

BRITISH FORCES IN FRANCE CAPTURE ANOTHER VILLAGE

PROBABLY CONSCRIPTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

Andrew Bonar Law Explains Situation in House of Commons—Britain Needs One Million Men—Recruits Fall Short by 100,000.

London, Mar. 29.—A bill, giving the military authorities power to order re-examination of men previously rejected for military service, and also of men who already have served and been discharged in consequence of wounds or illness, was moved in the House of Commons today, on second reading, by Chancellor Bonar Law. The chancellor said the bill was an absolute necessity owing to the military situation.

More Recruits Needed. Arrangements were made last August which it was hoped would give the military authorities the men required, the chancellor explained, but owing to the submarine menace it had proved impossible to obtain the men expected from agriculture or from the admiralty and the shipbuilding yards. The recruits obtained, he said, had fallen short of the number such a fall-off was most serious. To a considerable degree the shortage had been made good by a change in the employment of men in the army itself, and by using behind the lines a greater extent than ever before. Men unfit to go on the firing line. The shortage had been made good further by employment of women behind the lines, but nevertheless the bill was absolutely necessary.

One Million Men Needed. The chancellor said it would enable the military authorities to deal with one million men, and they estimated that at least 100,000 men would be available within the next three months. They were proceeding on the principle that every fit man should go on the firing line.

Casualties Less. The chancellor added that he was thankful to say one of the reasons why the falling off in recruits had not had as disastrous results as it might have had was that the casualties thus far this year had been less than expected. He continued: "We all know, however, that at the time of great fighting, with terrible losses, which is in front of us, it might well happen that the whole value of this year's campaign might depend upon our being able to drive home any success we were fortunate enough to achieve. It might well be that a fall-off in recruits might make a difference between real and almost decisive results, and a victory which would have nothing like the same effect. At this moment the morale of our troops in France is splendid. They have more confidence than ever. They are more than a match for their enemies. It is the duty of the country to let them see their numbers are going to be kept up to the fullest extent."

PREPARATIONS IN THE U. S. TO ENTER GREAT WORLD WAR

Washington, Mar. 29.—While it is assumed, from the defensive measures already taken by the military arm of the government, that President Wilson, in addressing congress next week, will ask for war against Germany, or a declaration that a state of war exists, it is known that he will speak along broad lines, dealing lightly with incidents leading up to the present crisis.

Preparing For War. Officials feel now that the time is past when incidents should be discussed, and henceforth that only fundamental questions of both present and future American safety should be considered. As a result the president is gathering opinions and suggestions from all sides as to the sort of address to make in the coming critical hours. The general situation has not been changed by the speech of the German chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg tonight, according to the view tonight of officials who read press reports of the portion of the address dealing with the United States and submarine warfare.

Germany, it was stated, has consistently attempted to lay the blame for her action on other nations. On previous occasions President Wilson has taken the position that Germany has taken the position of carrying on submarine warfare ruthlessly because of the British blockade. Only complete abandonment of unrestricted submarine warfare could change the attitude of the United States, it has been said semi-officially recently, and press reports indicate that the German chancellor did not even discuss that possibility.

Decisive Action. Public opinion, it was said here, as indicated by clippings from newspapers in all parts of the country, unmistakably favors decisive action. Helligerey is not confined to the Atlantic and Pacific sections, if opinions gathered by the administration on the part of congress and president comes also from the interior section between the Alleghenies and Sierras. The views reported by some mid-western congressmen as to the apathy of their constituencies are considered more local than general.

The greatest point under consideration by the administration at the present time is whether Germany has or has not unmistakably shown, through a long succession of violations of international law, that the United States must definitely unite with the liberal democracies of the world against the four most complete autocracies, both for its present and its future safety. All hope has been lost, as shown in the note to Germany as to the treaty of 1923, in the good faith of the present German rulers. The Belgian invasion and deportations, the ruthless submarine warfare and attempts to embroil neutral countries in plots, and the general conduct of the war have convinced many states that the German military system at present is a permanent danger to the world's peace.

German plots in this country, running back almost to the beginning of the Zimmerman note to ally Japan and Mexico in war against this country, are regarded as evidence of the evil of the present system. The administration has much material not yet made public, and it is understood, moreover, that the complete text of the Zimmerman note has not been published. Further disclosures of intrigues may be expected at any time. Germany, through the coolness with which she treated the president's proposal to name peace terms, is felt to be the greatest source of danger to world peace. Some officials here, who feel their original offer was unwelcome and merely a play for domestic consumption, believe her refusal to name terms is proof of that contention.

ARMY OF BRITAIN HOLDING GROUND

British Army Takes Village of Neuville Bourjonval, East of Ypres—Enemy Suffers Heavily—Germans Making Terrific Drive Against the Entente.

BRITISH GAIN CONSIDERABLE GROUND AND ARE CONTESTING EVERY INCH IN TERRITORY OF NORTH FRANCE—ARMY OF KING GEORGE WEST OF CROISEL.

