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A chance you ought not to let pass. Be in time.

War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A.M.

OFFICIAL.

Governor, St. John's.

LONDON, March 19. Since Saturday the enemy has retreated on the whole front between Arras and Soissons. By last night we had occupied Bapaume, Peronne and over sixty villages. The advance continues in conjunction with the French who have occupied Nesle, Noyon and, from a report just received, about a hundred villages.

LONG.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, March 19.

The statement issued from the war office to-night announcing the gains made: In the course of the day our troops have gone beyond Ham on the Somme River and Chancy on the Oise. We hold a great number of localities north of Ham and captured a convoy which was retreating in the direction of St. Quentin. Our advance reached at this point a depth of nearly 22 miles. South of Chaucy, our detachments reached the general line of Ailette-Soissons which has been entirely cleared. Northwest of Crouy our advance forces have progressed along the road to Maubeuge. To-day about 20 additional villages and small towns were liberated. The enemy before retreating devastated the country of fruit trees, which were cut or torn down, fields were overturned by mines which opened up great craters, numerous villages were completely burned and the inhabitants without shelter or sustenance were fed by our troops. Communication was cut at several points, all bridges being destroyed. In the Champagne artillery fighting became violent in the afternoon in the region of Butte de Meuse and west of Auberville on the left bank of the Meuse, we recaptured almost all the trench elements which the enemy had entered. The fighting continues.

During the night our light detachments, keeping in close touch with the enemy, continued to progress, without interruption. East of the Meuse we reached at several points the Ham-Nesle railroad. North of Noyons we occupied Guisard and forwarded patrols along the national road to St. Quentin. East of the Oise we have captured the second German positions. The number of villages and small

towns delivered by us during the last three days actually number one hundred. Several places have been devastated and odiously looted by the enemy. Thousands of the inhabitants of the places which the Germans evacuated, came forward to cheer our soldiers. In Argonne, near Lattaraese we have made raids and captured prisoners. On the left bank of the Meuse yesterday evening, after a violent bombardment against our Avocourt Mort Homme front, the Germans launched a strong attack on positions situated between these two points. Curtains of fire and machine gun firing dispersed the assaulting waves on the greatest part of the front before they had reached our lines, and they sustained heavy losses. Towards Hill 304 and Avocourt Wood, where the enemy succeeded in penetrating our lines on a 200 yard front, spirited hand-to-hand fighting ensued, during which the enemy was partly expelled from our advanced elements. Yesterday Adjutant Madon attacked very near and brought down his 80th aeroplane. Another was felled by one of our pilots west of Altkirch.

GERMAN RETIREMENT CONTINUES.

LONDON, March 19.

The German retirement continued throughout the night, telegraphs Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France. Our troops continued to press hard upon the heels of the retreating enemy. Considerable forces of cavalry have been employed as reconnoitering patrols. The enemy had a screen of Uhlans covering his rear guard. There is much brisk fighting, but the main German forces continue to decline action. Whatever his tactical scheme may have been it now appears pretty certain that we forestalled him and he had not anticipated. This is borne out by the promptitude with which he evacuated strong defensive positions, every time our advance got in contact with him in strength. This morning was cloudy with strong wind but still very airy, therefore was all in favor of open fighting. Every movement of the enemy is being watched with cat-like vigilance all along the line. Our patrols have crossed the Arras-Bapaume road and railway at many points between these places. Although we cannot yet claim to dominate these important routes, the Germans are certainly off them. In other words the great salient is practically gone.

The British advance is still being pushed rapidly, further large gains being recorded in the official report from the British headquarters in France to-night. The pursuit of the

enemy, says the report, continued today, our cavalry and advanced guards driving back the enemy's rear guards. The ground gained extends from a depth of from two to eight miles. Forty more villages have fallen into our hands.

THE TERRITORY GAINED.

PARIS, March 19.

To-morrow or the day after, two entire French Departments, those of the Oise and Aisne will be liberated from the German invader, according to reports from the fighting front. The total territory now gained is roughly calculated at 600 square miles. The nature of the ground over which the Germans retreated was almost all against them and they were harried by cavalry which is now being used in force for the first time since the battle of the Marne. At a few points where nature offered an opportunity for resistance the Germans tried to make a stand and fell back only after considerable fighting. The principle of these points were the forest and the village and part of the wood of Carlepont. South of Noyon there was also a sharp struggle for the important Crouy plateau across the river from Soissons, the capture of which is believed likely by military critics to be followed by highly favorable developments.

