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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 14.

WEATHER—FAIR.

PRICE TWO CENTS

THE GREAT BRITISH DRIVE BRINGS THEM NEAR BAPAUME

BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAY BE SUCCESSFUL

Belief in Parliamentary Lobby's Last Night was that Indian Cotton Duties Will Pass—Debate Begins Today.

Lancashire Members Will Move Amendment to Bill—Irish Nationalists May Abstain from Voting.

London, March 13.—The belief obtained in parliamentary lobbies tonight that the government would be successful in carrying the new Indian cotton duties. This belief was not due to any compromise on the question, either from the side of the government or the Lancashire members. Premier Lloyd George has supported J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, in making a firm stand on the question.

On the other hand, the Lancashire members, after a meeting at the House of Commons tonight, decided to move an amendment to the government motion for tomorrow repudiating the imposition of the duties unless a countervailing excise duty was imposed.

Want to Avoid Election.

While the premier succeeded in impressing the deputation representing the Lancashire cotton interests, urging the government policy as a war measure, the real factor in bringing about a probable arrangement is general reluctance to precipitate a general election. It is stated that this reluctance has decided Ex-Premier Asquith and his followers to do nothing that might place the government in an embarrassing position. Hence they are unlikely to support the Lancashire amendment, should it be pressed to a division.

The attitude of the Nationalists is still uncertain. They desire to establish a tariff system under Irish home rules, and it would therefore be logical for them to oppose the Indian duties, much as they may wish to vote against the government. It is believed that they will abstain from voting.

WILL GERMANS ENDEAVOR TO TAKE CALAIS?

London, March 13.—Special despatches received here from Holland contain current reports of German preparations for an expected great offensive on the Western front. The latest rumor, which is attributed to Belgian sources, is that the Germans intend to try again to break through on the Yser with Calais their objective. The Belgian newspaper "Echo de Belge," which is now published at The Hague, hears that Field Marshal von Falkenhayn has passed through Tirmont on his way to the Flemish front. The writers say that the tight closing of the Dutch-Belgian frontier for several days past and the suspension of all sailings from Antwerp for Holland make it impossible to ascertain the exact value of these reports, but that the universal belief is that most important movements are in progress.

SASKATCHEWAN LIGNITE MAY SOLVE FUEL ISSUE

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Mar. 13.—R. B. Bennett, M. P., Director General of National Service, who has just returned from a tour of the west, had a long conference today with Sir George Foster on matters relating to the work and findings of the advisory council, believes that Saskatchewan lignite can be treated in such a way that it will give it the fuel properties of both anthracite and steam coal.

There are other important matters under consideration which involve the application of national service, chief of these being the agricultural situation. There is a serious scarcity of farm help all over the country, and this occasioned Mr. Bennett's tour of the west where he consulted with the local authorities regarding the organization of labor for agricultural production.

GERMAN CRUISER IN INDIAN OCEAN

Tokio, March 13.—It is officially announced that a converted German cruiser has been sighted in the Indian Ocean, and that it is now being chased by Japanese and British warships. The German has sunk a Japanese freighter.

SIR ROBERT L. BORDEN AND HON. MR. HAZEN PLEASED WITH VISIT TO THE FRONT

London, Mar. 13.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues were all highly pleased with their visit to the front, Sir Robert having the advantage of seeing the present advanced positions, as compared with what he saw when he visited the front last summer, prior to the Somme offensive. They all, however, emphasized the fact that the greatest task still lies before the Allies.

Canadians Cheerful.

Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, told the Gazette representative that everywhere he went he found the Canadians cheerful, even when under the most trying conditions. He was also deeply impressed with the efficiency of the hospitals, both in England and in France. Sir Robert Borden's appreciation of the work being done in the rear of the firing line by the forestry, the railway, and the construction units is supported by the Imperial government, and the cost of maintaining these units will now be shared by the Imperial and the Dominion governments. The Imperial government will bear the cost of rations, supplies, machinery, and plant, both in Britain and in France, and the Dominion government will bear the cost of the pay, the pensions, and the field allowance to the officers.

Will Leave London Soon.

Immediately after returning to London, Sir Robert and his colleagues made a personal call at Clarence House to inquire as to the health of the Duchess of Connaught. They will leave London again shortly for a tour of great interest.

CANADIAN MEASURES OF PROTECTION MAY FORCE U. S. FISH FLEET HERE

Washington, March 13.—Measures to keep the celebrated Gloucester fishing fleet of hundreds of small vessels, as well as the American fishing fleet in the Pacific, under the American flag were considered at a conference between Secretary Redfield and Commissioners Brent of the shipping board and Smith of the fisheries bureau. American fishing fleets on both oceans are said to be confronted with going under Canadian registry or forfeiting many privileges at Canadian ports. Seven vessels in the Pacific already have changed to Canadian registry and the shipping board is understood to have received many applications from the owners of other fishing craft in both the Atlantic and Pacific for authority to surrender American registry.

Acting Under Orders.

Canadian ports, reported to be acting under orders of the Dominion government have refused to sell bait, coal, other supplies and even food to crews of American fishing craft unless the catch were sold in Canada instead of the United States. The Gloucester fleet is reported also to have been harassed by British vessels on the Grand Banks. It is said here that the Canadian government wants the American boats to replace those sent to the war zone for submarine patrol and in addition needs the catch which otherwise would go to American ports and be understood to favor reintroduction of the Chamberlain amendment to the shipping bill, which failed at the last session, prohibiting the importation into the United States of fish from any foreign country unless under bond, as a retaliatory measure.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE MARCH 19

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, March 13.—A gathering that may have a far-reaching result will be held in Ottawa on Monday, March 19, when transportation and shipping men will confer with Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce and acting premier.

