

JAPAN MODIFIES HER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINA; WILL FOREGO SEVERAL OF HER DEMANDS

TOKIO GOVERNMENT'S TONE MORE CONCILIATORY

Peking, Mar. 12.—Japan has definitely modified her attitude toward China in the matter of insisting upon compliance with the demands she made upon the Chinese Republic shortly after the occupation by Japan of the German concession of Kiaow Chow. These demands for some two months have been the subject of negotiation at Peking. Having already agreed to the Chinese counter proposals to discuss Manchuria and Mongolia separately, the Japanese representatives have now verbally informed China that they will forego completely several of their demands. Furthermore, Japan is prepared to modify the proposed clauses concerning the Hanan, Yach and Ping Siang mining concessions, and revise her requirements concerning Japanese residents and traders in Manchuria and Mongolia.

The conference is still proceeding. The demands, as now presented, have been drafted in the form of a treaty or agreement between China and Japan.

OFFICERS ON BRITISH SHIP DESCRIBE ATTACK ON DARDANELLES FORTS

London, March 12.—The officers of the British battleship *Triumph*, formerly the Chilean warship *Libertad*, which has been seventeen times in action in the Dardanelles, gave an account of the fighting to the Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Mitylene, where the *Triumph* is coaling. "Trial trips were made into the entrance of the Dardanelles February 18, by torpedo boat destroyers, which got within a thousand yards of the forts," said one of the officers. "The destroyers were not fired upon, as the Turks, probably through a shortage of ammunition, reserved their shells for the larger ships. The *Triumph* was ordered to bombard Fort 1, a destroy battery No. 50, both on the European side of the Straits, but we could find no trace of the battery, which even the sea planes failed to locate.

"Along the shore we perceived trenches and barbed wire entanglements, which had been erected to prevent landings. Some troops also were seen entrenched on the hills.

A Spectacular Scene.

"On the morning of Feb. 19, all the Allied ships proceeded against the outer forts, opening fire at 7,500 yards. They received no reply. The *Triumph* reconnoitered Cape Helles defenses and opened fire on them during the afternoon with her seven-inch guns, causing very heavy damage.

"When we rejoined the fleet in the evening a spectacular scene was witnessed. The French ships were firing furiously from the south, while two British ships steamed up and down, firing salvos. Bad weather interrupted the operations, which were resumed the 25th and the *Triumph* succeeded in locating battery No. 50. The same day three trips into the entrance were made by various British ships, the *Triumph* getting to within two thousand yards of Fort Three and making direct hits on the enemy's guns.

"That night the Turks burned the lighthouses. The next day mine sweepers passed through the entrance under the protection of the *Triumph*. "On March 1, the *Triumph* was ordered against Fort Dardanelles, where she was hit twice, one shell going through her armor, killing one man. This would have been a serious affair but the shell exploded before it penetrated. Another shell went clean through the captain's cabin.

"The same evening the *Triumph* covered a landing party which blew up some of the important works on the Asiatic side. The explosions sent fragments of wreckage hundreds of feet into the air three-quarters of the distance across the Straits.

"All the men of the *Triumph* are in excellent spirits. Throughout the operations one would have thought these men were engaged in some sporting expedition rather than in deadly warfare.

Official Reports

FRANCE

Paris, March 12 (Via London, March 13).—The War Office tonight made public the following official communication:

"To the east of Lombardzyde, (Belgium), we have taken a German fort, about 100 metres in front of our lines of trenches.

"Three kilometres (1.8 miles) east of Armentieres (France), nine miles northwest of Lille, the British troops have occupied the village of L'Epinelette. In the sector of Neuve Chapelle the progress of the British army has been followed up. After repulsing two strong counter-attacks, this army took possession of that part of the German line which was situated between the hamlet of Pictre and the mill of the same name and captured about 400 prisoners, including five officers.

"In Champagne on Thursday evening we carried, in front of the ridge northeast of Meunin, several of the enemy's trenches, and took some prisoners, including officers.

"On Friday we made some slight progress in the same region.

"Farther west, parallel with the Tahure road (northeast of the front), we have captured several German trenches.

"On the heights of the Meuse, parts of a trench in which the Germans had succeeded in gaining a footing yesterday evening were recaptured by us this morning.