AMERICANS MISSING.

NEW YORK, March 19.

Eighty-five Americans, comprising a large majority of the crew, were aboard the American steamers Vigilant and City of Memphis and Illinois, sunk by German submarines on Saturday and Sunday. The latest information here is that 14 men are missing from the Vigilant and eight from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois landed safely.

TIENTSIN OCCUPIED.

PEKING, March 19. Chinese troops have occupied without opposition, the German concession at Tientsin and Hankow. The Dutch have taken over the German consulates.

HOME RULE FOR FINLAND.

LONDON, March 19.

Home Rule for Finland is the policy of the new Russian Government, according to Reuter's correspondent, writing from Tampere, Finland's greatest manufacturing city. The correspondent says that the Finnish Diet will be convened shortly and asked to establish a Government possessing the full confidence of the people. General Zein, Governor of Finland under the old regime, has been sent to Petrograd as a prisoner. The people throughout the country are

joyful over the change, and the situation everywhere is peaceful.

MICHAEL'S ABDICATION.

PETROGRAD, March 19.

The renunciation of Grand Duke Michael was signed at his private residence, whither he went with a large part of the Duma committee, headed by Prince Lvoff, Professor Milukoff and President Rodzianko. The Grand Duke addressed the committee, and declared the responsibility devolved upon him found him undecided, because of the existing differences of opinion. He added that since the happiness of Russia was the only consideration he believed this would be best assured by his abdication, and therefore surrendered his authority.

MUNITION PLANT BLOWN UP.

COPENHAGEN, March 19.

A large munition plant at Cologne blew up on Thursday, according to information received from German sources by a newspaper at Kolding, near the frontier. Several hundred workmen are reported to have perished.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

PETROGRAD, March 19.

Further progress by the Russians in Persia, who have now reached the vicinity of the Turkish border, is reported to-day by the war office.

RAMSGATE SHELLED.

LONDON, March 19.

Enemy destroyers shelled the undefended place of Ramsgate on Saturday night. They retired hurriedly before our local forces and escaped in the darkness. It was not possible to ascertain the damage inflicted on them. At almost the same time enemy destroyers engaged one of our destroyers on patrol to the eastward of the Straits of Dover, sinking her with a torpedo. She returned the fire, using torpedoes and guns. Results not known. There were eight survivors from the crew; all the officers were drowned. A second British destroyer was torpedoed, but not seriously damaged while picking up survivors from a British merchant ship on the northern part of the Downs, which was sunk by a torpedo Saturday night. The official announcement made in London last night said early on Sunday morning German torpedo-boat destroyers approached the Kentish coast on which Ramsgate is situated, and fired a number of shells at certain of the coast towns. It is said there were no casualties and only slight damage done.

DAILY AVERAGE EXPENDITURE.

LONDON, March 19.

Replying to a question in the Com-

mons to-day, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the daily average expenditure of the British Government from April 1st, 1916, to March 31, 1917, would work out at six million pounds. Law said the nominal total of the national debt was estimated at £2,900,000,000. The total estimated amount due from Britain's Allies and Dominions, the Chancellor said, was £964,000,000. The Chancellor said the average daily payments between Feb. 11 and March 31 would amount to £7,260,000. In that period heavy payments are falling due which increased the expenditure by a daily average of more than one million pounds. The daily expenditure of the year would work out at six million pounds.

CASUALTIES.

LONDON, March 19.

The casualty lists published by the war office show that during February the British army lost 417 officers killed, 831 wounded, 37 missing, total 1,255. This brings the aggregate losses of officers since the commencement of the war to 56,365, of which 16,819 were killed or died of wounds, 36,021 wounded and 3,465 missing.

AUTHORIZED TO SPEND \$115,000,000.

WASHINGTON, March 19.

President Wilson late to-day authorized the Navy Department to spend \$115,000,000 to speed up the construction of small auxiliary craft. Congress in its last session authorized the President to sanction the expenditure and authorized the issue of bonds to raise the money. The President's decision is one of the steps considered necessary to meet the submarine menace. His act was the national official recognition of the national emergency. He also will authorize the suspension of the eight-hour laws in naval construction and will authorize the payment of time and a half for overtime as provided for by act of Congress.

OFFICERS' STATEMENT.

LONDON, March 19.

