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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR | THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1917. | TWO CENTS

BRITISH TAKE THOUSANDS OF CAPTIVES

Germany Feels Spirit of Unrest; Resignation of Chancellor Asked ‖ ***Franco-British Forces Continue Advance on Western Front*** ‖ ***Spain, Faced by Crisis, May Enter War on Side of Allies***

Offensive of Gen. Haig's Forces Sweep on Unchecked

PATIENCE OF SPAIN NEAR END

Text of Note to Germany Conveys Grave Warning For Future

BREAK IS INEVITABLE

Unless Germany Joins in Suitable Negotiations

By Courier Leased Wire.

Amsterdam, via London, April 25—The text of Spain's note to Germany as given in Berlin despatches, while conveying a grave warning that the end of Spanish patience is in sight, also contains a suggestion that a crisis may be avoided through negotiation. The note says in part:

"All the repeated attempts of the Spanish Government, undertaken with the intention of safeguarding its sea traffic and the lives of its sailors have failed in the face of the imperturbable resolution of the imperial government to employ unusual and violent war measures. It is asserted that these measures render impossible the economic existence of the imperial government's enemies, but simultaneously they expose to great dangers the existence of friendly neutral powers."

The note then complains of the series of restrictions Germany has imposed on Spanish shipping and of the sinking of Spanish ships without warning. It declares that these methods render the economic existence of Spain almost impossible. The note continues:

"All these prove that German intentions neither aim at acknowledging our rights as we have demanded repeatedly and with justice, nor take into account, as they should, the request of a country whose friendship until to-day was unabated and whose neutrality was preserved without wavering.

"If the imperial government persists in declaring that it adheres to its determination in order to defend its life, it must not be astonished if Spain, for the same reason must emphasize her right to defend her own life. Despite negative replies to its previous note, the Spanish Government still trusts that the German Government will earnestly appreciate the sense and significance of this note and that in future its measures will be guided by regard for the lives of our seamen and the safety of her ships.

"The Spanish Government also hopes that the imperial government, fully appreciating the difficult economic situation in Spain, will enter into a discussion with the Spanish Government regarding measures which may be taken within the limits of military necessities, for the mitigation of the difficulties which have arisen in Spain."

TO-MORROW EVENING.

Come to the Auction Sale of fine residence, No. 212 Brant Avenue to-morrow, Thursday evening at eight o'clock, at the Exchange of S. G. Read and Son, Limited, 129 Colborne Street. S. G. Read, Auctioneer.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, April 25.—The high area which was north of Lake Superior yesterday is moving towards the St Lawrence valley, while the south-western low area is approaching the Great Lakes. Rain has fallen in parts of southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but over most of the Dominion the weather has been fine and cool.

Forecasts.

Strong easterly winds, showers to-night. Thursday — Showers and

Wotan Line Assailed in Force by British Troops; War's Greatest Fight Enters on Third Day

One of the greatest and most bitterly contested battles of the entire war has entered its third day on the British front in France. Massed German reserves are being hurled forward in bloody counter attacks in a supreme effort to check the forward surge of General Haig's khaki clad troops. Some minor positions, including trench lines and villages have been seized by the British, but the Wotan line, their main objective, is still intact.

While the mighty struggle in France rages, developments in other fields of the world upheaval are occurring with sensational rapidity. Spain has taken another step forward on the path along which she is apparently being pushed, slowly, but surely into the universal conflagration. The Madrid Government has addressed a note to Germany which, on its face must result in an abandonment by Berlin of its uncompromising attitude on ruthless submarine warfare, or its acceptance of a new and important foe. The situation is somewhat modified by the fact that Count Romanones, who, as premier, despatched the note, has since resigned. The growing tide of anti-Germanism in South America appears, however, to be having its effect in Spain, but a rigid censorship leave affairs in the peninsular kingdom obscure.

CONDONE OUTRAGE

Copenhagen, via London, Apr. 25.—German war correspondents on the western front are again excusing the bombardment of Rheims Cathedral on the ground that the venerable structure is being used for military purposes by the French. Despatches from German headquarters assert that artillery observers are posted on both the cathedral towers, who direct the operations of batteries stationed near the edifice. The correspondents protest that the French will be responsible for further damage to the cathedral.

PEASANTS OF RUSSIA ARE APPEALED TO

Grand Committee Urges on Its Members Need of Doing Duty

LAND DISTRIBUTION

Not to be Made Without the Peasants' Vote

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, April 25, via London.—The grand committee of the Alliance of Peasants has addressed the following petition to the peasants at the front;

"Do your duty. Do not fear that the lands will be divided without you. This division cannot be made by isolated villages, for that would invoke quarrels by which the enemy might profit. Only the constitutent assembly, wherein you will be represented, will decide this important question."

Government Control

Petrograd, April 25, via London—At a conference held at the offices of the minister of commerce to discuss the question of a government coal monopoly, it was proposed to place all mineral combustibles at the disposal of the government and regularize their distribution. No objection was made by coal representatives at the conference, and it is believed that the scheme will be put into effect about the middle of May.