"At Reich Ackerkopf we repulsed night attacks, and advanced two hundred metres (about six hundred feet).

RUSSIA

Petrograd, Mar. 12.—The Russian War Office tonight made public the following official statement:

"In the Suwalki region the enemy still holds Simno and Augustowo, and has assumed the offensive in the Selny region, where fighting is proceeding.

"On the right bank of the Nemow the artillery fire is intense. On the front of Ormulev and Orzhid, and also in the direction of Przasnysz, the enemy's attacks have been held in check by the Russian troops.

"On the left bank of the Vistula there is no change in the situation.

"On the front of the Gorlice and Lupkow Passes, in the Carpathians, there has been a series of energetic Russian counter-attacks. To the south of Gorlice parties of the enemy crossed the Senkouska and attempted to fortify themselves on its right bank. They were annihilated. Russian scouts surrounded three Austrian detachments which advanced at different places, and they all surrendered.

The greatest success obtained was by means of a Russian flank attack, where the main Austrian operations had been carried on.

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CARRIED OVER 46 MILLION PASSENGERS

Canadian Railways Show Increase in Number of Passengers Carried Last Year, But Hauled Less Freight than in 1913.

Ottawa, Mar. 12.—That the operating mileage of Canadian railways increased 1,491 miles, that their capital liabilities increased by \$276,990,000, that 47,515 more passengers were carried and 5,598,721 tons less of freight hauled is shown by railway statistics for 1914 just issued by the railways and canal departments.

The operating mileage of Canadian railways is now 30,795 as compared with 19,431 in 1904, ten years ago. Quebec has increased her mileage by 57 miles during the year.

On June 30, 1914, there were 22,891 miles of railway under construction, 11,429 in Quebec. Adding 309 miles of double track and combining yard track and sidings there was a total of 40,605.

The capital liability of operative railroads stood at \$1,808,820,761 on June 30, or an increment of \$276,990,000 for the year. This capitalization was divided as follows: Stock, \$832,110,653; debentures stock (C.P.R.), \$173,307,470; funded debts, \$282,402,636. Adding \$64,637,500 of stocks and \$88,669,809 of bonds attached to railways under construction, the final aggregate capitalization was \$1,962,128,070. Cash paid to railways reached a total of \$16,106,319 in 1914, of which the Dominion contributed \$15,583,059.

During 1914 the railways carried 46,702,280 passengers and 101,393,989 tons of freight. The average freight haul was 217 miles, the longest of any country in the world. Gross earnings aggregated \$249,033,539 or \$12,619,164 less than in 1914. There was also a decrease of \$3,036,431 in operating expenses.

HONOR ROLL AMONG THE CANADIANS IS GROWING

Number of Patriotas Killed on Empire's Battleground or Died from Wounds Has Reached 159 — Deaths Among Other Canadian Regiments Number 43.

Ottawa, March 12.—The death roll of the First Canadian Contingent, including the Princess Patricia's, has now mounted up to 159. Of these 58 have been killed in action while 101 have died of disease or accidents. The total number of wounded is well over the 200 mark. The daily lists of killed and wounded are now heavier than ever before since practically the whole of the first contingent and the Princess Patricia's are now right at the front. During the present week alone the casualties have totalled so far 64 men killed or wounded in the Princess Patricia's and 43 in the other Canadian regiments. The casualty lists of the past six days shows 19 men of the Princess Patricia's killed or died of wounds and 46 men wounded while among the other Canadian regiments there are 13 deaths and 50 wounded.

It is reported on good authority that preparations have been made at Amherst for the establishment there of a concentration camp for the accommodation of German prisoners, and that some 600 will be located there. The guards are said to have arrived yesterday and the first batch of prisoners is expected today.

"The Russians captured the villages of Lupkow and Smelnik, and also the surrounding heights, and seized two howitzers, two field guns and seven maxims, and field hospitals, with their staffs. The total number of prisoners captured was four thousand, including seventy officers.

"In the region of Rabbe-Koslawka the enemy repeated his furious attacks fruitlessly, they being repelled with enormous losses.

"In East Galicia, at Niezviska on the Dniester, Cossacks nearly annihilated three squadrons of Prussian Hussars. Twenty-five Hussars and ten of their officers were made prisoners.