London, Mar. 29.—The British forces in France have captured the village of Neuville Bourjonval, east of Ypres, according to the official communication issued this afternoon. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans. The statement says: "The village of Neuville Bourjonval was captured this morning, after a short fight in which the enemy lost heavily. We took a few prisoners. "Our raiding parties entered the enemy's lines during the night east of Arras and in the neighborhood of Neuville-St Vaast and Neuve Chapelle. Several dugouts were destroyed and casualties were inflicted. "Two German airplanes were driven down in a damaged condition during air fighting yesterday. "Three of our machines are missing."

Terrific Drive. Waiting For Hindenburg. "While we are still engaging the Germans in the open, there is no doubt they have reached a trench line from which they are not likely to withdraw until we bring up our trench-destroying guns. Hence we are hardly likely to know whether this forms the much advertised Hindenburg line until we are prepared to assault it. In the meantime our forces are not great enough nor have they had time enough to build an opposing line of trenches. "We have gained a cheering success in Palestine, near Gaza, where we took the divisional headquarters of a Turkish force, including the divisional commander, and a number of Austrian guns. "There is little to say about Mesopotamia, except that everything goes well there, where General Maude has established his army in a position to await the advance of the Russians. The difficulties of supply and transport are much less now than during the campaign which resulted in the capture of Kut-el-Amara."

GENERAL LESARD IN LINE WITH BLONDIN. Ottawa, March 29.—Major-General Lesard, inspector-general of forces for eastern Canada, has joined hands with Colonel, the Hon. P. E. Blondin, to boom recruiting in Quebec. He will take charge of the recruiting and general military organization thereof, and cooperate with the postmaster-general in raising the latter's battalion. Hon. Mr. Blondin is to stump the province with a number of assistant speakers, and General Lesard will look after the military direction of the campaign. He offered his services as a French-Canadian, and was gladly accepted by Mr. Blondin.

Gen. Maurice's Statement. "Our advance has slackened, owing to the difficulty of feeding the troops in the devastated country," said Gen. Maurice. "We are also suffering from the fact that we must cover the Somme battlefield while our allies have clear ground. They also have the advantage of not coming into touch with the enemy in as short a distance as our forces, for in making a straight line the Germans had to withdraw to a greater depth on the French front than on ours. "As we advance the evidences of wanton destruction show that in what I said last week, I minimized rather than overdid my description of the Germans' work. I notice that in defending their action the Germans state they are cutting the timber for a military object. This defense is ridiculous as they left fallen trees for our use to a much larger extent than we would ever have dreamed of cutting for ourselves. For instance, fruit trees make excellent trench and dugout props, but we never would have used them unless they had been left for us by the Germans.

French Statement. Paris, Mar. 29.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "From the Somme to the Oise the day was relatively calm. In the Margival sector there was active artillery fighting. The artillery actions were quite violent in the directions of Malson, De Champagne and Hill 304, and in Lorraine, in the neighborhood of Embermesnil. "Yesterday a German airplane was brought down. "After great artillery activity during the night in the region of Steenstraete the day was marked only by a few reciprocal bombardments."

Food Shortage. Recent reports have shown the food shortage has been felt in cities and in the country, as well. Germany's ruthless submarine warfare has sunk many Spanish vessels, has tied up most of the others, and virtually stopped foreign trade. As a result the country has been threatened with an industrial crisis. A deeper cause of dissonance has been Spain's war policy. The court, the clergy and the army have been reported as decidedly pro-German, so that Spain has not been fully trusted by the Allies. Business interests, as in many other neutral countries, and the people generally, are reported anti-German. Spain has protested sinking of her ships with a varying degree of bitterness, but reports that she had sent an ultimatum to Germany in response to the demands of the business interests of the country have not been corroborated. Spain refused to endorse President Wilson's peace note last winter, on the ground that it was not opportune, and reports have been frequent that King Alfonso hoped to be the mediator at the end of the war. Germany is declared to have conducted a systematic campaign to spread that idea. Senor Riano, the Spanish ambassador, was without any official information on the situation in his country.

THE ALNWICK CASTLE WAS SUBMERGED. London, March 29.—The British steamship Alnwick Castle has been torpedoed in the Atlantic ocean. Some persons are reported dead and others missing. The British steamer Alnwick Castle measured 6,900 tons gross, and was owned by the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company, of London. She was 300 feet long and was built in Glasgow in 1901. She was probably in the service of the British government.

AMERICANS IN TROUBLE. London, March 29.—An Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam says: "Frontier correspondents hear from Brussels that the American legation is completely isolated, and under a guard of German police. "It is rumored that the Germans contemplate taking the minister (Grand Whitlock) and his staff to Germany. "The Americans in Brussels have been notified that they cannot leave Belgium before three months, at the earliest. "A Hague despatch of March 28 declared authoritatively that the German government intended to ask American officials and relief workers of the American commission for relief in Belgium to submit to a period of "news quarantine," the time not to exceed four weeks, in order to prevent military information from leaking out. This was intended to apply also to Grand Whitlock, the American minister to Belgium, and his staff.

