

SECOND HALT COMES IN ATTACK ON DOUAUMONT

Dominion Parliament to Consider Prohibition on Monday

GERMAN PRISONERS TELL OF THE CARNAGE AT DOUAUMONT

Only Seventy-One Survived Out of Two Hundred in One Company and Regiments Were Mowed Down in Entire Lines.

PARIS, March 4.—Paris has been speculating for several days past on the total of the German casualties in the region of Verdun. It has been virtually impossible to reach exact conclusions in this regard, but all the evidence points to the fact, that at certain places along the line of battle the losses sustained by the German troops opposed to the armies of France, have been formidable.

German prisoners in the hands of the French give certain details of the casualties caused by the French fire, which company of the 12th Regiment of Infantry, now a prisoner behind the French lines, has made the following statement concerning his own experiences:

"On Feb. 21, before my company had taken part in any engagement, it was composed of 200 men and 24 officers. Then we went into battle and the organization came out reduced to one officer and 70 men. It is a miracle that 40 of us escaped the massacre.

"The French artillery fire and the marksmanship of the French infantry made equally heavy reductions in the ranks of all the other companies of my regiment."

During the night of Feb. 25 the 10th Regiment of German Infantry, belonging to the 14th division, took up its position for an attack. A prisoner who belonged to these organizations has supplied the following account of what occurred on this portion of the line:

Mowed Down in Lines. "On Feb. 26 three German battalions delivered an assault against a wood held by the French. The Chasseurs à cheval advanced, but suddenly they opened up with their machine guns, delivering a few well-directed shots and directed that entire lines of our men were cut down.

"During a certain stage of the fighting we were effectively flanked by the French. For a moment my company stopped, and for us this move was fatal. The French fire poured in and dead bodies covered the ground. Then the entire 12th Regiment hesitated in turn. The men scattered and made their escape as best they could. Our losses were enormous. As for myself, I had only time to throw myself down on the ground and play the dead man.

"When night came, I started making my way carefully and quietly through the ground and play the dead man. I had only time to throw myself down on the ground and play the dead man. I had only time to throw myself down on the ground and play the dead man.

"I was taken prisoner and conducted within the French lines." Another German soldier, also a prisoner of the French, belonging to the 24th Regiment of Infantry, described his experiences in very much the same way. This put a complete stop to forward movement, and compelled us to retreat.

"We saved ourselves, but at what a terrific cost. Two-thirds of our effective force had been struck down, either killed or wounded. Some of my comrades who were escaping endeavored to bring me with them but my condition was such that I could not be moved. The evening of the 27th the French patrols came over the battlefield and I was taken prisoner."

A captain of French Chasseurs has given an account of the attack of the Germans near Douaumont, made on Thursday, March 2. The various engagements of this day, against the village of Douaumont, resulted in heavy losses to the German troops, according to this source of information. The captain in question was actively engaged on the French side and he tells the following story:

"The German forces on Thursday, along a front of three miles, delivered a furious attack, with the village of Douaumont as their principal objective. Detachments of two German divisions recently brought into the zone of fighting, threw themselves against our organization. This movement was carried out in the afternoon and had been preceded by a bombardment of indescribable intensity.

ARTILLERY FIRE ONLY ON DOUAUMONT PLATEAU

Germans Make Second Halt in Their Renewed Attempt to Drive Their Way Thru the French Forces Defending Verdun.

After the desperate battling on the Douaumont plateau in the renewal of the German drive for Verdun there has come a second halt in the intense struggle. Paris today announces that there has been a cessation of infantry attacks by the crown prince's troops, altho his artillery is still keeping up a heavy bombardment.

The continuation of artillery activity may indicate a speedy renewal of the action on the important front northeast of the fortress where the French lines form a salient. The Douaumont sector is pointed out by French military critics as a key position essential to the German purpose of taking the fortress. Hence the desperate nature of the struggle which has been going on for its possession.

The importance of the German activities in other sectors is not overlooked, however. There have been advances on both the French flanks and indications are furnished of contemplated thrusts at vital points in the lines about the curvilinear salient, such as on the northwest line, where the dominating height of Le Mortomme has been under the fire of German heavy guns for some days.

Confidence in the outcome of the Verdun struggle has been expressed by General Gallieni, the French commander in chief, in a Paris despatch. The French are declared in these advices to retain the advantage.

In the Douaumont sector, despite the fact that they were driven out of the village, as the Germans' position in the village is dominated by the French artillery. The probability is indicated that the village will frequently change hands during the course of the fighting as the two forces at this point appear so evenly matched.

