

Weather Forecast:
Fair and Cold

The London Advertiser

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HOME
EDITION

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GREAT WIN FOR ALLIES

HAIG TAKES BAPAUME---SWEEPING FRENCH ADVANCE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL ACCEPTS THRONE, IF PEOPLE APPROVE

MICHAEL ACCEPTS IF PEOPLE DESIRE; CZAREVITCH DEAD?

Czar's Brother Willing To Reign Providing People Form New Government and New Laws Says Semi-Official Dispatch---Little Heir to Crown Reported as Dead of Scarlet Fever.

London, March 17--12:45 p.m.--Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a statement received here today from the semi-official Russian News Agency.

The statement follows:
"Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, accepting the throne from his brother, declares that he does so only with the consent of the Russian people, who should by a plebiscite establish a new form of government and new fundamental laws."

Petrograd, March 16--Via London, March 17.--Unless improbable events occur, Russia has today become a republic. The outcome depends on how the manifesto of the new government is received by the six million soldiers at the front.

CZAREVITCH DEAD?

Petrograd, March 16--Via London, March 17, 8 a.m.--The autocracy which has held Russia in its grip since the beginning of history fell today. The house of Romanoff, which has ruled the empire for 400 years, came to an end with the abdication of Nicholas II, perhaps the weakest representative of his line. Following on the heels of this startling development came the rumor tonight of the death of the emperor's little son, whose abdication was included in that of his father.

Destroy Emblems of Empire.

Although apparent from the beginning of the revolution that the removal of the monarch was the inevitable and the actual fact, so suddenly accomplished, came as an overwhelming surprise to the population. Within four hours after the abdication of the Grand Duke Michael, who automatically became regent on the passing of the emperor, the crowds in the streets had secured the removal of the imperial ensigns from the winter palace and the front of buildings on the main thoroughfare. In a short time all emblems of the old empire literally lay in the dust.

Cheers for Freedom.

In anticipation of the news bigger crowds than ever packed the halls and grounds of the Tauris Palace awaiting official confirmation by the Duma committee of the rumors which had excited the people to fever pitch during the last 24 hours. When the tidings at last leaked out from the committee rooms, orators, who had been haranguing soldiers and workmen from the balcony of the palace, suddenly interrupted their discourses and shouted the news to the crowds below them. Indescribable confusion seized the vast throng. A host of cheers such as never before had been heard in those stately halls continued until the men and women were forced to cease from utter exhaustion.

The New Government.

Just what form the new government will assume is indefinite tonight. For the moment entire authority rests with the twelve members of the cabinet, headed by Prince Lvoff who, according to some, will be president of a new republic. It is believed that in the interim and until the convocation of a constitutional assembly power will slowly pass into the hands of the new cabinet, which will then present the anomaly of a new government without a supreme head.

BROTHERHOOD EXCLUDE MICHIGAN CENTRAL FROM RAILWAY STRIKE ORDERS

Cleveland, O., March 17.--From an authoritative source it is learned that to avoid international complications the strike order affecting the New York Central Lines does not include the Michigan Central system running into Canada and that no strike is contemplated on the Michigan Central at present.

