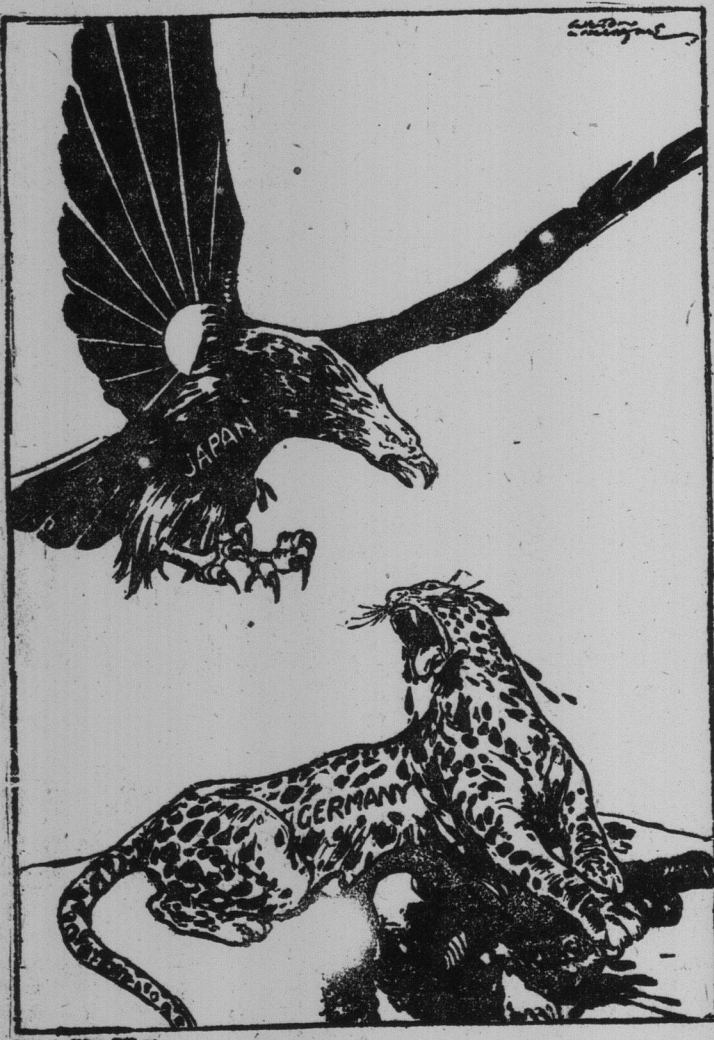


# A THREATENED INTERRUPTION



"Japan will take steps of the most decided and most adequate character to meet the occasion."—Viscount Motono, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

—London Opinion.

Peking, Feb. 18.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Substitution by the Japanese of civil administration for military rule in Tsingtau and along the Tsingtau-Tsinan railway which is regarded here as giving the appearance of permanency to Japan's occupation of that territory in Shantung wrested from the Germans at the beginning of the war, has aroused the indignation of the Chinese population. This has been expressed in petitions to the central government to the governors of other provinces and to influential Chinese organizations.

The Chinese government has protested to Tokio and has received a reply stating in effect that the inauguration of civil government was done with the idea that it might please the local population better than a military regime.

Japan's point of view, as described here, is that any obligations to vacate the territory in question after the war, which existed by virtue of Japan's declaration at the time of its occupation, has been

terminated never to taste Japanese fish or meat even though they starve."

Causes of complaint cited in protests which are raining in upon the central government follow:

"In Tsingtau, Fangtai, Changtien and Tsinan, the Japanese have established civil administration departments in disregard of Chinese sovereignty. The Germans during the entire time of their occupation, it is pointed out, never attempted to institute civil administration and left to China the right to police the railway. There are already Japanese consulates throughout Shantung to look after the welfare of Japanese residents making unnecessary the establishment of civil administration.

"Japanese civil officers have already assumed jurisdiction in cases of rents and debts.

"Whereas the Germans only enjoyed priority in acquiring mining rights, the Japanese actually interfere in some instances with mines already owned and exploited by Chinese, even to the length of prohibiting the sale of products.

"The building of roads, establishment of an industrial school and the taking over of control of a railway hospital and the hospital for gendarmes in Tsingtau is regarded as evidence of intended permanent occupation."

The Chinese could perhaps forgive the Japanese for other acts if they had not extended their jurisdiction to the railway and to a "railway zone" about ten miles wide extending as far as Tsinan. According to competent authority no convention was even enacted with the Germans for a railway zone.

This want of any authority for a "railway zone" is being urged by the Chinese foreign office in its protest against the alleged encroachment.

The Japanese, in reply, argue the difficulty of altering a decree issued by their emperor, declaring that what they are doing in Shantung is such authority. The Chinese declare that under existing treaties any decree by Japan can only affect the Tsingtau district and the erstwhile German territory, therefore there is no need of modifying the decree, the only requisite being to properly interpret it.

While the respective foreign offices discuss the merits of the controversy the influx of Japanese into the territory in question is said to be growing from day to day.

## SUMMARY OF WAR SITUATION LAST NIGHT

(Associated Press Summary)

Reinforced by French troops the allied line is holding hard against further incursions from the Germans in the region from La Bassée to the north of Ypres.

