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WEDNESDAY MORNING MARCH 21 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,279

ENEMY ABANDONS CAMBRAI-ST. QUENTIN LINE WHILE BRITISH TAKE FOURTEEN MORE VILLAGES

BLONDIN QUILTS HIS OFFICE TO GO INTO KHAKI

Postmaster-General Places
 His Resignation in Acting
 Premier's Hands.

SENSATION IS CAUSED

Sir Edward Kemp Will Ask
 Blondin to Raise
 Battalion.

Ottawa, Mar. 20.—Hon. P. E. Blondin,
 postmaster-general, has tendered his
 resignation. Sir George Foster has
 called it to Sir Robert Borden. Mr.
 Blondin has resigned for the purpose
 of enlisting in the overseas forces. He
 has written a letter to the minister of
 militia and defence in the following
 terms:

Ottawa, March 20.
 Dear Sir Edward—I must inform you
 that I put in my resignation as
 P. M. G. in the hands of the acting
 premier, in order to offer my services
 in the overseas forces. I am willing to
 put myself at your orders, and conse-
 quently I avail for enlistment in the
 overseas forces of Canada.

Yours truly,
 (Sgd.) P. E. Blondin.
 To Recruit Battalion.
 Sir Edward Kemp said tonight that
 he proposed to ask Mr. Blondin to re-
 cruit a battalion for service at the
 front, as a part of the Canadian ex-
 peditionary force. Mr. Blondin's offer to serve
 overseas, and his resignation have caused
 a sensation here. His enthusiasm for
 the cause of the allies since the war
 began has been very marked, and he
 has been one of the very best recruit-
 ing speakers in the country.

FLOWER OF NATION NOW RULES RUSSIA

Baron Rosen Pays Enthusiastic
 Tribute to the New Government.

Petrograd, March 20, via London,
 March 21.—"Never since I have been
 in the service of the country has the
 government been composed as at
 present, of men constituting the flower
 of the nation—the greatest and most
 distinguished men in every respect."
 This is the estimate of the new Rus-
 sian Government as expressed to the
 Associated Press by Baron Rosen, the
 former Russian ambassador to the
 United States. One of the greatest
 benefits accruing, so far as other na-
 tions, particularly the allies, are con-
 cerned, in the sweeping away of the
 element of doubt concerning Russia's
 earnestness in the prosecution of the
 war.
 "It will be realized now, as never
 before, that Russia is not nominally,
 but is actually fighting for freedom,"
 he said.

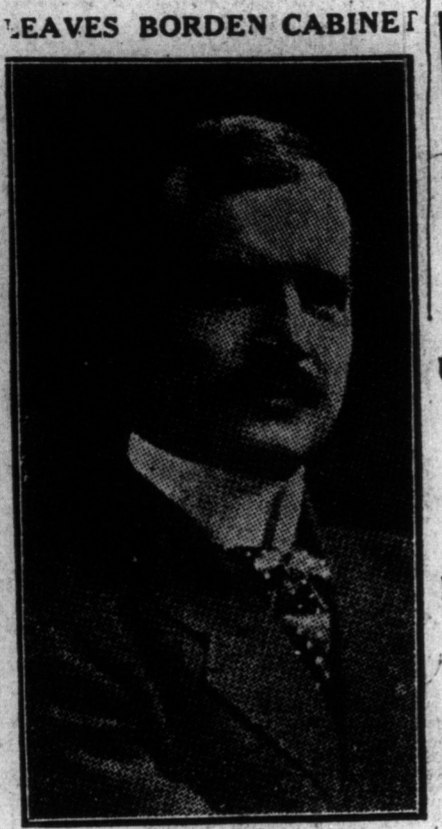
WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THRU stormy weather the British and the French continued their
 advance in northwestern France yesterday. Instead of standing on
 the St. Quentin-Cambrai line, as correspondents at the front sup-
 posed the other day, the Germans will abandon it, for fires have appeared
 in many villages east of that line. The enemy may even evacuate France
 altogether before he pauses for breath. The French cavalry has pushed
 on to Ruppy, eleven miles east of Ham, and four and a half miles west
 of St. Quentin. The French have also occupied the important railway
 junction of Tergnier, on the Amiens-Rheims railway, south of St. Quentin,
 and they have crossed the St. Quentin Canal. The British made im-
 portant progress north of the Somme. They have passed the line of St.
 Leger, Vellu, Nurlu, Estrees-en-Chausee and Canzy. This line begins
 southeast of Arras and it curves around five or six miles east of
 Bapaume and Peronne. The British cleared fourteen more villages of
 Germans.

