

THE WEATHER.
Maritime - Strong breeze to moderate gales, mostly east and south, occasional snow or rain.

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GERMANS GAIN AT TWO POINTS BUT FRENCH STILL HOLD THE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITIONS

ADMIRALTY IS LACKING IN DRIVING POWER, CHURCHILL TELLS HOUSE OF COMMONS

While Balfour Declares Condition of Navy Leaves No Room for Pessimism, Churchill Urges That Fisher be Brought Back to Admiralty—Gives Warning to Expect Increase in Germany's Naval Force.

London, March 7.—Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, announced in the House of Commons today that he was approaching the premier of Great Britain's self-governing dominions with a view to arriving at some comprehensive scheme of land settlement in Great Britain, Canada and Australia for the benefit of discharged soldiers and sailors.

Mr. Balfour in his statement regarding naval construction, said: "At no time in our history has there been so much shipbuilding for war purposes as during the last nineteen months. The fleet is now far stronger than at the outbreak of the war, except with regard to armored cruisers. We lost some of those and did not replace them. In dreadnaughts, battlehips, dreadnaught cruisers, destroyers, submarines and patrol boats there has been a great augmentation which has not suffered any check.

"The same held good, the First Lord declared, "with respect to guns, stores and munitions.

"The royal naval division," he said, "had covered itself with glory at Gallipoli. The wastage had been great and the admiralty proposed to keep it up to its full strength of six divisions. He paid warm tribute to the work of the fleet and said that the health and discipline of the men left nothing to be desired. He especially praised deeds of individual courage, initiative in submarine work, and mine-sweeping and other activities in circumstances of real peril as work of the greatest magnitude. No peril appalled them; no difficulty daunted them and the country's debt to them was almost incalculable.

"The First Lord of the Admiralty paid tribute to the officers of the mercantile marine, who, in the face of the actions of a ruthless and unscrupulous enemy, confronted the dangers and perils of their met them. He tendered these officers his hearty thanks in behalf of the Admiralty. He congratulated the country on the possession in officers of the highest commands of servants worthy to carry out great aims. He was glad to know that cordial feeling prevailed in the service, with the freest exchange of ideas in matters of strategy and tactics and he believed there had never been the smallest difference of opinion between the boards of the Admiralty and the various admirals in command in different parts of the world.

"In summing up the conclusions to be drawn from his remarks, Mr. Balfour provoked laughter by saying there was a kind of Teutonic swagger, which he would not go within a thousand miles of, and that he desired to show nothing in the nature of overconfidence. The first lord said he had seen statements that Berlin was flagged on the occasion of the return of the German raider Moeve.

"This was a disguised steamer, which had succeeded in sinking a number of merchantmen and eluding the British patrols and getting back to Germany by way of the north of Iceland.

"Doubtless the captain and officers of the Moeve displayed seamanship qualities, Mr. Balfour continued, but he thought the British ought to draw the conclusion that if the enemy's capital was betagged for such a feat his standard of achievement was not a high one.

No Ground for Pessimism.

"Mr. Balfour said that in his opinion there was not the slightest justification for certain pessimism which had reached him from various quarters. He acknowledged that the most serious provisions would not preclude accident or disaster, and granted that the British naval obligations to Great Britain's allies had tended to increase anxiety as to the efficiency of the fleet. The world, he added, had come to recognize that the British fleet no longer was merely for the protection of Great Britain's own shores and commerce, but that upon the

GERMAN GAINS AROUND VERDUN WON AT TERRIBLE COST TO THE ATTACKERS

Infantry Attacks by Enemy Increase in Violence—Nothing Definite, Despite Reports, to Show That German Fleet has Left Kiel to Seek Battle

Driving hard against the French line northwest and southeast of Verdun, the Germans have been enabled to make additional gains toward Verdun, but with extremely heavy casualties, according to Paris. Hill 265, to the southeast, and a portion of Corbeaux wood, directly south of Forges, have been occupied by the Germans through strong infantry attacks which were preceded by extremely heavy bombardments. The town of Fresnes in the Woëvre also has been captured.

The German attack was over the entire front west of the Meuse extending from Bethacourt to the river, but except in the Corbeaux wood and at Hill 265, the French held back the attackers at all points.

Thus the French still occupy the important strategic position on the heights of the Cote De L'Or, for the possession of which numerous sanguinary engagements have been fought.