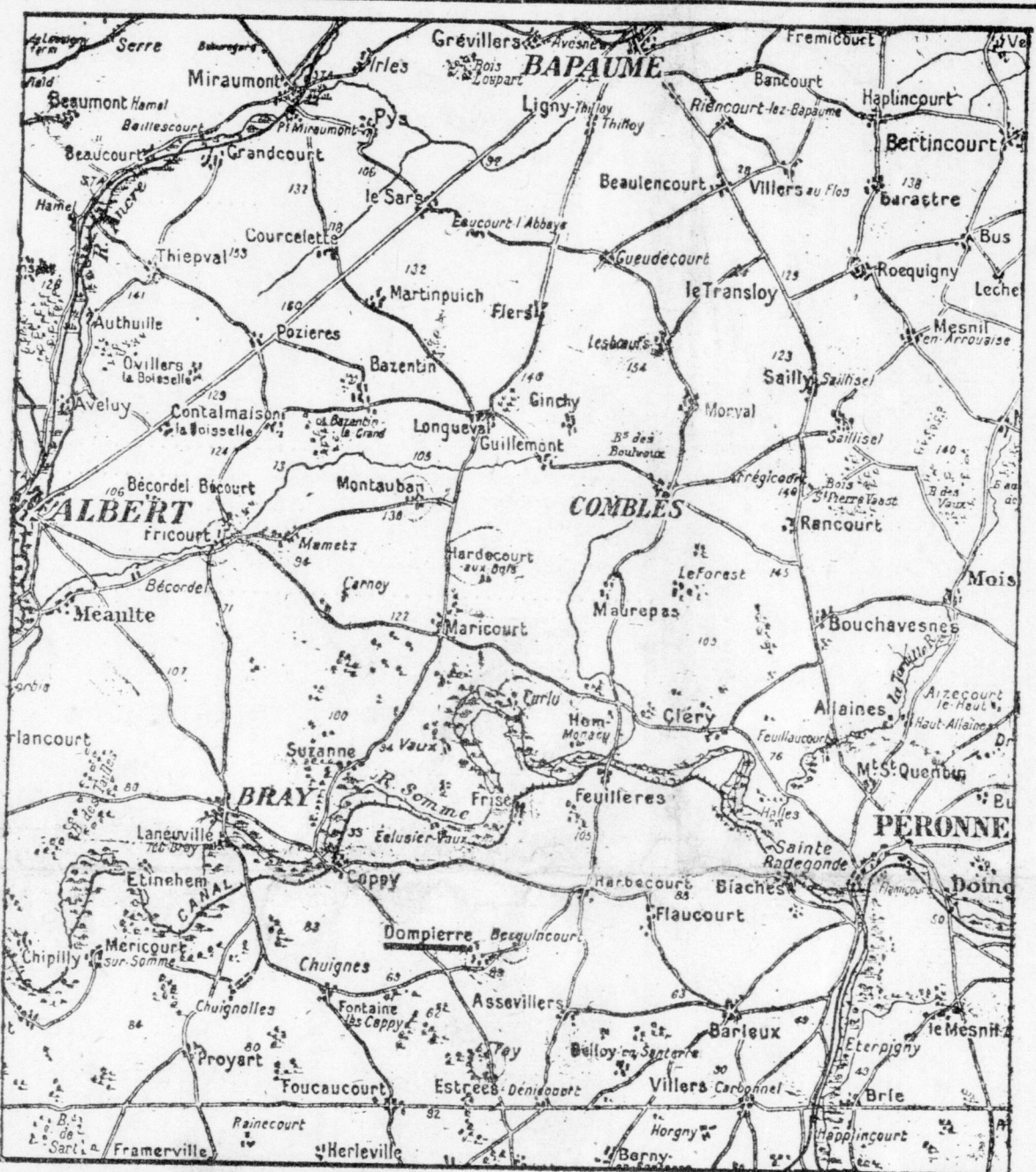
ENGLAND RAIDED BY THE ZEPPELINS; FIRST IN MONTHS

London, March 17--3:40 a.m.--The air raid last night was the first visit of zeppelins in many months, and it seemed to have been expected as it followed to cause any excitement even among the homecoming theatregoers. The raiders were favored by a dark and moonless night.

The foregoing dispatch indicates that London was attacked by zeppelins. At

12:30 last night an official communication was issued stating that an air raid was in progress over the south-eastern coast. A further communication, it was said, would be issued during the morning, but this is presently being held up by the censors. The raiding airships were shot down on the morning of March 17, when two of the British off the north coast.

BAPAUME, BRITISH OBJECTIVE IN GREAT SOMME OFFENSIVE



HUN CAPITALS SCARED OVER SUCCESS OF RUSS REVOLT

Unrest Against the Militarist
Repression Is Violently
Accelerated.

BY JOHN GRANDENS.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Berlin, March 17.--Germany is profoundly impressed by the Russian revolution. Newspapers today pointed to the conference of officials in Vienna as of extreme importance in view of the developments at Petrograd.

