

BRITISH TAKE VILLAGE OF GOMMECOURT ON THE ANCRE BIG HUN PLOT REVEALED

WASHINGTON PREPARING TO ENTER WORLD WAR

Vote on Question of Arming Merchant Ships Will Probably Be Taken Today — Indignation Against Germany Strong in United States.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Opposition in Congress to granting President Wilson authority to protect American rights and lives on sea began melting today, and administration leaders confidently predicted action within another twenty-four hours. There were indications that many of the Republicans of the Senate who, though favoring the steps proposed, insist that Congress should be called in extra session, would vote for the measure requested by the president when the roll was called.

Details of the destruction of the Cunard liner *Laconia* published in the morning papers, and telling of the suffering and death of an American mother and daughter among the passengers, had its effect during the day. Members of the House and Senate, whose communications had come largely from pacifists, began receiving telegrams from their constituents calling for vigorous action by the government.

May Vote Today.

The House foreign affairs committee, early in the day, reported out the Flood bill authorizing the president to arm American ships, with amendments eliminating the provision for the use of "other instrumentalities", and adding a prohibition against the insurance of munition ships by the government war risk bureau. A special rule to expedite passage of

the measure was introduced by Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee, who said he probably will press it tomorrow. It would provide for a vote not later than 12 o'clock p. m.

Another aggravating incident was added to the situation today by the receipt of word from Germany that four American consuls were being held there because a German consul on his way from the United States to Ecuador had been detained in Cuba. A statement of the facts, with a request for immediate release was cabled tonight.

Announcement was made at the state department that instructions had been sent to Ambassador Elicus at Constantinople to report definitely and immediately whether Turkey would guarantee, not only for herself, but for her allies, the safety of the American cruiser *Des Moines* and the naval collier *Caesar*, in taking relief supplies into Syria, and bringing out the 1,000 or so marooned Americans there. Ambassador Elicus, having sent a rather ambiguous promise from a rather ambiguous authority, was told to say that unless definite and specific guarantees were received from Turkey, binding all the Central Powers, the two vessels would not be allowed to proceed.

The veering of opinion at the capital in favor of the armed neutrality bill was apparent throughout the day.

A CASE WHICH DEMANDS INVESTIGATION AT ONCE

Former Liberal Makes Serious Charge As to Opposition Canvasses Used in French Districts of Victoria County.

To the Editor of The Standard.

Sir,—Now that the provincial election is over I wish to call attention to the charge made from the public platform at Andover on Thursday evening last by William Pirie, a former Liberal, to the effect that Messrs. Tweeddale and Burgess, the opposition candidates, and Miss Michaud, M. P., and F. B. Carvell, M. P., had circulated in the French districts of this county the false statement that if the Government won the election conscription would follow in a few weeks and the boys in those districts would be forced to the front and butchered like cattle.

Is this charge true? If so a very serious injury has been done to recruiting in the country.

Has the same canvass been made in the French districts of other counties? The vote indicates that it has.

Have the opposition candidates been purchasing votes with the blood of our boys in the trenches? Have they bought success with the lives of those who are defending our flag and Empire?

An immediate and thorough investigation should be made.

No man who has been juggling with treason and dallying with sedition should be accepted by the people as a cabinet minister.

Yours,
T. J. CARTER.

Andover, N. B., Feb. 27th, 1917.

BRITISH CONTINUE TO WIN IN FRANCE

On Both Sides of Ancre Army of Britain Keeps Up Great Drive--Several Important Points Captured--Germans Continue to Fall Back.

WASHINGTON INDIGNANT

Address of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg in Reichstag Made U. S. Government Officials Mad.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Surprise bordering on indignation was voiced here officially today over Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech to the Reichstag. State department officials are amazed that the chancellor should seek further to confuse German-American relations with a series of statements which they say are palpably opposed to the most obvious events of recent history.

The chancellor's statement that the United States severed relations "brusquely" is viewed as too absurd for discussion.

German Ruthlessness.

It is pointed out that the American correspondence has plainly threatened such action; that Count Von Bernstorff had said, for several days beforehand, that he expected to be dismissed, and that the German government had shown its realization of the coming break by sending out orders to disable its merchant ships in this country. It also was pointed out that while the United States delayed three days in taking the action it had clearly foreshadowed in several notes, Germany put into effect its campaign of ruthlessness on an hour's notice, after months of assurance that she had no intention of doing so.

