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The Toronto World

Prussian Food Controller Fears Collapse of Germany From Starvation Before Next Year—Britain Stirred by Gallipoli Report—French Recover Lost Positions in Champagne—Haig's Troops Advance on Both Sides of Ancre—British Cavalry Only Eight Miles From Bagdad—Wilson Has Power to Arm Merchantmen.

HOTTER DISPUTE OVER GALLIOLI FAILURE LIKELY

Case of Churchill Versus Admiral Fisher Still to Be Settled.

HISTORY LAID BARE

Cromer Report Shows Kitchener Dominated Proceedings to Great Degree.

London, March 8.—The responsibility for what many persons consider the ill-fated Dardanelles campaign, is dealt with in a report on the operations issued today by a special commission, over which the late Lord Cromer presided. The entire country, particularly parliamentarians in the controversy, are regarded as the parts played in the Dardanelles drama by Winston Spencer Churchill, then first lord of the admiralty; Lord Fisher, then first sea lord, the late Earl Kitchener, secretary of war, and the prime minister, Herbert Henry Asquith, have awaited these revelations with the most intense interest.

Controversies Not Settled.

No other document concerning the war has thrown so much light upon the inner history of the operations. Such revelations have seldom been published by any government in time of war. The commission, headed by Lord Cromer, has been engaged in a study of the whole system of British management of naval and military affairs, from the methods of the premier himself down to those of the junior members of the staff. The report is a masterpiece of impartial conclusions with perfect frankness. Far from settling controversies, the document appears likely to bring up an interesting case of Winston Spencer Churchill versus "Jacky" Fisher, or at least to leave the friends of those leading actors in the situation with subject matter for a debate as lasting as that surrounding McClellan's campaign in the American civil war.

Numerous Witnesses. This was Lord Cromer's last public work. His pen is discernible throughout the document, which he signed on his deathbed. The witnesses examined include Mr. Asquith, Mr. Churchill, Viscount Grey, former secretary for foreign affairs; Arthur J. Balfour, former first lord of the admiralty and now foreign secretary; Mr. Lloyd George; the Marquis of Crewe, former president of the board of education; Reginald McKenna, former chancellor of the exchequer; and Viscount Haldane, former lord high chancellor, who were members of Mr. Cromer's committee.

Premier Borden and His Party Have Crossed Over to France

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 8.—Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues, Hon. J. D. Hagan and Hon. Robert Rogers, have gone to France.

Death of Count Zeppelin Is Reported From Berlin

London, March 8.—According to a Berlin telegram transmitted by Reuters, Count Zeppelin died this morning at Charlottenburg, near Berlin, from pneumonia.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BAGDAD, ancient seat of the Caliphs and of Haroun-al-Raschid, may have already fallen. The British advanced guards, consisting of a cavalry, reached a point only eight miles south of the city on Tuesday evening and bivouacked there for the night, according to a telegram received in London from General Maude. If the Turks intend to make a stand before Bagdad, they have to do so in a defensive position six miles south of the city. If they lose this position, they will have to retire northwards, for Bagdad itself is indefensible. The Turkish rear guard, which attempted a stand at Ladi on Monday, evacuated those lines on Tuesday morning, and the British pursued it past the ruins of Ctesiphon, making an advance of twenty miles in one day. In London official circles regard the capture of Bagdad as assured.

The Russians are losing no time either in pushing forward from Persia towards Mesopotamia and Bagdad. In their pursuit of the Turks from Hamadan they have already advanced as far as Kangaver, between 30 and 40 miles south of Hamadan. They are now marching on the high road to Kermanshah and Bagdad. They covered the distance between the Asadabad summit and Kangaver in a single day.

The capture of Bagdad would have a sentimental value for the British, but the operations have not the occupation of that city as their principal object. The design is apparently to open up a new line of supply for Russia by way of the Persian Gulf, the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers and the Bagdad railway, and, perhaps, an extension of the Russian line from Kars, or else by motor transport to Trebizond. As great Russian oil wells lie on the reverse slopes of the Caucasus an abundance of petrol is available almost on the spot for the motor car service. Once the allies secured possession of the Bagdad railway they would gain the advantageous position for pushing westward along that line for an attack on Syria in conjunction with the British advance from Egypt and the herding of the Turks into Asia Minor.

The occupation of Alexandretta would have an equivalent value to the occupation of Salonica. The main advantage of a speedy destruction of the city of Alexandretta would be the opening of a new line of communication between the British and French governments and their control of the Atlantic cables.