The Russian occupation of Bitlis in Turkish Armenia, is declared by Petrograd correspondents to give the Russians command of all the Lake Van region, and to have served to separate the Turkish force operating in the vicinity of Mush, to the west, from that in the Lake Urmiah district of Persia, eastward from Bitlis.

The German admiralty announces the sinking by German submarines of two French auxiliary cruisers and a British patrol boat. The admiralty also reports the sinking of the French transport Provence, already announced from Paris.

It is unofficially declared in Paris that the German claim to the sinking of two auxiliary cruisers "off Havre" is unfounded. The German statement as received by wireless did not specify when or where the cruisers were claimed to have been sent down. Altho the French denial was issued under Thursday's date, being delayed in transmission, it probably refers to the claim made by the German admiralty which is believed to have reached Paris before it was transmitted to this country.

BREAK TURKISH FRONT TWICE IN TWO WEEKS Importance of the Taking of Bitlis by the Russians is Twofold, Increasing Security of Left Flank and Opening the Way to Bagdad.

PETROGRAD, March 4.—For the second time in a trifle over a fortnight, the Russians have broken thru the Turkish defenses in the Moush district of Armenia, in the opinion of Russian military experts. This two-fold success is notably important in that it increases the security of the Russian left flank, and also further opens the way to Bagdad, the goal of this southern movement.

From Bitlis to Bagdad, a distance of more than 400 miles, there are two routes, one thru Diarbekir, 125 miles southwest of Bitlis, and the other thru Sert, which is almost due south of Bitlis, and about 50 miles distant. Over these roads the Turks were rushing reinforcements from Mesopotamia, not only for the defence of Bitlis, but to the Turkish troops relieving the Erzerum. These troops will now be forced to take a roundabout route to reach the defeated Turkish third army.

MONDAY IS SET FOR THE DEBATE ON PROHIBITION

Resolution Moved by H. P. Stevens, Seconded by Hon. Charles Marcell.

ISSUE NON-POLITICAL Responsibility for Action, However, Rests on Administration.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Ont., March 4.—The question of prohibition for the Dominion while the war is in progress will be debated in the house on Monday, when H. P. Stevens of Vancouver will move, and Hon. Charles Marcell will second a resolution asking the government to take action.

The circumstance that the mover is a Conservative and the seconder a Liberal makes the issue to a certain extent non-political, but at the same time the responsibility for action rests upon the administration.

The resolution has been on the order paper since the beginning of the session, and from time to time it has been announced that it would be moved on the Monday following. It has been postponed at the request, it is stated, of the prime minister. The North American Life Assurance Co., Sun Life Assurance of Canada, London Western Assurance and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident, and the British American Assurance Co.

The attempted boycott is part of a new campaign to direct funds from the British companies to bolster up German agencies in the States. In his call for a boycott the Colman lawyer letter says to the German-Americans:

"These are the firms that are waging war on us, a war that was unprovoked. (1) Give them, therefore, a dose of their own medicine."

The Colman circular concludes with an appeal entitled "Call to Arms" which says German-American manufacturers and those who wish us well. There are two Englishmen in Wilson's cabinet and Robert Lansing does not raise a hand to protect us, his countrymen, from the barefaced plot of Runciman to injure and hurt us. One thing for us to do—strike back. We are thirty millions strong in this country, nearly 100 million strong as the people of Britain. But, remember, we must act to save ourselves.

"Buy no British goods." "Patronize no British companies of whatever nationality." "Buy no British textiles, cloths, gloves, cutlery." "Use no English ales or Scotch liquors."

"The Canuck is warring on us across the border." "Buy no Canadian whiskeys." "Deal with no Canadian concerns." "Trade with no Canucks; he numbers but a bare 5,000,000. We are 30,000,000 strong. Let us teach him a lesson."

NEW YORK, March 4.—A news agency despatch from London this afternoon says: Delayed Athens despatches to the London papers today asserted that serious quarrels have developed among the Turks, Bulgarians and Germans, due to Turkey's insistence on withdrawing troops from the Balkans and sending them into Armenia to oppose the Russian advances. The other powers object, it was stated, to this weakening of the Balkan forces and Germany has offered to send General Liman Von Sanders to Armenia to appease the Turks.

BANDSMEN SOLDIERS ARE GETTING SCARCE Every Town and City in Various Divisional Areas Being Scoured for.