The loss of their old lines south of Arras presents the Germans with
 a new problem. For their retreat is creating a large salient indented by
 two other salients between Arras and the sea. Increased pressure to this
 line from these lesser salients, together with attacks from the south, will
 compel further evacuations until the enemy quits all of his old line. The
 great danger point for the Germans will be the Ypres salient, for pressure
 in that region would compel them to retreat along the Belgian coast
 towards Brussels and Antwerp, and it would lengthen their front. The
 process of lengthening a front presents great chances for an enterpris-
 ing assailant, for gaps are liable to occur, giving the attacker a chance
 to pierce the hostile lines. Military writers are familiar with such an
 operation and they call it an action of dislocation.

Since the Ypres salient furnishes the gravest source of danger to
 the enemy, in self-defence he may have to strike this salient in an attempt
 to flatten it out. Owing to the first-rate preparations which the allies



HON. P. E. BLONDIN
 postmaster-general, who will enlist
 for overseas service. He has been
 asked to raise a battalion.

GERMANY BOASTING OF SUBMARINE EXPLOITS

One Hundred and Sixteen Thou-
 sand Tons of Shipping Reported
 Destroyed.

RETREAT OF GERMANS FRUSTRATES ALLIES

Amsterdam, March 20.—A Berlin de-
 spatch received here quotes Major
 Morant, formerly military critic of
 The Berliner Tageblatt, as saying in
 an article written for The Lokal An-
 zeiger:
 "Our leaders have tried to create an
 entirely new situation and to spare
 the terrible bloodbath which an as-
 sault on our enemies' positions must
 have involved. Our retreat from the
 old positions from the Aisne and
 Somme fronts has nullified the pro-
 nounced great Anglo-French spring of-
 fensive against our centre on the west-
 ern front.
 "Long strips of territory, having a
 width of from 10 to 12 kilometres and
 running along the whole of our posi-
 tions have been turned into dead
 ground. No village or farm remains
 standing on this ground. No road is
 passable, and no bridge, railway line
 or embankment remains. Before our
 new positions runs, like a gigantic
 ribbon, an empty of death."

WILSON PLANS STRONG STAND OVER U-BOATS

U. S. President Consults With
 Cabinet as to Next
 Move.

MIND NOT MADE UP

Extra Session of Congress
 May Be Summoned Almost
 at Once.

Washington, March 20.—For two
 hours today President Wilson dis-
 cussed the international crisis with his
 cabinet and heard urgent suggestions
 that the date for the extra session of
 congress fixed for April 16 be set
 forward to consider further steps in
 defence of American commerce against
 German submarines. It is understood
 there was not a dissenting voice
 against this advice.

The president himself did not express
 his views, and so far as could be
 learned later he had not finally de-
 termined upon the course to be pursued.
 The prevailing belief was that he
 would announce the call for an earlier
 meeting of congress tomorrow.
 Among officials virtually the unani-
 mous opinion is that in spite of the
 technical armed neutrality status of
 the United States, actually a state of
 war exists as the result of the ruth-
 less destruction of American merchant-
 ships and the killing of American
 citizens in defiance of international
 law, and of the most serious threat
 one nation can make to another.
 The only question is what shall be done
 about it, further than the arming of
 merchantmen to resist submarine at-
 tack if they get in danger.
 The cabinet members generally are
 said to have expressed today their
 willingness to support a program
 based on an early call for congress,
 and a formal declaration that a state
 of war exists between Germany and
 the U. S.

Naval Board Meets

After the cabinet meeting Secretary
 Daniels, saying that no new naval
 orders had been issued, hurried to the
 navy department and went into con-
 ference with members of the general
 board. Information from the president
 and tentative plans for further naval
 activities were discussed.
 A further step in the plans to pro-
 tect and promote American commerce
 was taken after the cabinet meeting,
 when the federal war risk bureau,
 under the direction of Secretary Mc-
 Adoo, announced a new policy of in-
 suring American ships under which
 policies would be written on all vessels
 except those carrying actual munitions
 of war. Up to the present no insur-
 ance was granted on ships laden with
 cargoes listed by the belligerents as
 most every American product.
 Plans for organizing patrol squad-
 rons of privately owned motor boats
 and yachts along the Atlantic coast
 were discussed tonight at a confer-
 ence between Secretary Daniels and
 Captain George R. Marvell, ex-assis-
 tant for operation, who has just re-
 turned from a trip to New York, Bos-
 ton and other coast points to enter all
 available craft.
 Captain Marvell reported he had ar-
 ranged contracts with many owners of
 small, speedy boats suitable for mount-
 ing guns and chasing submarines and
 patrolling the coast to turn the fire
 vessels over to the government in an
 emergency. A number of boat owners
 also agreed to volunteer as reserve of-
 ficers.