GERMAN GRAIN STOCKS THREATEN EXHAUSTION

Prussian Food Controller Demands Taking of Radical Measures to Prevent Hun Collapse Before Next Year.

London, March 8.—The Prussian food controller, Dr. Georg Michaelis, made in the Prussian diet, yesterday, what The Rheinische Zeitung calls a serious speech on the food question, says a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam. Dr. Michaelis declared that the distress was such that a more severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centres, could hardly be imagined. He indicated the possibility that all surplus stocks of grain would be exhausted, and said that very radical measures were needed to enable the people to hold out until next year. "We have, in the third year of the war," the food controller is quoted as saying, "discovered that among all sections of the general public, the feeling is not one of endurance for the sake of what has been hoped. This is human nature, but it is highly deplorable and may have most serious results. Stock Supervision. "We have not pressed in the towns that stern supervision which is absolutely necessary in the distribution of foodstuffs. There has been widespread abuse of bread tickets, entailing grave consequences as regards our stocks. Bread tickets have been illegally used on such a shocking scale that our entire reserves were exhausted. So when potatoes failed and bread was ordered as a substitute, there was none available. Flour has been similarly reduced owing to similar irregularities in the mills."

Urges Severity. Dr. Michaelis concluded by urging the utmost severity to remedy the shortage while there was yet time. Some of the mills would have to be closed and the municipalities deprived of their autonomous powers. "The selfishness of agrarians," he said, "is the cause of the high prices. The war would long since have been ended if everybody had to suffer hunger equally. The present meat ration is insufficient. To withhold such a necessary article from the people in the interest only of an agrarian tariff is damnable. I recall Prof. Abbes' retirement from the council of the war feeding department, that our entire reserves were exhausted in Essen and Berlin, owing to under-feeding, have only too well justified him." The minister of agriculture then spoke and vigorously defended himself against attacks. He alluded to the critical situation created by the partial success of the entente's plans for starving Germany and added: "For the small bread ration one can only make the Almighty responsible who has not given us the harvest we expected."

RUSSIA TO RETALIATE ON Foe FOR BARBARITY

Czar's Foreign Office Cites Many Hun Offences Against Civilization.

Petrograd, March 8, via London.—The Russian foreign office has transmitted to the governments of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey a lengthy protest against violation of usages of warfare, attaching citations of numerous specified instances and asserting the right to retaliate in kind. The violations enumerated were committed by a special committee appointed for that purpose. Each citation is stated as amply verified. The abuses charged include the use of explosive bullets, gas, burning of villages, poisoning of wells, the poisoning of wells, misuse of parliamentary (flag of truce) and Red Cross flags, killing of the wounded, throwing of bombs on military trains and the sinking of the hospital ship Oruzul, which was sunk in the Black Sea, March 30, 1916, by a Turkish submarine.

Switzerland Will Carry Mobilization Plans Further

Paris, March 8.—The Swiss legation has informed reservists on leave and subject to mobilization that the government has decided to complete the partial mobilization of Jan. 24 by calling out other units, including the Infantry battalion of the third and sixth divisions, the artillery, and two battalions of the landwehr.

TWO CANADIANS OUTWIT CAPTORS

Vancouver and Montreal Men Escape From Camp in Germany.

REACH ENGLAND SAFE Many Russians Reported to Have Succeeded in Getting Away.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 8.—Ptes. (1637) Thurgood, Vancouver, and (24361) Sam Gordon, Montreal, taken prisoners in April, 1915, members of the original contingent, have succeeded in escaping and have reached England. The men state they had not much difficulty in escaping as the rivers are frozen. Parcels reaching prisoners are much more irregular lately which makes it evident that Germany's difficulties in transport are increasing. Conditions in prisoners' camps are not so good as was once the case, but these two think this is not due to guards, who are anxious to treat the prisoners as well as possible in order to avoid trouble in the camps, when trouble does arise the guards are pocketed off to the western front. Every German soldier admits he fervently hopes to avoid such a fate. Thurgood and Gordon were taken care of well after crossing the frontier and were sent to England. Seven other British soldiers also escaped and nearly 250 Russians. The latter, say these Canadians, escape in large numbers.

FRANCE TO MOBILIZE HER CIVIL POPULATION

Males and Females Between Seventeen and Sixty Years Included.