Owing to the shortage of bandmen for the newer battalions the cities and big towns of the various divisional areas are being scoured by bandmasters in search of musicians wanting to enlist. Bandmaster Granger of the 146 Battalion struck it rich in visiting at Ottawa where he secured six new bandmen. He has now 23 of the 35 musicians required.

SUNDAY WEATHER Fair and warmer.

GERMAN PLOT IS DIRECTED AT INSURANCE

Canada Life Has Been Particularly Singled Out by German Sympathizers.

Toronto insurance companies, especially the Canada Life, are now the target of German-American plotters. Particulars have been received at the Toronto head offices of an attempt to organize a boycott through the United States, and especially in the west, against insurance companies of Canadian companies. An aggressive and vitriolic circular letter against the Toronto companies has been issued to the members of German-American societies prepared for the propaganda by Charles A. Colman, a pro-German financial writer.

In his attack on the Canadian companies, Colman specifies as his names for the list to be boycotted, the following seven insurance companies, having head offices for Canada in Toronto: Canada Life Assurance Co., Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., North American Life Assurance Co., Sun Life Assurance of Canada, London Western Assurance and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident, and the British American Assurance Co.

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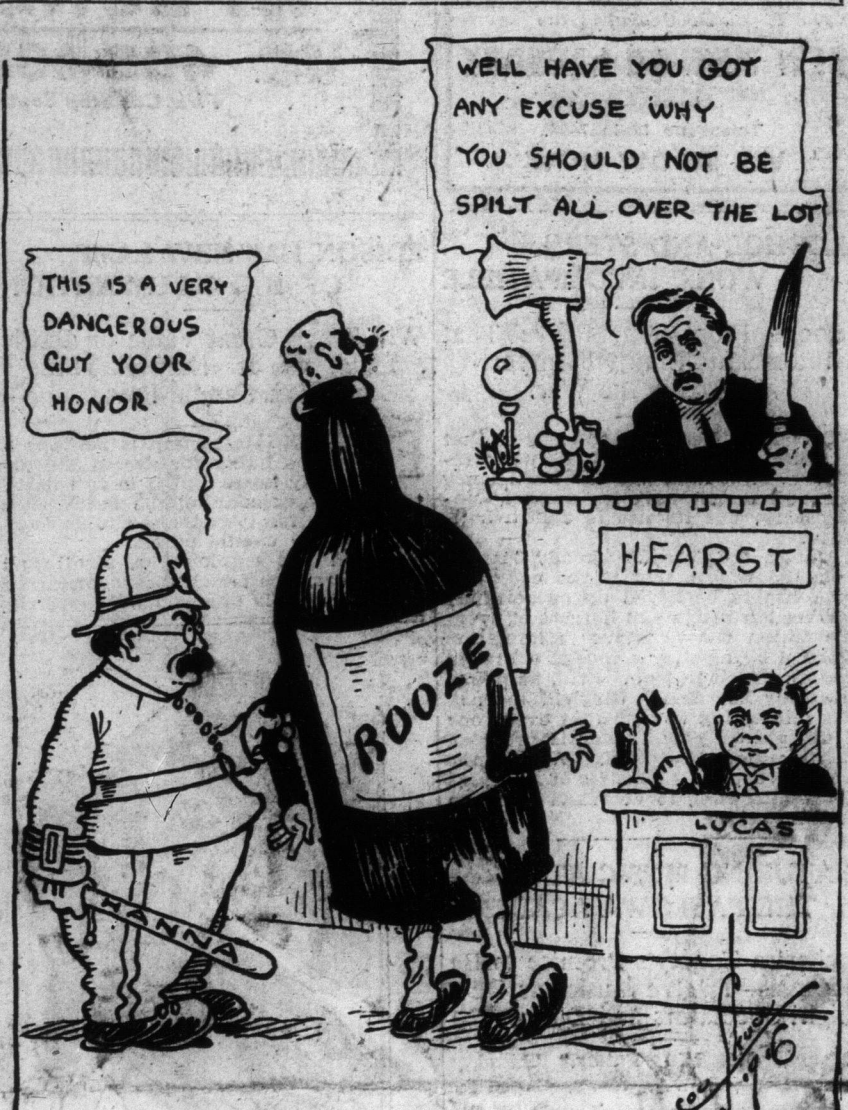
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WAR SUMMARY

THE WEEK'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BY W. H. STEWART.

THE French Saturday night and Sunday last checked the German offensive against Verdun on the line of Pepper Hill-Douaumont-Vaux ridge, by delivering a counter-offensive after the Germans had swept onward into the ruins of Fort Douaumont, the French cutting off 2000 Brandenburgers and shutting them up in this fortification, where they remained the rest of the week and where, unless speedily relieved, they will starve or have to surrender.