Pacifist Candidate is Beaten Badly in British By-Election

London, March 21.—In a by-election
 held today at Stockton-on-Tees, made
 necessary thru the recent death of
 Jonathan Samuel, Liberal M.P., the
 Liberal coalition candidate, Bertram
 Watson, won the seat. He received
 7641 votes as against only 596 for the
 "peace by negotiation candidate," Ed-
 ward Backhouse.

DINEEN'S FIRE SALE.

This morning at 10 o'clock the Dineen
 Fire Sale will be resumed, after
 yesterday's necessary closing. Purs-
 uance of the plan, the goods that
 were in the display and showrooms, it
 being difficult to bring forward the
 reserve stock in the crowded condi-
 tion of the premises after the fire
 in practically perfect condition, but
 they are to be cleared out at marvellous
 prices. The goods are made on the
 slightly damaged furs. Read the large
 advertisement on the inside pages of
 this morning's World and attend early
 for your own advantage, at the Dineen
 Fire Sale, 140 Yonge street, corner
 Temperance.

GAINS AT BAPAUME AND PERONNE NO SIGNS OF HALT BY GERMANS

LATE NEWS BULLETINS

German Gunboat is Blown Up
 London, March 20.—A German gunboat in the harbor of Tsingtau,
 China, has been blown up and sunk, says a Reuter despatch from Hong-
 kong.

French Battleship Reported Sunk
 Berlin, March 20, via Sayville.—The sinking in the Mediterranean
 Monday by a German submarine of a French battleship of the Danton
 class is reported by the Overseas News Service. This class of vessel
 displaces 18,028 tons and carries 681 officers and men.

To Develop British Trade Abroad
 London, March 20, via Reuter's Ottawa agency.—Sir Albert Stanley
 has announced that steps have been taken to establish an organization, to
 be called the British trade corporation, which will be given a charter,
 and whose principal object will be to facilitate and establish a trade and
 credit bank, to be connected with existing banks, for the purpose of de-
 veloping British trade abroad.

Call Upon U.S. to Prepare
 New York, March 20.—With a warning that the United States is un-
 prepared for war with any first-class power, a committee of the Union
 League Club, headed by Robert Bacon, former ambassador to France, and
 including in its membership many men of prominence, presented at a
 special meeting tonight a report calling upon the country to get ready
 for action.

DEPOSED CZAR INTENDS TO DEPART INTO EXILE

It is Believed He Will Go From Crimea to Switzer-
 land or France—His Meeting With Mother
 After Abdication Presents Affecting Scene.

Petrograd, via London, March 20.—
 The former dowager empress, Marie
 Feodorovna, who was at Kiev, went to
 meet her son, former Emperor Nichol-
 as, as he was returning after his ab-
 dication. She had long resented the
 influence over Nicholas wielded by the
 Empress Alexandra, Gregory Rasputin,
 the monk, and Mademoiselle Virubova,
 lady-in-waiting to the empress, and
 Alexandra's best friend, who had in-
 troduced Rasputin to the empress.
 Marie Feodorovna only saw Alexan-
 dra when court functions required that
 she do so. Since early in January she
 had been at Kiev and had refused to
 come to the capital. Her meeting with
 Nicholas was said to have been very
 affecting. The object of her visit to
 him was to advise with him as to her
 future residence. It is reported that
 she intends to go to Denmark, her
 native country.
 It is expected that Nicholas Ro-
 manoff, as the former emperor is now
 known, will eventually go to Switzer-
 land or France, his stay in the Crimea
 being temporary. Most of the mem-
 bers of his suite have acknowledged
 the new government.
 Promise Many Reforms.
 Most of the grand dukes in the
 military service will retain their posts,
 at least temporarily.
 The new minister of trade and in-
 dustry is in communication with the
 working men and promises to develop
 (Concluded on Page 2, Column 3).

Canadians May Soon Join in Big Advance

Germans Are Setting Fire to Houses and Stores,
 and Artillery Activity is Light, Suggest-
 ing Preparations for Retreat.