Paris, March 8.—The government's measure for mobilizing the civil population, which was introduced in the senate Feb. 8, by Etienne Clementel, minister of commerce and agriculture, has been amended in committee of the senate by the inclusion of some suggestions from a bill by Henri Berger, senator from Gaudeloupe. The bill is now ready to be considered by parliament.

Charge of Broken Faith is Made in Strongly Worded Manifesto.

London, March 8.—A manifesto issued today by the Nationalists says the constitutional movement may yet be saved, but only by the active assistance of all level-headed Nationalists in Ireland, and especially the millions of the Irish race in the dominions and in the United States. The text of the Nationalist manifesto is as follows: "The premier, in his speech yesterday, in the debate on home rule, took up a proposition which, if adhered to, would involve denial of self-government to Ireland forever. He laid down the principle that the small minority in the north of Ireland should have the veto, so long as they chose to exercise it, of self-government for united Ireland. That is a position to which the British and French governments in their control of the Atlantic cables."

BRITISH RECORD NEW GAINS IN ANCRE VALLEY

French Recapture Champagne Salient From Germans by Swift Attack.

GIVE FOES NO REST

Haig's Men Make Successful Raid in Vicinity of Biaches.

London, March 8.—British and French official communications tonight record gains on both sides of the Ancre and the recapture of most of the salient taken by the Germans in the Champagne about three weeks ago. The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "We have advanced our lines slightly on either side of the Ancre Valley; otherwise the situation remains unchanged. Last night our troops successfully entered the enemy trenches near Biaches and secured some prisoners. Southeast of Chaunies and south of Arras the enemy raided our front line. In each case the raid was preceded by a heavy bombardment. A few of our men are missing. The artillery on both sides was active at various points along the whole front. In the neighborhood of Ctenchey we carried out a bombardment of the enemy trenches." The official communication issued by the French war office tonight reads: "In Champagne, after intense artillery preparation, our troops succeeded in occupying the greater part of a salient occupied by the enemy on Feb. 15 between Butte Mesnil and 'Champsagne.' One hundred prisoners among them two officers, remained in our hands. On the left bank of the Meuse our artillery fire overpowered German organizations between Hill 304 and Avocourt Wood. In Alsace our batteries dispersed a strong enemy detachment south of Colmar. Belgian statement: There is nothing to report."

FURTHER CHANGES IN STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Number of Canadian Transfers and Promotions Are Announced.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 8.—Colonel Lorne Drum has been appointed assistant medical director of the fifth division. Major C. A. Young has been appointed deputy director of the fifth division. Major J. W. Bridges has been appointed medical director at Bramshott and Capt. A. B. Garrod, acting staff-captain 15th Brigade, fifth division. Medical officers in future will be appointed with lieutenants' rank, but will draw pay allowances and pensions of captain. Captains having graduated one year or over will be appointed to rank of captain. Lieutenants will be promoted after one year's service. Nelson Spencer takes duty with director of supplies transport.

NATIONALISTS ASK SUPPORT IN FIGHT

Appeal Made to Compatriots in Dominions and the United States.

ASSAIL LLOYD GEORGE

Charge of Broken Faith is Made in Strongly Worded Manifesto.

Washington, March 8.—Both Secretary of State Lansing and Attorney-General Gregory have advised President Wilson that he has full authority to arm merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines. It was to be expected that the government authorities respectively on international questions and law—the president referred the contention raised in the senate that the act authorizing the armament of merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.



Regimental Sergt.-Major W. G. Fraser, of 39 1-2 Euclid avenue, and Company Sergt.-Major F. Gledhill, of 815 Shaw street, who left Toronto together and who have both been awarded the D. C. M. for conspicuous bravery on the field. They have been on active service over two years. Writing home recently, Sergt.-Major W. G. Fraser says: "We are both like Johnny Walker, for we are going strong."

Muddy Roads Retard Big Drive by British

Frost is Leaving Ground and Operations on Big Scale Will Be Expedited by Arrival of Canadian Railway Construction Battalions.

Paris, March 8.—So far as foodstuffs are concerned France smiles at the submarine blockade. The strain of the war has not prevented the cultivation of the land even here in the north. In a motor run along the coast toward the Canadian field headquarters a remarkable proportion of tilled soil is seen, whereas in the English Midlands fully half the land along the railways is devoted to grazing. Here I note the landscape has the brown of the plowed field. The work of farming is largely done by old men and women, with facilities lessened thru the use of the farms for billeting men along the lines of communication and the use of the roads to bring up munition supplies only. The wonderful industry of the French peasant enables the work of food production to go on under these difficult conditions.

