

## FRANCO-BRITISH CONTINUE BIG ADVANCE

### Huns Still Have Confidence in Ability of Von Hindenburg and Their Other Leaders

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Berlin, March 19—via London, March 20—The morning newspapers today gave the German public its best news of the big events on the front in France. All published articles by military experts explaining the movement as part of the strategic plan of the general staff for a decision on the western front and a master-stroke to vitiate the preparations of the Entente for an offensive, giving a decided advantage to the Germans. These writers are unanimous in expressing the fullest confidence in Field Marshal von Hindenburg. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says:

Not the First  
"This is not the first strategic retreat of Hindenburg has executed in this war. It is necessary only to remember his great retreat from the west of Warsaw and the partial evacuation of Transylvania. Thus far the retreats of von Hindenburg have always borne fruit a hundredfold, so that we may face the fullest confidence of our high military command with well founded confidence and the fullest assurance that it furnishes the preliminary to new German successes."

Confidence Essential  
The Morgenpost says:  
"The German people can and must have the fullest confidence in their leaders, especially von Hindenburg and his able counselor and assistant, von Ludendorff. Developments may be awaited with calm confidence."  
The Vossische Zeitung says:  
"We must not forget that the same von Hindenburg who began the Transylvanian campaign with a retreat and who in 1914 evacuated a conquered strip of Poland to strike the Russian line—a bold lightning, now stands master of the battles on our western front."

Breakthrough Expected  
Amsterdam, March 20—A telegram received here from Frankfort-on-the-Main says that on March 16 a hostile airplane flew over the town and dropped six small bombs, one of which slightly damaged the roof of a house, the others fell in fields and caused no damage. The airplane was fired on by anti-aircraft guns.

The French war office announced on Saturday that Frankfort-on-the-Main had been bombed by a French airplane in reprisal for the setting off of Bapaume.  
Huns in Danger  
Paris, March 20—The latest news from the front accentuates the feeling of optimism in military circles here and convinces the critics that the Germans are now engaged in a most difficult and dangerous operation in view of the large front involved. According to the hitherto accepted theory to effect such a movement with any safety it was necessary that a distance equal to a two days' march should be maintained between the pursuing and retreating forces. Under the present circumstances both armies are in close contact.

At a Disadvantage  
The Germans are carrying out their retreat under the cover of small but picked rearguards, some times entirely composed of officers and non-commissioned officers, which make counter-attacks when the pursuers press too closely on their heels. The weather, which continues to be extremely clear, is in favor of the retreating allies. French military critics maintain that it is more and more unlikely that the Germans can reach the Lille la Fere line without mishap. It is assumed that they propose to convert this line, which was their former base, into their principal position and remove their base seventeen miles to the rear, on a line running from Valenciennes to Lion. It is asserted that from this point of view the Germans are facing an aggravation of an already difficult position and confront even less favorable fighting conditions in the immediate future.

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### Weather Bulletin

Toronto, Mar. 20—A few snow falls, have occurred in northern Ontario, but weather has been mild conditions in the west and rising temperature in Ontario.  
Forecasts:  
Fresh winds, mostly southwest and south, fair and mild to-day and on Wednesday.  
"Zimmie"

## Do Huns Meditate a Fresh Drive Upon Calais?

### Daylight Saving

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Rome, via Paris, March 20. A decree has been promulgated directing all Italian clocks to be advanced one hour from April 1 to September 30.

## RIBOT FORMED FRENCH CABINET IN TWO DAYS

### New Ministry Contains Representatives of All Sections of Republican Opinion

### WAS WELL RECEIVED By People of France; Cabinet Crisis O'ershadowed

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Paris, March 20—The ministerial crisis was so completely overshadowed by other events that there has been little comment on the new cabinet. It was well enough received, and it is considered adequate for the task, but probably never before did a political event of such importance leave the public so indifferent. Alexandre Ribot in setting up the cabinet in 48 hours is understood to have beaten all speed records and his task was not an easy one, for the list changed many times before it became permanent. Many persons approached by him refused, while others accepted at first, but later withdrew their acceptances.