AUSTRIA

Vienna, via London, March 12.—The following official communication was issued tonight:

"The positions of our troops, newly won in Russian Poland and Western Galicia, have been strengthened. The enemy's attacks are no longer repeated.

"Near Kowno (on the Pilica east of Tomaszow in Poland) our artillery yesterday, after a brief but vigorous action, silenced several hostile batteries.

"In the Carpathians after a bitter fight we captured a place on the road between Cienia and Bialogrod, and the adjacent heights were cleared of the enemy during a heavy snowstorm.

"In the western neighboring sector a strong hostile attack failed. On the remainder of the front in the Carpathians, as well as in southeast Galicia, no particular events occurred owing to heavy snowstorm, which lasted all day.

"North of Czernowitz (Bukovina) the situation is quiet.

"In the southern war theatre nothing has occurred for a considerable time.

"Unimportant skirmishes have taken place at some points on the Montenegrin frontier."

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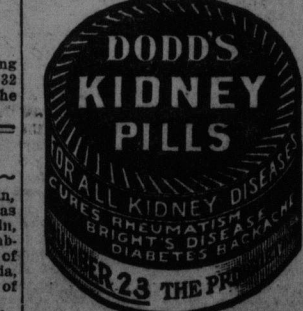
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MACKEREL. No. 1 Mackerel in Bbls. and Half Bbls. JAMES PATTERSON 19 and 20 South Market Wharf St. John, N. B.

BRINGS TALE OF MASSACRE BY KURDS

Persian Doctor, One of Thousands of Refugees, Reaches New York With Story of Shocking Outrages.

New York, March 12.—A story of massacres, devastation and deaths from privation, was told tonight by Dr. A. D. Yuseff, a Persian physician, who has just arrived here from his home country, describing the recent invasion of Urumia, Northern Persia, by the Kurds. At the approach of the invaders 50,000 Christians fled north through the mountains into Russia, many taking up the journey on foot, because of the scarcity of horses and other means of transportation. Dr. Yuseff, who, with his wife, took part in this flight, declared that the fugitives left the roads behind them strewn with thousands of their dead, who had succumbed to hardships.

About fifteen thousand Christian refugees are now under the protection of the American mission in the city of Urumia, and twenty thousand are in a like position in Tabriz, while many thousands are scattered in towns along the Russian border where there are missions. Dr. Yuseff said. The Kurds, he declared, seem to be the only hope. This is largely due to the fact that they fly the American flag.

The first invasion of the Kurds, of whom there are some three million living in the Kurdistan mountains west and southwest of the plains of Urumia, took place the latter part of September, but the invading party of five thousand was driven back by Russian troops, although, according to Dr. Yuseff, they were being aided in what they regarded as a holy war by native Mohammedans, once their enemies, but now turned friends. Ten of these wealthy Mohammedans, Dr. Yuseff declared, were hanged by the Russians, who charged them with helping the Kurds with money and in other ways.

"The second invasion," said Dr. Yuseff, "began late in December. About three thousand Russian troops were in the city of Urumia when the Kurds began their advance, and reinforcements were expected, but these failed to arrive. A force of five hundred Russians and Christians engaged the Kurds in advance, killing about two hundred of the invaders. They found them bearing flags with the word 'Gehad,' indicating a holy war was being waged.

"The Kurds kept advancing and about this time the Russian commander at Tiflis ordered all the Russian soldiers in Persia to report at Jolfa, Russia, on the border, from which place they were to be distributed to other Russian points where they were needed.

"As this took the Russian soldiers from the city of Urumia, the command or sent word to all the villages in the plains, on January 2, for the people to leave their homes and flee north. The Russian troops were to follow them, bringing up the rear. About fifty thousand Christians responded to the warnings, leaving everything behind them but such bread and blankets as they could carry. Mrs. Yuseff and myself were living near Urumia and we joined the refugees.

"Shortly after we started we heard that the invaders had entered Urumia city, and that they had hanged Bishop Mar Elias, of the Russian church, and 73 prominent Nestorians on the same gallows which the Russians had used in hanging the ten Mohammedans."

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TWO FRENCH GENERALS ARE WOUNDED

One of Them, Gen. Maunoury, Former Military Governor of Paris, Led French Forces in Battle of Soissons.