The occupation of a portion of the Corbeaux wood would indicate that the Germans have advanced over three miles since they took the town of Forges. The Germans succeeded in penetrating a French redoubt in the region of Douaumont, but immediately were thrown out in a counter-attack.

The re-capture by the Germans of a position from the French in Champagne, the pushing of the German line farther forward in the Argonne forest and the expulsion of small British detachments from captured German trenches southeast of Verdun, are related in the latest German official reports. The British are defending the famous Hohenzollern redoubt, where the enemy made three bombing attacks.

Despite the report from Rome that twenty German dreadnaughts have come into the North Sea from their base at Kiel, and other reports which seemed to preface the imminence of a naval battle, nothing definite has come through to show that German warships are out manoeuvring, or seeking battle.

On British Front.

London, March 7, 10.23 p. m.—"The day has been quiet, except in the neighborhood of the Hohenzollern redoubt, where the enemy made three unsuccessful bombing attacks last night," says the British official statement issued tonight. "This morning he exploded a mine in the same place. We command the crater.

"There has been much activity with trench mortars, grenades and artillery fire between the Hohenzollern redoubt and Loos."

LAURIER USED POSITION TO GET SHELL ORDER FOR ONE OF HIS CONSTITUENTS

SIR ROBERT BORDEN SHOWS GRIT LEADER GUILTY OF ACTIONS HE CONDEMNED IN OTHERS—USED INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE TO HELP VOTER GET CONTRACT—PREMIER INVITES OPPOSITION TO MAKE DEFINITE CHARGES, IF THEY HAVE ANY, ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 7.—"Let them stand in their places and make their charge in understandable terms and they shall have their investigation," said the Prime Minister, this evening, at the close of a powerful speech in reply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion that an investigation should be held into the work of the old shell committee.

This challenge was practically a reiteration of the attitude which the present leader of the opposition assumed in 1917 when in reply to the opposition which was led at that time by Sir Charles Tupper, he said that the proper way to get an investigation was for a member to make a personal statement, upon his responsibility as a member of parliament. If a member would make such a charge it would be investigated thoroughly.

Sir Robert Borden took the same attitude this evening, although he mentioned it simply as a side issue—it was not the main argument in support of his refusal to have the operations of the shell committee analyzed at the present time.

No Complaint from British Govt.

The Premier's attitude was powerful and unanswerable, and no direct answer was attempted by Mr. Carvell who was given the task of following him.

Sir Robert pointed out that there had been no complaint by the British government, and therefore, he could not see why there should be an enquiry into expenditures which were not made by Canada. The suggestion for an enquiry would have to come from Great Britain. But it was not practice of the British government to hold enquiries during the progress of a war. These enquiries if they were deemed necessary or desirable were delayed until the cessation of hostilities.

A. J. Balfour, he reminded the House, was Prime Minister of the British government when the Boer war was being fought, and when enquiries were asked for he took the ground that these had better begin after the close of the war. This was agreed to by Mr. Asquith, then leader of the opposition, on being given the understanding that the investigation would begin immediately upon peace being declared, and the motion was withdrawn. There was a general enquiry and special enquiries.

Sir Robert also recalled that during the Crimean war there was an effort to hold an enquiry but it was bitterly opposed by Mr. Gladstone, and the result was that the attempt was a failure.

The Premier took strong ground when he pointed out that the price of munitions in Canada, even at the beginning of the war were on the average rather lower than in any other country, and therefore if they were to enquire into prices they must also investigate the prices paid by the British government in the United States and Great Britain.

Of what advantage would it be to investigate the lower prices paid by the British government in Canada, and not the higher prices in the other countries?

No man in his sane senses would deny the logic of this attitude.

However there was nothing to conceal and nothing to fear, and so he had requested D. A. Thomas to direct the attention of the British government to every charge that had been laid against the Shell Committee, and to say that the Canadian government was prepared if it was decided that an enquiry was desirable, to cooperate with the British government to make that inquiry as full and as searching as possible. But—and the Premier was emphatic upon this point—without the approval of the British government they did not propose to make an enquiry.

Sir Robert was not long in turning

COMMANDER OF GERMAN ARTILLERY AT VERDUN IS REPORTED KILLED

London, Mar. 7.—Major Gen. Von Lotzner, commanding the German artillery division at Verdun, is reported to have been killed in action, says a despatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

Russians Take Coia, in Persia.