Everywhere the Germans have struck the line in an endeavor to press back the defenders they have been repulsed with heavy losses and have been successful nowhere in gaining further ground.

Attacks of an extraordinarily violent nature are being thrown by the Germans on the ten mile front between Givenchy and Robecq where an endeavor is being made to cross the La Bassée Canal and bend southward the salient which now overlooks the important railroad town of Bethune. A division of troops to each mile is being used by the Germans on this sector, but the British at last accounts, were holding well and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. In fact, General Haig's report states all attacks have been repulsed.

If successful the new attack of the Germans would jeopardize the entire Arras sector, which includes the famous French coalfield region about Lens and the equally famous Vimy Ridge, where the Canadians are holding forth. It seems evident that it is part of the strategy of the German high command to wipe out the salient by an enveloping move rather than again to give battle to the British about Lens and Vimy, two regions that already have proved slaughter houses for their men.

Following the usual custom prior to the launching of an "attack" the Germans throughout Wednesday night literally rained shells of all calibres between Givenchy and Robecq, the firing by daybreak having reached the intensity of drum-fire.

Large quantities of gas shells were intermingled with the high powered missiles.

During Thursday midway between Givenchy and Ypres the Germans vigorously attacked the British positions south of Kemmel, which the British had recaptured from them Wednesday, but were unable to gain any advantage in the face of the strong defence.

Considerable fighting has developed along the line in northern Flanders between Langemarck and Kippe, held by the Belgians. At one point the enemy penetrated the Belgian front line, but was repulsed, leaving six hundred prisoners, among them numerous officers, in the hands of King Albert's men.

East of Amiens, along the Aisne River, the French have made successful attacks against the Germans on several sectors, capturing the greater part of the Senest Wood and also advancing their line east and west of the stream. The Germans in the Aisne region attacked the French near Corbeny and also in the Champagne, but in each instance were repulsed, while the French in Lorraine carried out a successful manoeuvre against the enemy in which prisoners were taken.

On the Italian front artillery-duels and patrol encounters continue. Intense aerial activity prevails over the entire front. Wednesday seventeen enemy aircraft were brought down—five by Italian aviators and twelve by British.

Up to the present dominion troops have not had an extensive share in any of the fighting that has been raging with such fury during the past three weeks. In their Picardy offensive, the Germans struck south of the Canadian lines and only the dominion cavalry brigade and some Canadian armored cars took part in the battle which followed. Their losses it is understood did not exceed 2,000 in killed, wounded and missing.

In the present drive the Germans attacked north of the terrain held by the Canadians and, with the exception of the division now reported in action, General Currie's men have experienced nothing more than the usual artillery fighting.

Official expectations are, however, that before a few days have elapsed the entire Canadian force will be brought into action to once more help crush the German attempt to reach the channel ports.

## PARLIAMENT HEARS FIRST CLASS ABOUT EXHAUSTED

Ottawa, April 18.—A report on the operations of the Military Service Act up to the end of last month, prepared by the Military Service Council, and presented to parliament today, contains this outstanding statement:

"There can be no doubt that the men available in Class 1 are, except in the province of Quebec, at the point of exhaustion, and that if the stream of reinforcements for the troops overseas is to be maintained, there is no alternative but to call out other classes."

The report covers at considerable length the story of the organization and operation of the machinery of the act since the council was appointed on September 3 last. The result up to March 30 had been that 31,000 men had been actually placed on duty or 7.86 per cent of the total registration in class one.

This 31,000 includes 11,059 men in category A who reported for service before the men of their class were actually called out and of those 2,847 afterwards claimed exemption. The net total of the men actually drafted therefore is apparently under 20,000 up to the end of last month, and notwithstanding this comparatively small number the Military Service Council now declares that the only alternative to stopping the stream of reinforcements is to call out men of the other classes.

It may be noted, however, that since this report was written other action has been taken by the government looking to cancellation of exemptions of men up to 23 years of age.

Montreal, April 18.—The Star estimates that there were about 150,000 young men who will be affected by the amended Military Service act. Quebec will provide 38,000, Ontario 36,000, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, about 16,000 each, Nova Scotia, 7,000; Prince Edward Island, 2,000, and New Brunswick 5,000.

"B" Men Stay in Canada.

Toronto, April 18.—Such members of the first contingent now on furlough in Canada whose medical category is below "B"—those whose services are not really needed overseas—are to be retained in Canada, according to a letter received by Mayor Church from Colonel W. O. Osborne, military secretary of the department of militia.

A and B Only Called.

Montreal, April 18.—Only category A and B men between the ages of 20 and 23 are affected by the new order-in-council, according to a statement made by E. H. Godin, registrar, this morning. He said men in category C and E will, therefore, not be concerned with the new regulations. Category D men, who are temporarily unfit, the registrar contended, will leave that class as soon as fit.

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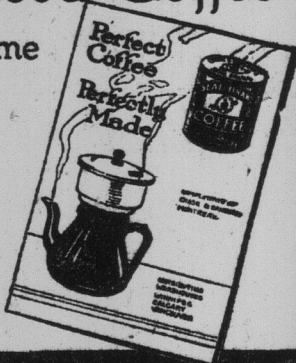
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