The statement that Germany in her Sussex note reserved a new course of action is declared wholly unjustified. The United States specifically refused to accept that condition, and in default of any from Germany was justified in her point of view. In diplomacy the last note between two nations is the binding note and stands in all particulars until denied by one or the other.

FALL OF LIGNY, FAMOUS NAPOLEONIC BATTLE GROUND FOLLOWED BY CAPTURE OF GOMMECOURT, PUISIEUX-AU-MONTS AND TRENCH SYSTEMS NEAR THEM.

On both sides of the Ancre river in France the British forces continue to make progress. North of the stream the important village of Gommecourt and the village of Puisieux-Au-Monts and trench systems near them have been captured, while south of the river the forces which previously had taken Ligny pushed eastward and occupied Thillois, about a mile southwest of Bapaume, and a trench at Sully-Salilles.

The capture of Gommecourt was followed by the driving of the British line a thousand yards northeast of that place. Whether the Germans offered resistance on any of these sectors is not stated by the British official communication.

HUNS MAY EVACUATE THE ANCRE

Probably Germans Have Decided Position in Salient Untenable.

London, Feb. 28.—Special Canadian Press cable by Stewart Lyon.—In London there is much speculation in the press as to the meaning of the enemy's retirement at Ancre. The general view is that it means the beginning of a realignment, which will involve the evacuation of the entire salient, now dangerous and costly held by the Germans in the region west of the Bapaume Arras. British guns now command the only railway by which the southern part of the salient can be provided with food and shells. The road system is also menaced by General Gough's possession of Serre.

The Evening Standard presents its military correspondent's opinion "that the Germans voluntarily gave up a strip of ground two miles wide in order to forestall the upset intended by a British attack on a large scale. It is as if the anvil had been suddenly removed when the powerful hammer stroke was about to be struck. Delay is necessitated on our part by the digging of new trenches in front of the German line, and the displacing of heavy, as well as light artillery. This may be the aim of the enemy."

The French view is also quoted to the effect that the Germans retired in order to prevent overwhelming disaster. In any event the next big struggle on this part of the front must be for the command of Bapaume ridge and series of heights north of Ancre, covering Bapaume on the southwest.

GOVERNMENT MAKES VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Shortage of Farm Labor in Canada, which is Serious Handicap to Allies, Compels Government to Make "Bar-gain-Day" Offer.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—The government has recently been giving close attention to the shortage of farm labor, which shortage, unless remedied, is likely to seriously interfere with the Canadian output of foodstuffs so essential to the Allied nations. The necessity for increased production is accentuated by the natural diminution of field crops in European countries within the war zone. The shortage of farm labor in Canada has become more acute each season since war commenced owing to enlistment for overseas services and the number employed in munition plants.

given in the United States to the order-in-council just passed, and advertisements for farm help are being inserted in about 7,000 of the best papers in the States. Reduced railway fares from the international boundary to inter-points have been arranged for all those intending to follow farm work.

ANGLO-FRENCH CONFERENCE IN FRANCE

Paris, Feb. 27, (Delayed).—An Anglo-French conference was held at Calais yesterday and today. Those participating in it were Premier Briand of France, General Lyautoy, the French minister of war; General Robert G. Nivelle, commander-in-chief of the French field forces; Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain; Gen. Sir Wm. R. Robertson, chief of the imperial staff at British army headquarters, and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France.

Important Change.

In order to meet the difficulty the government has decided that the greatest good would be accomplished by permitting any who had entered for homesteads, pre-emptions or purchased homesteads to have counted as residence duty all the time spent by them as farm laborers within Canada, and an order-in-council has been passed making this temporary change in the homestead regulations.