In this conference will be the Emperor Carl of Austria, the imperial German chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, Prince Conrad von Hohenlohe, formerly minister of finance, Count Czernin, Premier Ciammartini and Count Tizsa, and other important people.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]
Amsterdam, March 17.--Unrest in Germany against militarist repression of the people has been violently accelerated by the success of the Russian people in casting off the yoke of centuries.

Even these elements of the German people who favor autocratic control of the Fatherland have been affected by the news from Petrograd, and the failure of German plans and the certainty that instead of Russia growing weaker as the war progresses she is likely to grow stronger with a new government animated by unfettered determination to do its best.

German Government Alarmed.
German newspapers containing the chancellor's speech of Wednesday afternoon increased the impression among observers of German affairs here that the German Government itself is apprehensive of this unrest among the Teutonic people.

Dispatches from Vienna today declared the Russian revolution had created a profound impression there and that the Government did not regard this impression as one favorable to continuance of the military autocracy.

CAPTURE OF BAPAUME IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO CAMPAIGN OF THE ENTENTE

Bapaume has been considered from the first the British objective in the Somme operations, so far as any one place could be so considered. For months the progress of General Haig's armies has been measured in distance from Bapaume, as they drew closer and closer to it, creating a salient here and another there, crushing in the sides and forcing back the German lines.

This movement, halted by the advent of winter with the British advanced line still several miles from the objective, has been greatly accelerated during several weeks past by the great retirement operation of the Germans on the Somme front, beginning late in February. From day to day, with only brief intervals, the retirement has been kept up, assisted at times by strong pressure from the British, until early this week the British forces stood at the very doors of the town, occupying the commanding ridge lying just to the west of it. Its fall was then considered a matter of the choice of a time for the British assault.

OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.
Bapaume is considered a position of vital military importance in this region of the Franco-Belgian front. It lies at the limit of the Artois hills, which afford support for the defense in attacks from the west and south, for beyond it lay the plains of Flanders, with Cambrai, Valenciennes and Boulogne in view. Its capture, it has been held by military writers, will probably serve to make Peronne untenable and render St. Quentin an unsafe place for the shelter of the German staff.

Bapaume is connected with Cambrai, 18 miles further east, by a railroad passing through Maroing, and also by a road of superior construction running a direct line between the two towns.

A PLACE OF BATTLES.
Bapaume, which had a population of 3,000 before the war, is a place of historical note. It was the scene of a hard battle between the French and Germans during the Franco-Prussian war on January 3, 1871. The Germans after the struggle, falling back behind the Somme. Armies have struggled in or near it in wars since the time of Louis XI.

CZAR NICHOLAS HELD PRISONER?

London, March 17.--The Nya Dagligt Allehandz of Stockholm, as quoted in an Exchange Telegram dispatch from that city, says in a telegram from Haparanda that Emperor Nicholas is now being held prisoner, and that the emperor has been sent to Kiev. The Social Democrat of Stockholm says: "M. Goltzine, the deposed premier, has committed suicide in prison."

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 38; lowest, 33. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 46; lowest, 33.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW--FAIR AND COLD.
Toronto, March 17--8 a.m.

Forecast.
Today--Strong winds and gales, southwest, shifting to west and northeast; Sunday--Fresh northwest to west winds; generally fair and a little colder.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Victoria..... 50 34
Calgary..... 38 19
Winnipeg..... 35 18
Port Arthur..... 26 16
Parry Sound..... 40 30
Toronto..... 40 32
Ottawa..... 44 24
Montreal..... 40 26
Quebec..... 49 20
Father Point..... 34 26
Snow.....
Weather Notes.
The disturbance which was over Missouri yesterday morning is now centered over the Straits of Mackinac, causing very strong winds of snow and rain over Ontario.
Elsewhere in the weather has been fair.

BRITISH TAKE BAPAUME; FORTRESS IS IN FLAMES; HAIG PURSUES ENEMY

FRENCH CRASH THROUGH FOE 2 MILES DEEP 13 MILES WIDE

Sweep Forward Between the
Avre and Oise Rivers.

PRESSURE IS VIGOROUS

German Attacks On French
Line Break Down Before
Heavy Fire.

Paris, March 17.--2:15 p.m.--French troops advanced last night north of the Avre and between the Avre and the Oise, making progress over a front of 20 kilometres (13 miles) and to a depth at some points of 4 kilometres (2 1/2 miles), the war office announced today.