Premier Ribot remains as foreign minister, but M. Briand pointed out that having to deal with the allies with the double title of Premier and foreign minister, he would not have the same weight in diplomatic affairs with only the latter title. He also thought that in view of the hostility of certain groups, it would be preferable to keep him out of the combination.  
Leon Bourgeois, former Premier, was then approached but refused on the ground that his health precluded his undertaking a labor of such magnitude, but he agreed to take the portfolio of labor. The Premier himself assumed the portfolio of foreign affairs.

All sections of Republican opinion are represented in the new cabinet. Premier Ribot belongs to the Republican Union; Albert Thomas, the minister of munitions, to the United Socialist group; Rene Viviani, the minister of justice, professor Paul Faillat, the minister of war, and Maurice Violette, the minister of subsistence to the Socialistic Republicans.

## ST. PIERRE TO BE CEDED TO BRITAIN?

### France Might Give the Colony to Become a Part of Newfoundland PROSPECT IS DUBIOUS Because of Value of the Little Island

By Courier Leased Wire.  
New York, March 20.—An Associated Press despatch from St. Pierre, Mig., to-day says: News that there has been active discussion in Newfoundland recently of the possibility that after the war this French colony might be ceded by France to Great Britain and annexed to Newfoundland, has been received here with interest. Many of the colonists think, however, that the change is improbable.  
Fisheries of Value.  
They point to the fact that the fisheries operated from these islands are very important to France. It is understood that after the war it will be sent here from French troops to participate in the fisheries and will need St. Pierre as shore headquarters.

Young People! How and when is Christ coming? Hear Kemp at Park Baptist to-night. Sit in the gallery.

## Believed That This Might be the Motive of Von Hindenburg in Present Retirement; French Forces Advance at Unprecedented Rate; St. Quentin Must Fall Very Soon

By Courier Leased Wire  
French troops pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans are to-day within striking distance of the "Hindenburg line" the supposed goal of their retiring foe. The milestones on this line are the historic towns of Lille, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon and La Fere. The troops of General Nivelle were rushing towards St. Quentin yesterday at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war, and had reached a point within five miles of the city. Unless some unheralded factor has entered into the situation, the French have by this time either entered St. Quentin or the German retreat has halted.

In the meantime to the north, the British are doggedly pushing forward toward Cambrai and are apparently within striking distance of that town, the heart of the Lille-La Fere line and famous since the days of the Romans. The British are advancing more slowly than the French, but nothing either in the official reports from Paris or London or in the unofficial stories of newspaper correspondents at the front, indicates that either army has yet come in contact with the main German forces. The theory that the Germans propose to halt their retreat on the Hindenburg line has been put forward by military critics in the allied capitals, but there has been no indication from Berlin of the plans of the German general staff and the purpose and meaning of the dramatic retreat of the invaders of France remain clothed in considerable mystery.

French military observers estimate that the German retirement has already released 150,000 to 200,000 troops who are available for a long predicted counter offensive to be launched against the allied lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard some such move on the part of Von Hindenburg as almost certain and discuss the possibility of another tremendous effort to smash a way through to Calais.

In the meantime the only indication of a German attempt to assume the initiative is apparently in sporadic fighting in the Champagne district and on the Verdun front. Nothing has developed in either of these directions to indicate an offensive on a scale great enough to offset the sensational evacuation of a thousand or more square miles in Picardy.

## BUSINESS AS USUAL IN BRITISH PORTS, DESPITE SUB BLOCKADE

### No Slackening of Trade at The Great Docks of the Old Land; Shipping Continues as Actively as Ever in London, Liverpool and Manchester; Armed U. S. Ships Looked For Now

Correspondence of Associated Press.  
London, March 19. A visit around the harbors and docks of London, Liverpool and Manchester, undertaken with a view of observing how the German submarine blockade has affected them, shows that "business as usual" is the rule in the British ports.