The officers of the City of Memphis which have been rescued, state that the submarine which sank the vessel was one of the largest type, being equipped with heavy guns. The first warning shot was fired from a distance of more than three miles. The Memphis at once reversed her engines. The submarine came up to a distance of about a mile, when she fired again and fragments of the shell struck the ship, but no one was injured. The captain was able by this time to read the signals which the submarine was flying conveying the message "abandon your ship." The captain ordered a long blast of the whistle signifying the order had been

comprehended. Five minutes later four blasts were blown meaning that the crew were in the boats. The submarine then fired eight shots sinking the ship. In the abandoned captain's boat from the City of Memphis the American Embassy advises to-day were found the ship's papers, and a white silk handkerchief tied to a stick. The papers were in a biscuit tin which had been placed under the seat.

OFFICIAL.

LONDON, March 19.

The following official was issued late this evening regarding British troops in Mesopotamia: During Saturday night General Maude's troops effected a crossing of the Dila River, and occupied the village of Bahris and part of the town of Bakkubah on the left bank of the river. The enemy retired hastily toward Kanikiu. Bakkubah is a prosperous town spread over a considerable extent on the river bank, and is a good supply centre. Bakkubah lies 25 miles north-east of Bagdad on the Dila.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE COMMONS.

LONDON, March 19.

The announcement was made in the Commons on behalf of the Government to-day that if the Germans should carry out their threat of employing British prisoners near the firing line, the Government would decide at once on action, although reluctant to adopt retaliatory measures.

GERMAN CASUALTIES.

LONDON, March 19.

According to official lists kept here, the total casualties among the Germans reported for February, of killed and dead, due to wounds or sickness, and men made prisoners and missing, aggregate 60,471, making the total German casualties since the war began, exclusive of those of the navy or in the colonies, at 4,148,162. The German casualties for the month of January, according to London, aggregate 77,534. The total for the war up to that time was announced at 4,087,692.

CONSTRUCTION ORDERED.

WASHINGTON, March 19.

The construction immediately in the New York navy yard of sixty submarine chasers, deliveries to begin in from 60 to 80 days, was ordered to-day by Secretary Daniels. The boats will cost \$30,000 each. Forty can be laid down at once.

SMALLPOX IN GERMANY.

LONDON, March 19.

Reports reaching here from Scandinavia and Holland say that smallpox is increasingly prevalent in Ger-

many, with an unusual percentage of fatalities, owing to the decreased power of resistance of the people. A considerable number of cases are reported throughout north Germany. Official reports admit there were 146 cases in Berlin last week, with 11 deaths. The epidemic is said to have been brought from the east by returned soldiers. A despatch from Berne under yesterday's date, said Austrian newspapers and papers of other countries reported there were thousands of cases of smallpox in Germany.

RETIREMENT ON WESTERN FRONT.

AMSTERDAM, March 19.

A Berlin despatch to the Handelsblad, describing the retirement on the western front, says: As the ground abandoned is now to become a battlefield, it was necessary to destroy everything which might be of service to the enemy, such as roads, shelters and water supplies. This destruction was carried out ruthlessly, but what could be of no military advantage to the enemy was spared to the population. All which is capable of military service have been brought along so that it might not be incorporated in the enemy's army.

NEW FRENCH CABINET.

PARIS, March 19.

Alexandre Ribot has formed a Cabinet: Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexandre Ribot; Minister of Justice, Rene Viviani; Minister for War, Paul Painleve; Minister of Marine, Rear-Admiral Lacaze; Minister of Munitions, Albert Thomas; Minister of the Interior, Lucas J. Meilly; Minister of Finance, Joseph Thierry.

COUNTRY STORE TO-NIGHT.

There is a wonderful display of beautiful goods to-night at Rossley's British Theatre, such beautiful articles and more than ever. Jack Rossley will appear in Irish songs and dances after his long and tedious illness. The Pantomime Troupe in new Irish songs and dances and costumes and all new pictures. Thursday night is reserved for the children when they will have a Country Store all to themselves. A beautiful assortment of useful ornamental and eatable goods will be given away. For the benefit of those who could not get into Rossley's on St. Patrick's Day many of the Irish songs will be repeated to-night. Don't miss the big show and Country Store at Rossley's British Theatre where you always get more than your money's worth.

N. B. S.—President J. Carbery presided at last night's meeting of the British Society. There was a large attendance of members and much important business was discussed.

HITT AND RUNN—The Poor Little Shrimp Wasn't Invited But He Doesn't Care One Bit and—"There's a Reason"!

BY HITT