WIDESPREAD UNREST IN SPAIN

Anarchists of Barcelona Menacing Capital of Spain—Pro-Germans in Spain Disturbing Populace. Washington, Mar. 29.—Frequent reports from Spain of widespread unrest because of her attitude toward the war and an almost universal food shortage arrive. Officials at state department received today's announcement of the suspension of constitutional guarantees without surprise. Officials here, pointing out the similarity to the Russian revolution, which also began through political unrest, deepened by the food shortage, were unwilling to predict the outcome.

GERMANY TRIES TO AVOID WAR WITH UNITED STATES

Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg in Speech in Reichstag Says Germany Never Had Any Intention to Get Into War With Republic.

Berlin, Mar. 29, via Sayville.—Germany never had the slightest intention of attacking the United States of America, and does not have such intention now. It never desired war against the United States of America, and does not desire it today," was the declaration made by the German imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in a speech in the Reichstag today. The chancellor made important declarations concerning Germany's policy toward the United States and Russia, declaring that Germany had undertaken unrestricted submarine warfare for its defense. Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg said:

Words by President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. Our expectations, which we maintained during eight months, have been disappointed completely. England not only did not give up her illegal and indefensible policy of blockade, but uninterruptedly intensified it. England, together with her allies, arrogantly rejected the peace offers made by us and our allies, and proclaimed her war aims as our annihilation and that of our allies. "Then we took unrestricted submarine warfare into our hands for our defense. War on April 2. "If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than one hundred years; if this action warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the responsibility for it. The German nation, which feels neither hatred nor hostility against the United States of America, shall also bear and overcome this."

Huns Want Peace. "Within the next few days the directors of the American nation will be convened by President Wilson for an extraordinary session of congress in order to decide the question of war or peace between the American and German nations. "More than once we told the United States that we made unrestricted use of the submarine weapon, expecting that England could be made to obtain, in her policy of blockade, the laws of humanity and international agreements. This blockade policy—this I expressly recall has been called 'illegal and indefensible' (the imperial chancellor here used the English words) by President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. Our expectations, which we maintained during eight months, have been disappointed completely. England not only did not give up her illegal and indefensible policy of blockade, but uninterruptedly intensified it. England, together with her allies, arrogantly rejected the peace offers made by us and our allies, and proclaimed her war aims as our annihilation and that of our allies. "Then we took unrestricted submarine warfare into our hands for our defense. War on April 2. "If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than one hundred years; if this action warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the responsibility for it. The German nation, which feels neither hatred nor hostility against the United States of America, shall also bear and overcome this."

Had Russia's attention been concentrated on internal reconstruction," said the chancellor, "there would have been no room for the restlessness and the policy of expansion which finally led to this war." Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg emphatically denied that the German Emperor of Germany, was desirous of restoring "Czardom."

BIG STRIKE IN SPAIN

Madrid Issues Decree Suspending Constitutional Guarantees Throughout the Country. Paris, March 29.—While a Havas despatch from Madrid announces the publication of a decree suspending the constitutional guarantees throughout Spain, it gives no reason for this act. The Temps, however, reports that "house of the people" in Madrid between delegations of trade unions, who were organizing a general strike. The newspaper adds that on account of the economic crisis in Spain the government has taken a firm yet conciliatory attitude. It has instructed the governors of the provinces to report immediately to Madrid the situation of the unemployed, classifying them according to trades. The Temps says the economic difficulties in Spain are due partially to Germany's submarine blockade interrupting exports and imports. It adds that the situation in the Canary Islands by reason of the submarine blockade is extremely distressing.

SOCIALISTS IN BERLIN DISAGREE

London, Mar. 29.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, quoting Berlin dispatches, says the Reichstag has adopted all three readings of the emergency budget. Both Socialist parties voted against the measure. "Edouard Bernstein, Socialist," says the advices, "delivered a speech justifying his opposition to the budget. He said experience has strengthened his distrust in the government. America was converted into an enemy by neutrals filled with displeasure toward Germany. A good and sincere peace must be striven for at the speediest moment. Herr Bernstein added that the events in Russia under the leadership of the Socialists strengthened the confidence that the social democracy was able to fulfill its old peaceful program."

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PORTUGUESE SHIP LOST

New Orleans, La., March 28.—The Portuguese ship Argo, 1448 tons, which sailed from here February 9 for London, with a cargo of merchandise, and several Americans in her crew, has been torpedoed and sunk, says a cablegram received today by the owners agents here.

DOWAGER EMPRESS GOES TO THE CRIMEA

Petrograd, via London, March 29.—The government has granted the request of Marie Feodorovna, the former Dowager Empress of Russia, and the mother of the deposed Emperor, to reside at Simferopol, in the Crimea.

HON. MR. HAZEN AND MRS. HAZEN ILL

London, March 29.—Hon. J. D. Hazen, Canadian minister of marine, and Mrs. Hazen are suffering from a throat affection which is now known as trench throat, an ailment which has almost become endemic.