Fighting continued with great violence all Monday and Tuesday north of Verdun, with the continued repulse of the German attacks. Reports began to come from German sources thru Switzerland that many of the German generals were opposed to the launching of an offensive at this particular point and a council of war was held at Mainz by the German general staff.

The Germans continued to bring up reinforcements to the Verdun front. On Wednesday and on Thursday they renewed their attacks on Douaumont, where they suffered a severe repulse. Continuing their violent assaults all Thursday night, they took the village of Douaumont, but they were checked in attacks on Vaux ridge and village.

The French on Friday rallied and in a local counter-offensive, they drove the Germans back well into Douaumont village and occupied the mound which dominates it from the south. Reports from Paris expressed the belief that the Germans would attempt to reach Verdun by launching a violent offensive on the western bank of the Meuse on the front between Vorges and Malancourt. The French were reported to be taking no chances and to have rallied to the defence of Verdun in great force and to have collected a great store of shells for the prolonged terrific battle which is expected to develop in this region.

In the Woivre the French retired some distance to make their lines conform to the new lines established north of Verdun. They repented violent assaults at Eix and Fresnes, but the Germans captured Manheulles, the French retaining their hold on the outskirts. By prompt action of their artillery at Fresnes, the French checked a German sortie on Friday. Arrangements have been completed for

GERMAN COURT-MARTIAL IS BUSY IN BRUSSELS

Woman Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Alleged Treasonable Acts.

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 4.—The Handelsblad says that the German court-martial in Brussels has sentenced three more Belgians, one of whom was a woman, to imprisonment with hard labor. Marguerite Blaenckaert was sentenced to prison for life for treasonable acts against the German Administration; a former policeman named Alexander Daeme, to two years for issuing false passports and visas; Mineo, to one year for hiding soldiers.

A BIG ISSUE THAT MUST BE SETTLED NOW

The persistent effort of the railway committee of the house of commons at Ottawa to override the municipal rights of the municipalities of Ontario and of the provincial rights of Ontario in regard to railways and the settled policy of Ontario to develop radial lines must be met by the united and persistent representation of the government and legislature of Ontario and by the Hydro-Electric Commission and the municipalities associated with it.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, under whose administration at Ottawa a lot of charters were allowed to become law because a majority of the railway committee reported them favorably, did not take a sound or constitutional policy. Any parliament or any government that does such a thing can't justify itself in such invasion.

The issue is now up in the two bills held up before the railway committee at Ottawa; and parliament and government at Ottawa, and legislature and government at Toronto, must settle this issue forthwith. Sir Robert Borden and his minister of railways must not follow the Laurier lead. And the Hon. Mr. Hearst and Sir Adam Beck must make the fight here and now.

POPULATION HAVE ALREADY TAKEN UP NEARLY SEVEN BILLION LIRE. ROME, March 3, 1.40 p.m., via Paris, March 3.—(Delayed.)—Altho all official returns of the subscriptions to the third Italian war loan are not yet available, it is stated that the total will be almost 7,000,000,000 lire. This, with the previous loans, will make a total of nearly 7,000,000,000 lire subscribed in Italy for the war.

EXPECT WAR TO END THREE YEARS HENCE

Turkey Consequently Adopts Customs Tariff to Be in Force Until Then.

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 4.—A Constantinople despatch states that the Turkish Chamber of Deputies has adopted a new general customs tariff law effective next Sept. 14 and operative for a period of three years. The committee which framed the measure assumes that the war will be over at the end of that time, when a new tariff will be necessary to conform to the changed economic conditions of the country.

BIG BUILDING BOOM IS DUE IN TORONTO

All Signs Point to an Increase of Trade in Few Weeks.

Toronto is in line for an early improvement in the building trade, according to reports received at the local exchange. The boom at the Toronto custom house and the big increase in first month's returns from the building trade are hailed as indications of a return of general good times in which the building trade is expected to have a prominent share. An additional brace for preparations for renewed activity in the building trade is furnished by statistics of the munition operations resulting from the munition orders from the governments of the allies. This is demonstrated by the result recorded in a number of manufacturing centres.

Sends Up Values. Millions of dollars are being spent in the enlargement of buildings and erection of new plants. As a result in the rise in value of the Du Pont properties in Wilmington, Delaware, the official assessment of the wealth of Wilmington has risen from \$75,000,000 to \$225,000,000.

(Continued on Page 14, Columns 1 and 2).

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