There has been no apparent slackening of trade at any point and the slight holding up of neutral shipping has not yet had any reflection in the weekly tonnage and trade reports of the port authorities. In each of the three ports visited the figures of arrivals and departures make a favorable comparison with the figures of three months or a year ago, and in each of these ports the stocks of foodstuffs and other merchandise stand at better than a peace time basis.

Some Dutch and Scandinavian ships have been held in port under their own orders, and some of these have now been paying dock charges for nearly a month. Most neutral ships, however, after some delay at the outset of the submarine blockade, decided to lift their anchors and go on with business. Deck charges are too heavy and profits in trade too large to allow a ship owner to hesitate very long, especially when insurance is easily obtainable to cover any and all risks.

Admiralty Acts.  
There is plentiful evidence, on the other hand, that the British admiralty is taking up the submarine question with the greatest energy. The arming of merchant ships goes on under rush orders at every port and few British ships are now leaving without guns and gun crews. There are other safeguards and protection also that the admiralty can offer. There is little that is permissible to tell as to these measures for obvious reasons, but some evidence of their effectiveness is found in the confidence of the sailors and the fact that none of them show any inclination to avoid sea duty.

Worry No Longer.  
"We have practically ceased to worry about submarines," remarked the superintendent of one of the big London docks. "We have too much else to do attending to the daily routine to the best advantage every minute of the time that a ship is in

our hands. As far as the shipping people are concerned, there is no apparent difference between the submarine toll of ships now and what it was before the declaration of February 1. Our opinion all along has been that the Germans were getting all they could before February 1.

"If that view is correct the bluff must work as a boomerang, for it has served to accelerate all measures against submarines, and, moreover, skippers nowadays are prepared to use their armament with a celerity that was a little against the grain before this declaration.

"We don't see many American

ships, but we shall be surprised if the few that visit us don't appear before very long with a canopy of canvas over the stern covering a suspicious looking package with a 4.7 muzzle.

"Every ship that comes in has a few stories to tell about the excellent marksmanship of their gun crew. There is a great rivalry among the crews, and if their reports about hitting floating barrels at fabulous distances in practice on the open sea are correct there is little chance for the submarine that shows its periscope within sight of any of our ships' lookouts."



### Daylight Saving

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Paris, March 20—All clocks in France will be put forward one hour at midnight on March 24, according to the summer time bill, which has been passed by parliament.

## HOLLAND AND THE ARMING OF MERCHANTMEN

### Question of Admitting Armed Vessels to Dutch Ports Difficult

### DUTCH NEUTRALITY Must be Enforced at All Hazards, Says Press

By Courier Leased Wire.  
The Hague, March 19—via London, March 20—Government officials are hard at work on the thorny problem of the admission of armed merchantmen to Dutch ports but no official statement as to Holland's attitude was obtainable to-day. It is understood that so far there is no divergence from the standpoint laid down in the neutrality proclamation of August 1914 by which all belligerent warships or their equivalents are barred from Dutch ports. This position was further amplified in an orange book of October 1915 in which it was held that merchantmen armed defensively are capable of performing acts of war and therefore are within the barred category. American armed merchantmen as well as American warships would be freely admitted to Dutch ports as long as a state of war did not exist between the United States and Germany. In the event of war being declared, the attitude of the Dutch Government is still problematical. The Nieuwe Rotterdam Courant, recalling the test case of the British Steamer Princess Melita, which was not permitted to enter the Hook of Holland until it had jettisoned its armament, expects the Dutch Government will undoubtedly maintain its attitude on the ground that any change therein would impair the strict neutrality hitherto observed.

Enforce Neutrality  
"There can be no bargaining in this respect," says the paper. "The strength of the Dutch policy of neutrality lies largely in the fact that it was laid down early in August 1914, even before England entered the war and was proclaimed in a spirit of the strictest impartiality before military operations were begun."