PRESIDENT HAS POWER TO ARM MERCHANTMEN

Old U. S. Laws Invest Wilson With Full Authority to Provide Protection for Ships Against Submarines.

Washington, March 8.—Both Secretary of State Lansing and Attorney-General Gregory have advised President Wilson that he has full authority to arm merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines. It was to be expected that the government authorities respectively on international questions and law—the president referred the contention raised in the senate that the act authorizing the armament of merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.

GERMANY IN TOUCH WITH MEXICO CITY

Washington Disturbed Over Report of Powerful Wireless in Operation.

Washington, March 8.—Information has reached the government from a semi-official source that thru the perfection of a powerful wireless telegraph plant in Mexico City, direct communication between the Mexican capital and Germany has been established.

REPORT OF COL. BRUCE IS SENT TO OTTAWA

Officer Sails for England This Week to Assume New Duties.

Ottawa, March 8.—Col. Herbert Bruce, M.D., of Toronto, who made an investigation of the Canadian medical services in Great Britain for General Sir Sam Hughes, sent his report to the minister of militia today. This report, which has been given considerable official publicity was the direct cause of the investigation conducted by Surgeon-General Baple. Col. Bruce's report will be tabled in parliament. Col. Bruce will sail from New York this week for England. He has been appointed one of the British medical inspectors-general at the front, and will be associated there with some of the most notable British surgeons.

BRITISH CLOSE IN ON BAGDAD WITH CAVALRY

Pursuing Troops Bivouac Only Eight Miles South of City.

TOWN UNPROTECTED

Turks Can Only Make One Stand Six Miles South.

London, March 8.—An official statement issued tonight says that the British forces found Ctesiphon evacuated and that their cavalry spent Tuesday night eight miles south of Bagdad. The statement says: "Telegraphing Tuesday at midnight Gen. Maude reported that little opposition had been encountered by our pursuing troops Tuesday, the a high wind and a sandstorm rendered marching arduous. "A Turkish force which attempted to oppose our advance at Laji Monday had evacuated its positions by Tuesday morning, and our cavalry, passing Ctesiphon, which was found to be unoccupied, bivouacked for the night near Bawi, six miles southeast of Dialah, which is situated at the confluence of the Dialah River and the Tigris, eight miles from the southern outskirts of Bagdad. "During Monday and Tuesday 85 Turks and one Turkish gun were captured. "The ancient City of Bagdad, since 1638 held by the Turks, is about to fall into British hands. Its capture by the British Mesopotamian force is a foregone conclusion. "The city cannot be defended," declared Gen. F. B. Maurice, in charge of military operations, in an interview today. "I expect the Turks to make a defence at a point about six miles from the city. If they do, they will have no recourse but to retreat north."

VON IGEL FINANCED INDIAN CONSPIRACY

More Than Sixty Thousand Dollars Paid to Chakiaberty and Skunner.

PAPERS REVEAL PLOT

Activities of German Agents in U. S. Are Further Disclosed.

New York, March 8.—Evidence designed to show that Dr. Chakiaberty, a Hindu physician, and Ernest Skunner, a German chemist, received more than \$60,000 from Wolf von Igel, a member of the staff of Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador in the United States, upon the order of Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, the German foreign minister, with which to foment a rebellion in India, was reported tonight to have been presented to a special federal grand jury here. The information was contained in papers confiscated in the government's raid on Von Igel's offices in Wall street while seeking evidence on the plot against the Welland Canal. The papers were officially used by the government for the first time today, it was stated, their utilization having heretofore been prevented by the vigorous protests of Count von Bernstorff. The documents were taken to the grand jury room by Capt. William B. O'Flaherty of the department of justice, under whose direction virtually all of the German plot and propaganda arrests in this city have been made. Capt. O'Flaherty spent more than four hours in the grand jury room. The Zimmermann order was obtained by Dr. Chakiaberty in the summer of 1915, when he went to Berlin for the special purpose of interesting the German foreign office in the Indian rebellion, according to the government's agent. It is not believed that the Zimmermann memorandum is an autograph letter, but it is understood to have been written in his office at his dictation after Dr. Chakiaberty's scheme had been fully considered and approved.

THE DINEEN FIRE

The fire of last Tuesday morning has been nearly caused by a suspension of business, until the premises are overhauled and stock reassorted. We can promise our customers an early renewal of activities. W. & D. Dineen Company, Limited, 140 Yonge street, corner Temperance.

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