldiers of the front standing in the drumfire of the trenches, and our submarines defying death, hasten through the seas; while we at home have no other—absolutely no other—task but to produce cannon, ammunition and food, and to distribute victuals with justice; in the midst of this struggle for life and for the future of our country, intensified to the extreme, there is only one necessity for the day which dominates all questions of policy, both foreign and domestic—to fight and gain victory."

New War Credits.

The chancellor pointed out that the German nation in the Reichstag's last vote granted new war credits, demonstrated to the world its readiness to continue the struggle until its enemies were ready for peace.

As to this peace itself, the chancellor recalled discussions in the newspapers, in public meetings and also in parliament. He said that it would be premature if he participated in these debates.

"To make promises of formulated and detailed conditions in my position would be unproductive and precarious. Hostile leaders did this repeatedly. They gave extravagant assurances to each other, but they merely brought it about by this that they themselves and their nations were always more deeply involved in the war.

"Their example does not tempt me. What I could say about the tendency and aim of our conditions I have said repeatedly; to terminate the war by a lasting peace which will grant us reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantee the existence and future of a strong Germany—that is our aim—nothing less, and nothing more."

After dealing with the problem of domestic policy, the chancellor briefly recalled his last speech in the Reichstag, in which he announced that appeal had been transmitted by Germany and her allies to their enemies to enter into peace negotiations. He continued:

"Their answer was more rude and more presumptuous than any sensible person in our country or in neutral countries could have imagined. Our alliances and our front stand the firm, and the German nation is more united and no less resolute than ever."

The Barred Zones.

The chancellor then turned to the establishment of the barred zones around England, France and Italy, and to the answers received from neutrals to the communication by the Central Powers. He said:

"We by no means under-estimate the difficulties caused to neutral shipping, and we therefore try to alleviate them as much as possible. For this purpose we made an attempt to supply raw materials such as coal and iron, needed by them, to neutral states within boundaries of our sea force. But we also know that all these difficulties, after all, are caused only by England's tyranny of the seas: we will—and shall break this enslavement of all non-English trade. We meet half way all wishes of neutrals that can be complied with. But in the endeavor to do so we never can go beyond the

VON BERNSTORFF LEFT HALIFAX LAST NIGHT

Halifax, Feb. 27.—The steamer Frederick VIII, with Count Von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador to the United States and the party of German consular officials on board, left the pier here at seven o'clock tonight, and steamed slowly down the harbor. An hour later the liner had passed out of sight on her way to Copenhagen.