It is believed that some homesteaders by working as farm laborers for the larger producers having all necessary stock and machinery would augment the agricultural output to a much greater extent than they spent their time on their own homesteads hampered by lack of stock or machinery, in addition to which it is expected that the new regulations, which are passed under the War Measures Act, may induce numbers who have been following urban occupations in Canada to settle on the land, and may also induce numbers of farm laborers to come from the United States, make entry for homesteads and immediately engage themselves to farmers in Canada requiring help. With this object in view, the widest publicity is being

CANADA IS CALLED UPON TO SEND NAVAL OFFICERS

Hon. J. Douglas Hazen, Now in London, Arranging Details—Regulations for Entry—Men Must be Unmarried.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—For the first time in the history of Canada the British admiralty has asked for officers for the Royal Navy. Today the Naval Service Department was requested to issue a call for officers. There is no limit placed upon the number. As many as Canada can send will be taken, provided they pass the tests of course. Some time ago the admiralty asked for seamen and petty officers and got them. Then motor men were invited to join the naval patrol. Now the whole navy from quarter deck to forecastle is opened to Canadians and they are invited to take part in the immense development that is in progress. Hon. J. D. Hazen has been arranging the details in London.

The regulations for entry are briefly as follows: Candidates must be of pure European descent and sons of natural born or naturalized British subjects and must be unmarried. They must be in good health and free from physical defects. The examinations for entry are held in June of each year. Particulars of the final examinations to be held in England may be obtained from "Secretary Civil Service, Burlington Gardens, London, England." The naval service department will shortly have complete information to the preliminary test in Canada.

STARTLING GERMAN PLOT REVEALED AT WASHINGTON

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States if this country should not remain neutral.

Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States. Mexico for her reward was to receive general financial support from Germany, re-conquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona lost provinces, and share in the victorious peace terms Germany contemplated.

Details were left to German Minister Von Eckhardt in Mexico city who, by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann, at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza, and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

These instructions were transmitted to Von Eckhardt through Count

SEVEN KILLED WHEN TRAIN HITS AUTO

Lima, Ohio, Feb. 28.—Seven dead and twelve injured in the hospital, at least two of them will die, was the toll of an automobile accident here tonight. Twenty-two homeward bound employees of the Ohio Steel Foundry and were hurled through the air and beneath the train wheels when a Cincinnati freight and Dayton freight struck the bus.

BRITISH STATEMENT OF MARINE LOSSES AND MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS.

London, Feb. 28.—Following is the British official weekly statement of arrivals and sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks on shipping for the week ending Sunday, Feb. 25:

Arrivals and sailings, merchant vessels of all nationalities, (over hundred tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) arrivals, 2,280; sailings, 2,261.

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine of 1,600 tons gross or over, 16; under 1,600 tons gross, six.

British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines, 12; British fishing vessels sunk, 4.

PROHIBITION ASSURED FOR WASHINGTON

Washington, Feb. 28.—Prohibition in the national capital was virtually assured when the house late today agreed, by a vote of 242 to 172 to adopt a rule providing for an immediate vote on the district of Columbia prohibition bill as it passed the senate.

SUGAR TRUST WILL ADVANCE WAGES AGAIN

New York, Feb. 28.—The American Sugar Refining Co. announces that the wages of its 25,000 employees will be increased shortly.

The advance will bring the total increase made by the corporation to nearly 50 per cent.

ANOTHER AMERICAN ON LACONIA DEAD.

Queenstown, Feb. 28.—Among the eight persons who succumbed in the *Laconia* boat which landed at Bantry was Tom Coffey, of Baltimore, a member of the crew of the *Canard* liner.

RUSSIANS UNFORTUNATE

On the remainder of the front in France and Belgium minor attacks and artillery duels continue. Near Clerf, Arras and Lens successful raids were carried out by the British, and a German raid north of Armentieres was repulsed.

Comparative quiet prevails in Russia and Galicia, along the northwestern frontier of Roumania, in the Jacobeni-Kimpolung sector, the Teutons have captured several hill positions from the Russians, and taken more than 1,500 men prisoner. Petrograd, in admitting the loss of the positions, says that a counter-attack gave the Russians possession of one of the positions.

In the Tigris region the British, in quest of Bagdad, are following up the Turks recently driven out of Kut-el-Amara.

No notable changes in positions have taken place in either the Austro-Italian or Macedonian theatres, where small engagements and artillery duels continue to prevail.

For the first time since the commencement of Germany's intensified submarine campaign the past 24 hours have brought no reports from London of vessels having been sent to the bottom by underwater boats or mines.

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