Vigorous Pressure.
The statement follows:
"North of the Avre and between the Avre and the Oise our detachments continued to exert vigorous pressure on the enemy, and during the night extended their progress on Continued on Page Thirteen.

WILSON EXPECTS TO PREVENT THE GREAT WALK-OUT

Believes Mediation Will Be
Successful in Averting
Strike.

CONFERENCE STILL ON

All Night Session Will Be Continued Until the Last
Moment Today.

(BY ROBERT J. BENDER.)
[Special to The Advertiser.]

Washington, March 17.--President Wilson believed today there would be no railroad strike tonight. On the contrary, he believed the mediators he sent post-haste to New York yesterday afternoon would prevail upon both sides to check the strike. Whether the impending rail trouble to adjust their differences peacefully. Legal precedents presented by his advisers have been carefully studied, and it was the White House impression that the president would be enabled to take strong steps to check the strike. Whether he would be able to put the roads under full martial law was uncertain, though the precedents showed he has power to do that in event of any violence on the lines.

STILL IN CONFERENCE.
New York, March 17.--From more than six hours, until 8 o'clock this morning, the committee from the Council of National Defence labored with the railroad managers and Brotherhood chiefs without finding a way to prevent the national railroad strike called for 1 o'clock tonight. Hope of a settlement was not abandoned, however, for the mediators continued their efforts a few hours later. It is probable that these peace conferences will continue all day.

The mediators, without Samuel Comptons being present, resumed the conference, meeting the four Brotherhood chiefs shortly before 10:20 o'clock. Prior to the resumption of the conference this forenoon, one of the mediators said the situation was devoid of developments. Neither side had made overtures, he said, and he did not consider the outlook promising at this hour.

Powerful Fortress Abandoned by Germans After Being Put To the Torch--British Forces Occupy Stronghold and Dash Beyond in Pursuit of Retiring Foe--Two More Small Points Reported Captured.

TWO MORE TAKEN.

London, March 17.--Reuter's correspondent at the British headquarters in France telegraphs that the towns of Le Transloy and Achet-le-Petit also are reported to be in the hands of the British.

LONDON, March 17, 3 p.m.
--Bapaume, on the Franco-Belgian front, has been captured by the British, Reuter's Agency announces.

"Our troops entered Bapaume this morning, after stiff fighting," Reuter's correspondent telegraphs. "The place was in flames, the Germans having evidently made all plans for setting fire to it when forced to retreat. Our troops are reported to be beyond the town."

ZEPPELIN BROUGHT TO EARTH AFLAME BY FIRE OF FRENCH

Air Raid Aimed at Paris Was Quickly Foiled.

Paris, March 17--10:40 a.m.--A zeppelin has been shot down in flames near Compiègne. All of its crew were lost.

The zeppelin was sighted just before dawn, and was reached by French anti-aircraft guns at a great height, probably three miles. The aircraft caught fire and the wreckage, with the burned bodies of the crew, fell outside Compiègne.

Compiègne is 45 miles northeast of Paris, and is close to the battle-front, which the zeppelin had presumably crossed.

TURNED BACK.
Paris, March 17.--A zeppelin alarm was sounded at 4:15 o'clock this morning by firemen who went through the streets of Paris blowing sirens. All lights were extinguished and airplanes patrolled over the city. At 6 o'clock bugles were blown announcing that the danger was over. No details are yet available, but apparently the zeppelin turned back before they reached the capital.

BROKE IN TWO.
The following official statement was given out:
"A zeppelin was brought down this morning at Compiègne by anti-aircraft artillery while flying over the town at a height of 3,500 metres. It remained flying in the air for a moment and then fell, striking a garden wall and broke in two."

All the bombs were thrown aboard during the fall. They dropped on vacant ground. Most of them did not explode.
"Several of the crew jumped out and were crushed to death. The others were burned."

SIR ADAM REQUESTS A MEETING WITH BOARD

Sir Adam Beck has notified Mayor Stevenson and City Clerk Baker that he desires to meet the board of control and the deputation going to Toronto on Monday in connection with the city of London bill.