Petersburg, Mar. 7.—An official statement issued today by the Russian war office says: "On the western front the enemy artillery carried out an intense campaign in the district southeast of the Island of Dolen, directing the fire by means of five balloons. Severe fighting with bombs and mines for the possession of craters continues near Il-lookout on the Dvinsk position.

"On the Caucasian front our troops continue pressing the Turks from Maprava. We captured another gun. Coia, forty verst (about twenty-six miles) west of Kermanshah."

PRES. WILSON WINS HIS FIGHT WITH CONGRESS

Resolution to Warn Americans off Armed Ships of Belligerents Tabled by Vote of 276 to 143.

Washington, Mar. 7.—President Wilson today completely and decisively won his long and sensational fight to compel Congress to acknowledge that it stands behind him in the submarine negotiations with Germany.

To the rallying cries of "stand by the president" and "is it Lansing and Wilson or Von Bernstorff and the Kaiser" a big Democratic majority and nearly half of the Republicans in the house three times rolled up overwhelming votes against the movement to warn Americans off the armed ships of the European belligerents.

The celebrated McLemore resolution, around which the anti-administration forces centred their fight, was tabled by a vote of 267 to 143; in other words, killed, just as was the Gore resolution for a similar purpose in the Senate last week.

The McLemore Resolution.

The text of the McLemore resolution, after a lengthy preamble, is as follows: "Resolved, that the House of Representatives of the United States do, and it hereby solemnly does, request the President to warn all American citizens, within the borders of the United States or its possessions or elsewhere, to refrain from travelling on any and all ships of any and all of the powers now or in future at war, which ship or ships shall mount guns, whether such ship shall be frankly avowed a part of the naval forces of the power whose flag it flies, or shall be called a merchant ship or other ship, whether such gun or guns, or other armament be called 'offensive' or 'defensive,' and in case American citizens do travel on such armed belligerent ships, that they do so at their own risk;

"That when the President of the United States or the Secretary of State shall come into possession of the actual memorandum of the German government, containing photographic facsimile of alleged secret instructions issued by the British government, which alleged secret instructions direct that so-called 'defensive' armament for merchant ships shall be used offensively, and that so-called 'defensive' armament for merchant ships shall be manned and directed by naval officers and men of the navy of Great Britain, and that such so-called 'defensive' armament for merchant ships' and such naval officers and men shall be, as far as possible, concealed and disguised when in neutral waters and ports, with the evident intention to deceive, the President of the United States or the Secretary of State shall, at the earliest possible moment, transmit such actual memorandum of the German govern-

EXPLOSION AND FIRE WRECK PLANT IN NIAGARA FALLS

Bulletin—Niagara Falls, N. Y., Mar. 7.—Fire, following several explosions late tonight, practically destroyed the plant of the Niagara Electro-Chemical Company, causing the death of one workman, the injury of several others and property loss estimated at \$200,000.

LAW STUDENTS LOSE GAME AT WINDSOR

Special to The Standard.

Windsor, N. S., March 7.—Probably the fastest game of intercollegiate hockey played in the Windsor rink this season was staged last night when Kings College defeated a team from their law branch in St. John. The score was nine to three. The legal aspirants played faster hockey but were unable to register the puck with such facilities of alleged secret instructions of the British government, and with all appendices, whichever to the Speaker of the House, that it and they may be laid before the House for its full information and for the assistance in performing its duty and function of guarding the welfare of the country and its citizens, and for its assistance in performing its constitutional duty of advising the President of the United States with regard to foreign relations.

"That the House expresses the determination of the people and government of the United States but to uphold all American rights and to exercise care, consideration and wisdom in avoiding actions which tend to bring American citizens and American interests into the zone of conflict where the passions of war are raging."

FATHER WAS FIRST PREMIER OF QUEBEC

New York, March 7.—Charles Alexandre Chauveau, son of the first premier of Quebec, after Confederation, and a former member of the Canadian judiciary, died suddenly on a pier here late today, soon after landing, with his wife, from the steamship Saratoga, from Havant.

Arrangements were made tonight to send the body to Quebec.

Ronald McNeill, Unionist member for East Kent, declares that if Col. Churchill's speech remained unanswered it would cause much disquietude in the country, the House adjourned.

LIFE TERM FOR DYNAMITER

Windsor, Ont., March 7.—Charles Reape, confessed dynamiter of Windsor and Walkerville buildings, was today found guilty of the charges and sentenced to life imprisonment by Chief Justice Falconbridge.

OPERATION OF GERMAN ARTILLERY AT VERDUN IS REPORTED KILLED

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