WELCOME TO THE FRENCH DELEGATES

Vice Premier Viviani, Gen. Joffre and Party Well Received

By Courier Leased Wire.

Washington, April 25.—The French war commission to the United States, headed by Rene Viviani, vice premier and minister of justice and General Joffre was speeding up the Potomac early today aboard the presidential yacht Mayflower, bound for Washington. The party, which included American officials and others who extended a welcome to the visitors upon their arrival at Hampton Roads yesterday, was due to reach here shortly after noon today.

Foreign Minister Balfour, head of the British war commission was among those who arranged to greet the French party here.

The arrival of the French leaders permits the beginning of formal conferences between the representatives of the allied nations and American officials over the part the United States may play in the war against Germany. Their arrival had been awaited by the British commissioners who planned to work in the closest harmony with them.

The French commissioners were vested with complete power by their government to discuss with the American government all subjects including military, naval and financial. They came prepared to take up such questions as the advisability of sending of an expeditionary force to France, particularly for its moral effect and France's need of a monthly loan of $100,000,000 to be spent in the United States.

The series of official entertainments by the American government in honor of the British commissioners ended last night with a reception given by Secretary Lansing and attended by President Wilson, cabinet members, senators and representatives and others.

Over Three Thousand Prisoners Fall to British in the Latest Drive, French Were Also Successful

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, April 25.—The British have taken 3,029 prisoners since Monday morning, including fifty six officers, according to an official statement issued by the war office today.

British forces captured the hamlet of Bilhem, east of Havrincourt wood last night.

The statement follows:

"In the area east of Havrincourt wood during the night we captured the hamlet of Bilhem, northeast of Trescault village. Fighting took place early this morning along our front between the Cojeul and Scarpe Rivers Further progress has made by us and the ground gained has been secured. The number of prisoners captured by us since Monday morning is 3,029, including 56 officers."

French Gains.

Paris, April 25.—Noon—Ground was gained by the French last night in the Champagne, the war office announces. A German attack in the neighborhood of Hurtebise was repulsed.

The Germans made several futile efforts to raid French trenches near Tahure and Maisons de Champagne, leaving many dead in the wire entanglements.

U. S. LOAN

By Courier Leased Wire.

Washington, April 25—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo today handed the British Ambassador a treasury warrant for $200,000,000, the first loan made to any Entente Government bp the United States under the $7,000,000,000 war_finance measure.

RUSSIA IS PREPARED IN BALTIC

Fleet and Army There Are Ready to Fight to the Last

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, April 25.—A Helsingfors despatch says that the council of Army and Navy delegates at Sveaborg has decided to send a wireless message to the allied fleets saying that the Baltic fleet and the army defending its base is in complete readiness to fight to the last in defense of free Russia. The message will add that the soldiers and sailors are in perfect union with their officers. This action was decided upon at a meeting attended by a delegate from the French navy and is intended as a reply to reports circulated by German agents that the Baltic fleet was absolutely disorganized and incapable of fighting.

German Activity.

Despatches from Petrograd during the last few days have reported great activity on the part of the German fleet in the Baltic. A Monday despatch said that German transports had left Libau for an unknown destination. Other reports declared that the Germans were planning a land and sea attack on the rear of the Russian line at Riga with the hope of isolating and capturing Petrograd. Sveaborg is the great Russian fortress defending the Gulf of Finland.

Quitting Petrograd.

London, April 25.—An exodus of civilians from Petrograd is reported in a despatch to The Express from the Russian capital. One permit office was besieged on Tuesday morning by eight hundred people. Inquiries among them were answered by a shrug of the shoulders and the favorite Russian reply 'who knows?'

Petrograd is Disturbed Over Rumors of Impending Hun Drive; Unrest Through Europe Spreads

By Courier Leased Wire.

Next in importance to the news from the western front and the serious crisis between Spain and Germany, are the growing rumors to-day of a great German attempt to be made against Petrograd. The reports are taken seriously enough in the Russian capital to induce many hundreds of civilians to flee to the interior. According to rumor, the German plan is a combined assault by sea and land, and transports escorted by a powerful German fleet are said to have already sailed from Libau. The political situation in Russia remains confused, but there are uncomfortable reports of the activities of the radical Socialists, and of renewed outbreaks of agraian troubles, some of a counter revolutionary character.

GERMANY IN FERMENT

The unrest in Germany is having a new manifestation in a fresh outburst against Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg by Conservatives and National Liberals. The Chancellor is being violently attacked for his alleged subservience to Socialist influences, and the opening of the Reichstag, which is scheduled for to-day, is expected to bring these attacks to a focus.

DISCONTENT GROWS

In the meantime there are indications that the tremendous currents of discontent which are running through Europe are growing in strength. The visit of the King of Denmark to Stockholm is regarded as of particular significance in view of the recent demonstration of the Swedish workers against the Government. May Day is expected to bring matters to a climax in Sweden, and Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, has warned the government against undue interference with the great labor demonstration planned for that day.