Heads of the great railways, including the C. P. R., the Grand Trunk and G. T. P., and directors of water transportation companies, will attend the conference, and the subjects under consideration will embrace the pressing and in some cases, acute problem of transportation of munition, grain and general supplies.

Owing to enormously increased traffic and failure on the part of some of the railways to adequately provide for it, a situation has arisen which if not properly dealt with, threatens a serious blockade.

Under the new orders manifests of incoming ships, including American coastwise, will be withheld as well as all other shipping information, with the exception of the monthly statistics on imports and exports.

SEVEN LIVES LOST ON CUNARDER

Washington, March 13.—Seven lives were lost and one American placed in jeopardy in the sinking without warning by a submarine of the Cunard freighter Folio off the Irish coast Sunday.

BRITISH WITHIN A MILE AND HALF OF HUN STRONGHOLD

Army of King George Sweeps Through Strong German Positions in Loupart Wood and Seize Village of Grevillers, West of Bapaume.

MAY BE BIG R.R. STRIKE SATURDAY

Complete Plans Made for Nation-wide Tie Up in United States.

Washington, March 13.—Complete plans of the four railroad brotherhoods for a nation-wide strike, to be inaugurated next Saturday, unless the railroads grant their eight-hour day demands, were ratified here today by local union leaders from southeastern territory, and by a similar conference of representatives of the southwest, held at St. Louis.

The brotherhood heads will tell the railroad conference in New York Thursday if an agreement is not reached this week for the establishment of an eight-hour basis day with time and a half for overtime, strike orders already issued to local organizations will become effective.

Same Demands.
The demands are just what they were last fall when President Wilson averted a strike after the call out by inducing congress to pass the Adamson law, which never has been put into effect, pending a decision on its constitutionality by the supreme court. There is every indication that the president is prepared to move again if it becomes apparent that the nation, facing the gravest international crisis of its history, is about to have transportation facilities paralyzed.

REPORT OF SINKING OF U-BOAT CONFIRMED

Amsterdam, March 13.—The report that a German submarine had been stranded near Hellevoetsluis, on the Dutch coast is confirmed by the Het Volk. Fifteen members of the crew, says the newspaper, have disembarked.

Although the Turks for more than two weeks before the fall of Baghdad, had been destroying or removing everything of value from the city, General Maude, commanding the British forces, reports the capture of large quantities of equipment, arms and ammunition.

Fighting Elsewhere.

Considerable fighting has again broken out in Galicia and in Macedonia, between Lakes Ochrida and Prespa, according to the German war office. In the former region, north of Zlochoff-Tarnopol railway, the Germans in a raid on Russian positions captured 323 Russians and thirteen of their machine guns, and near Brzezany and along the Narayvka river also made gains and took more than 250 prisoners.

In Macedonia, the French essayed an attack between Lake Ochrida and Lake Prespa, but were repulsed, says Berlin.

In the Austro-Italian theatre, the artillery of both sides continues to carry out bombardments against opposing positions and raiding parties are still active.

Another German submarine has been stranded on the Dutch coast. A German converted cruiser is being chased by Japanese and British warships in the Indian ocean.

British Statement.
London, March 13 (10.10 p. m.)—A further retirement of the Germans on a front of between 4,000 and 5,000 yards, and to an unknown depth, is reported by a Reuters despatch from the British front in France. The

Retirement of Teutons Follows Heavy British Bombardment—Army Also Makes Further Progress Northeast of Gommecourt Turks Being Pursued Near Bagdad.

Further notable gains have been made by the British forces against the Germans in the operations which have as their object the capture of Bapaume and a general bending back of the German line eastward in the Somme and Ancre regions of France.

According to the British war office communication, under another of the terrific bombardments, the Germans have abandoned another of their main defensive systems west of Bapaume, on a front of three and a half miles to a depth of a mile.

The advance gave King George's troops the village of Grevillers and the Loupart Wood, bringing the advanced British forces at the former place to a scant mile and a half to the northwestern outskirts of Bapaume.

North of the Ancre on the left wing, the British in this particular operation have bent back the German line on a front of about a mile east and northeast of Gommecourt and somewhat straightened out the curve extending from Es-sar-les-Bucquoy to the region northeast of Puisieux-Aumonts.

Germans Fall Everywhere.
To the north of this region, in the vicinity of Armentieres, Souchez and Neuville St. Vaast and northwest of Neuve Chapelle, the Germans threw forward raiding parties, but all of these met with repulse, according to London, except in the last named sector, where the Germans reached the British trenches and made prisoner some of the occupants.

Elsewhere on the line in France there have been only artillery engagements, which were particularly severe in Champagne on the sectors of Malson De Champagne and Massegos, and at various points on both sides of the Meuse, in the region of Verdun.

Turks Get No Rest.

The Turks evidently are being given no rest by the British operations against them northward from Bagdad, along the Tigris river. After the capture of Bagdad Sunday, the British cavalry kept on the heels of the retreating Turks and occupied the town of Kasimain, five miles to the north, taking more than 100 prisoners. Gumbots are proceeding up the river in pursuit of the Turks.

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U. S. POTATO DEALERS TO BE IN COURT

Woodstock, Mar. 13.—Two Houlton potato dealers have been summoned to appear before the United States district attorney in Boston next Friday to tell what they know about the high price of potatoes.

A dozen or more up-country dealers have also been summoned.

The United States government authorities, it is said, have been gathering statistics on potatoes for the past few weeks.