## BLOCKADE OF GREECE IS ENDED

### Cargo of Wheat Allowed to Enter Port of the Piraeus ENTENTE MINISTERS Return to Athens and Take Up Residence

By Courier Leased Wire.  
London, March 20—The ministers to Greece of the Entente nation have again taken up their residence in Athens. Reuter's correspondent there reports. The discharge of a cargo of wheat destined for Piraeus begins to-day.

The admission of wheat to Greece indicates the lifting of the blockade, which has in effect for several weeks. The Greek Government has made repeated representations that widespread suffering was being caused by the shutting off of food supplies to which the Entente responded that the blockade would be lifted when Greece had complied fully with its demands. The most important of these demands were the transfer of the army to lower Greece and the disbanding of the reservists for the purpose of removing the possibility of an attack by Greek troops on the rear of the allied forces in Macedonia.

Meet me to-night at Park Baptist. Sit with the young people in gallery. Special singing.

## Deliberate Campaign of Destruction Carried Out by Germans in Retreat

By Courier Leased Wire.  
British Headquarters in France, March 19—via London, March 20—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press)—The deliberate character of the destruction wrought by the Germans before their withdrawal from Peronne is painfully evident in the once beautiful avenue of trees leading to the railway station. These trees were untouched by shell fire, but each one was hacked in two with axes and the gashe and chips show that the work was done within the last few days. The beautiful gardens of the outlying houses were also wrecked and every fruit tree within several miles of the town was saved two thirds of the way through and then broken down.

In Peronne.  
The correspondent of the Associated Press was among the first visitors to Peronne in the wake of the British troops, who have now swept well beyond that place. It was necessary to pass through half a score of ruined villages which only a few days ago were within the zone of intense artillery fire before reaching the banks of the Somme. Crossing that stream on an improvised bridge and trudging through Halle, Peronne was reached over a road which had been reconstructed with rows of German trenches and through recurring masses of rusted barbed wire, some of these being at least six feet in height and fifty feet in width. In the outskirts of the city, British Tommies were encountered wearing German "pickle" helmets and grinning from ear to ear. In the great square of Peronne, ruins, was the British lieutenant who led the first patrol into the city. He was mounted on a splendid German pony, which he captured with its full equipment. Several other officers arrived during the morning and begged for the privilege of taking a canter about the place on board this prize of war.

War Scared Town  
There was a ghostly silence in most sections of the city. No sound of war was to be heard except once when a prying German airplane scudded over in the shelter of high fleecy clouds and anti-aircraft guns opened fire, driving him to quick retreat. British officers pointed out building after building where apparently the total damage had resulted from interior explosions. In many cases walls facing away from the line of British and French fire had great squares blown through them, differing strikingly from the round holes made in other buildings by shells. The beautiful old sixteenth century church of St. Jean was a pitiful mass of ruins, but one of its oil paintings still hung on a bit of wall in the transept and was miraculously untouched. The statue of Catherine de Voix, which had adorned the great square, had been taken away by the Germans and a gaudily clad dummy left in its stead.

Precipitate Flight  
The railway station was completely wrecked, including the tracks and crossing bridges. German signs had been substituted throughout the station, and on a bulletin board was a time table of trains for Lille, Munich and other points within the German lines. The Germans left many relics behind to show their occupancy of the French Military barracks. In some of the rooms Christmas trees, gaily decorated with tinsel, were still standing. It was strange and in some of the shattered and partly burned houses remnants of children's toys, including doll carriages and bits of dolls themselves. These toys had been left behind with all other household belongings when the German invaders. In some of the fine residences the libraries had been wrecked, the books torn in pieces and scattered in the streets.

The Germans had left several foot bridges across the Somme which were apparently intact, but on closer examination showed that false sections had been inserted which gave way at the first foot pressure. On the blank walls of the city there were many printed proclamations and some of Chancellors of the Reichstag. Holweg's later speeches in the Reichstag.

Where is the War?  
At a chateau just outside Peronne the Germans had killed two magpies and stuck them on the sharp points of the posts at either side of the entrance.  
"I suppose that signifies some German curse or sign of bad luck," said a subaltern as he went whistling gaily on his way to find the next town where the war has taken itself off to.

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