DENMARK AND SWEDEN ARE FRIENDLY

Pledges of Cordiality Exchanged Between the Two Rulers

FRIENDSHIP PRECIOUS

And of Great Importance at Present

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Apr. 25—A Stockholm despatch says that the kings of Denmark and Sweden exchanged pledges of friendship at a banquet Tuesday night. King Gustave said in proposing a toast to his brother monarch, their sincere friendship was increasingly precious in the serious times in which they lived.

In his reply, King Christian dwelt on the great importance to Denmark and Sweden of the personal friendship existing between the rulers.

London, April 25—Hjalmar Branting, leader of the Swedish Socialist party, has telegraphed to The Daily Chronicle that the hostility of the workingmen in Sweden against the government is growing more intense.

M. Branting says:

"Among the workingmen the hostile feeling against the ruling reactionist party is growing stronger. This party by their trade policy has caused the lack of bread from which we are now suffering."

The Socialist leader expresses the belief that May Day will pass without trouble "unless the authorities are guilty of provocation."

HOLLWEG OPPOSED BY HUNS

Strong Movement Manifested for Resignation of German Chancellor

AGITATION GENERAL

Caused by Food Crisis and Need of Internal Reforms

By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, via London, April 25—The movement for the overthrow of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, halted for a time by the adoption of ruthless submarine warfare, is again becoming evident in Germany. The agitation is encouraged by dissensions over internal reforms, possible peace terms and food troubles.

The pan-German, Conservative and National Liberal organs are to-day sharply campaigning against the Socialist peace program and take the chancellor severely to task for not disassociating himself and his administration from Schiedemann and his propanganda. The Conservative Deutsche Tages-Zeitung demands a strong hand at the helm which alone, it says, can save the country from the breakers to which it is heading on the dangerous Schiedemann course. The Liberal organs speak of the hopes and fears that ruthless submarining introduced and declare that a strong and positive policy at home and abroad is much needed.

Other papers accuse the chancellor of staking and losing the imperial prestige on the Emperor's Easter manifesto which failed to satisfy any party. Von Bethmann-Hollweg's strength lies in the fact that his enemies have no points of unity in their general discontent.

Reports from the Berlin Socialist conference, indicate that there is trouble too in the ranks of the Socialist majority and that Schiedemann is having increasing difficulty in keeping in line, what has virtually been the principal government party. A decided drift toward the policies of the secessionists of the radical wing was noticeable and Schiedemann and other speakers intimated that unless the government speedily and unequivocally pronounced itself on peace terms and made a satisfactory beginning toward the reform of the Prussian franchise, without waiting for the end of the war, a break in the ranks in the direction of radicalism was highly probable.

The Pan-German annexationists have turned a trick against the Socialists by exploiting an apocryphal peace program, which they claim the German Socialists will put forward at the Stockholm conference. This program, which specifies in detail, the disposition of all occupied territories, is indignantly repudiated by The Varwaerts. The Socialist organ says that no program exists beyond a general declaration against annexations and indemnities.

The administration is evidently having no happy time in facing the utterly conflicting demands of its Socialist friends and junker enemies, both clamoring for a definite statement as to war aims and internal reforms. The evident shakiness of Austria-Hungary is another source of concern and the encouraging assurances of confidence and support which the Chancellor has been accustomed to receive in such times of trouble from press and parliament are this time lacking.

TO-MORROW EVENING

Remember the auction sale of the fine residence, 212 Brant Avenue, takes place at the Exchange of S. G. Read and Son, Limited, 129 Colborne Street, to-morrow, Thursday evening at eight o'clock.

S. G. READ
Auctionee

"IN HANDING MY RESIGNATION TO KING, I VOTED FOR FRANCE"

—Count Romanones

Ex-Premier of Spain Declares Unqualifiedly That His Country Should Enter War on Side of Allies; No Longer a Question of Discussing Doctrines

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, April 25.—Count Romanones in an interview with the Madrid correspondent of The Petit Parisien declares unequivocally that his resignation as Spanish premier was due to his conviction that Spain should join the allies. The former premier is quoted as saying:

"We are at an hour when every conscientious man must cast his vote and take up his position in the European conflict. In handing my resignation to the King, I voted for France. I weighed every word of my letter to the King and I maintain them more than ever. I am more than ever certain of being right.

"Moreover we are at an epoch when there can be no longer a question of discussing doctrines. One is only judged by events. It is only if events prove me right that I shall resume office. My whole political career is now at stake. If I am mistaken, if events do not fall out as I believe they fatally must, I will remain outside politics.

"I was convinced that the era of notes had passed. We are worse blockaded, we neutrals, than England. Ships staying in ports, business is paralyzed and exports impossible. It is ruin and, while they ruin us, the Germans are carrying on unbridled propaganda here. They are trying to frighten the people by emphasizing the horrors of war in their newspapers. They pose as the champions of world peace. It is absurd, but adroit.

"Nevertheless the South American nations, issued from our blood, our Latin daughters, are preparing for the noble task. They raise their eyes toward their mother with anguish and surprise. The situation is poignant. Well—we shall see."

THE SICK MAN GETTING SICKER

Kaiser—"After all the benefits, I've bestowed upon you, you dare to come to me in this plight."
Abdul—"Don't be alarmed, Sire, it's only part of a strategic plan."