Canadian Headquarters in France, March 20.—Interest is keyed up
 to a high point by the news that the Germans are at last on the movement
 backward in the region between Arras and Bapaume. The retention of
 positions there is impossible now that Bapaume has been lost.
 There is a report, not officially confirmed, that the enemy is cover-
 ing his retirement south of Arras and has been in action with the advancing
 British infantry. The sky on the Canadian front was lit up Sunday by
 the reflection of large fires in the direction of important towns held by
 the enemy.
 The sparing return of the German heavy artillery to the increased fire
 of the Canadian heavies is regarded as indicating a possible removal of
 his big gun positions.
 Certain fires observed were not caused by our action, and it is in-
 credible that the enemy should set on fire houses and stores in the region
 he intends to hold. But once on the move, as is the case now, with the
 allies' horsemen following, he may find it difficult to stop where and when
 he desires.
 Stewart Lyon.

Steady Advance Continues, With French Reaching Ruppy, Near St. Quentin —Enemy Continues Systematic Des- truction of Country Abandoned, Blow- ing Up Historic Ruins and Villages.

FROM a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British
 headquarters in France, March 20, via London.—The
 pursuit of the Germans by the British troops continues,
 and at places sharp fighting ensued today. This was particularly
 true to the neighborhood of Croisilles (northeast of St. Leger)
 which is still strongly held by machine gun companies. The
 armies have been in such close touch at other places that field
 fighting tactics have been employed, the men firing from skir-
 mish lines.

Wherever the British troops penetrate territory formerly
 held by the Germans they encounter the same conditions
 of destruction and devastation as in Bapaume and Peronne. Only
 a few villages have escaped, the Germans in these instances hav-
 ing been compelled to leave before their plans to lay waste
 could be carried out.

CAVALRY A SURPRISE.

The use of cavalry by the British and French seems to have
 taken the Germans by surprise, upsetting some of their calcu-
 lations. In one village a supper which had been laid out was
 abandoned, together with much ammunition, and in other places
 newly opened boxes of high explosives were found, with which
 the Germans had planned to destroy the villages before leav-
 ing. That the wholesale destruction was systematized in a man-
 ner characteristic of German thoroughness, was shown by captured
 orders on the subject. These directed the blowing up of all
 houses, wells and cellars, except those occupied by rear guard
 outposts, the rear guard being held responsible for making their
 shelters uninhabitable before falling back. Farming implements
 were all burned or destroyed. Wherever a building was spared,
 it was first rendered filthy. The orders also directed the
 assembling of filth in the neighborhood of all wells for the pur-
 pose of contaminating the water.

STILL DESTROY FRUIT TREES.

The destruction of fruit trees now apparently covers the
 entire belt of evacuated territory, even those clinging to the
 walls having been stripped off. In one abandoned position a
 large black cat was found nailed to an upright board. A cap
 was on its head and a cigar was in its mouth.
 A British observation party working forward today on
 horseback had a rather exciting experience. The patrol was
 attacked with machine gun fire by three German aeroplanes,
 which swooped very low, but failed to hit any member of the
 party.

Prisoners recently taken appear entirely bewildered when
 told of the extent of the German retreat. They said they
 thought it a great joke when they first heard of the German
 retirement; they supposed it was solely for the purpose of
 getting the British deeper and deeper into the mud of the
 Somme. But when it came to abandoning positions that had
 been fortified with months and years of labor there was much
 depression in the ranks. Most of the German guns which for-
 merly boomed along the Somme seem to have been utterly
 swallowed up.

There is no longer doubt that the main German forces had
 already installed themselves on a line before Cambrai and St.
 Quentin, but today fires could be seen beyond this line, as if the
 retreat had not yet been carried out to the full limit. In the
 meantime the picture behind the British lines is one of greatest
 activity. Movement has given the army wonderful joy.

FOURTEEN MORE VILLAGES.

"Despite the less favorable weather conditions," says the
 official report from British headquarters in France tonight, "we
 made considerable progress again today along the greater part
 of the front of our advance south of Arras, and a further four-
 teen villages have been cleared of the enemy."
 "Our troops have now passed the general line of Canzy,
 Estrees-en-Chausee, Nurlu, Vellu and St. Leger."
 "Our machine gun fire drove off an enemy attempt to
 counter-attack south of Arras. We successfully raided last night
 northeast of Neuville St. Vaast and brought back a few prisoners."
 "Bombs were dropped yesterday by our aeroplanes with
 good results on an important enemy ammunition depot. In the
 air fights one German machine was brought down in flames,
 two others were driven down completely out of control. Three
 of our aeroplanes are missing, two of which are known to have
 been brought down by hostile anti-aircraft guns."
 French cavalry has advanced to within about four and a
 half miles of St. Quentin, one of the larger towns, believed to be

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