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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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Huns Make Small Gains N. W. Verdun

Secure Foothold on Hill at Maucourt—French Check Hun Advances North East of Verdun—Artillery Bombardment in Progress Around Douaumont

LONDON, Mar. 23.—Infantry attacks north-west of Verdun, preceded by vigorous bombardments, have enabled the Germans to gain a foothold on a small hill at Maucourt, which lies just outside the village of Malancourt, between that town and the western edge of Malancourt Wood.

Claims Right to Seize United States Securities

LONDON, Mar. 23.—In replying to a formal protest by the United States against the seizure of American securities, the British Government will give Ambassador Walter H. Page an informal interim reply, in which Britain will claim the right to make the seizures, because their sale by Germans gives them credit which places their bonds in the same category as gold shipments.

Zeebrugge Now Chaos Of Ruined Masonry

LONDON, Mar. 22.—A despatch from the Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says that, as an air and naval base, Zeebrugge is of little value, because the naval and air bombardment by the Allies yesterday, has reduced it to a chaos of ruined masonry. The majority of the air bombs fell upon the Solvar Works, which caught fire, and in the harbor several mine-layers were badly damaged.

Socialists Again Talk Peace in Reichstag

BERLIN, Mar. 22.—The Socialist membership of the Reichstag has decided to present the following resolutions:— The Reichstag expresses the expectations that in negotiations concerning the employment of the submarine as a weapon, everything will be avoided which could damage the just interests of neutral states, and effectuate unnecessary sharpening and extension of war the Reichstag expects on the other hand, that the Government will do everything to bring about an early peace which will insure the integrity of the Empire, its political independence, and economic freedom of development.

Will Receive a Miners Deputation

LONDON, Mar. 22.—Walter Runciman, who previously refused to receive a deputation of the South Wales Coal Miners' Federation, to listen to their grievances against the mine-owners regarding Sunday work and bonuses, telegraphed to-day agreeing to receive a deputation.

Dutch Liners Now Thought Torpedoed

British Naval Officers Are Now Convinced That Dutch Steamers Tubantia and Palembang Were Sunk by Torpedoes Fired by a German Destroyer

LONDON, Mar. 23.—The sinking of the Dutch liners Tubantia and Palembang are still being given much attention in naval circles. The latest development is in the form of a report from the Captain of the Palembang to the Admiralty, which stated that his ship was struck fore and aft by two torpedoes. He also expressed the belief that another torpedo, which failed to explode hit amidships. This report is based on statements made by the chief officer and boatswain, who both swore they saw the streaks made by the torpedoes. The liner almost stopped when the first warning of trouble came in the form of a blow amidships, the dispositions state, but an examination showed no damage. A moment later the forward bulkhead blew in and this was followed almost immediately by an explosion aft.

Russians Take Advantage of Hun Pre-occupation Around Verdun

PETROGRAD, Mar. 22.—Russian operations on the northern front promise to develop into the most serious undertaken by either side in this theatre of war since Field Marshal von Hindenburg's campaign against Dvinsk last autumn. Taking advantage of German pre-occupation at Verdun, the Russian staff decided to anticipate any plans the Germans might be making for an offensive in the Dvinsk region, by a series of manoeuvres which, if successful, will make it not only impossible for them to institute the advance, they apparently intended, but will force them out of the positions they now hold against the Northern Russian Army. The position of the German forces in the northern sector takes the form of an arc with the army before Dvinsk occupying the front of the arc farthest extended into Russian territory. The alignment makes the German position particularly susceptible to a flanking movement by the Russians north and south of Dvinsk. These, an official announcement says, have begun. In the region of Lake Lorooso, south of Dvinsk, the Russians have advanced along a front of ten miles, threatening the Vilna railway and the German communications between this point and Dvinsk. It is unofficially reported that this movement against the southern flank of the German Dvinsk position is accompanied by manoeuvres of the same nature against the northern German flank in the neighbourhood of Friedrichstadt.

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Mexican General Joins Villa's Band

Mexican Commander At Chihuahua Revolts and is Now to Support Villa—Herrera has a Following of Two Thousand

SAN ANTONIO, Mar. 23.—General Herrera, Commander at Chihuahua, is reported to have revolted against the Carranza Government, declaring himself at war against the United States and promising to support Villa, according to information received here from a source regarded as reliable. Herrera's strength in the City of Chihuahua is placed at 2,000 men. He was relieved of his command by Carranza yesterday, according to information here, the revolt occurring after he had been relieved.

Tribunals Vigorously Defended

Lloyd George Says Charges Made by Certain Section of House are Unjust—Says There is National Work For Every One to do

LONDON, Mar. 23.—David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, in the Commons to-day, vigorously defended the tribunals against frequent charges from a section of the House that they were unjust in their treatment of "conscientious objectors" against service in the army. Although it is inevitable in some instances that injustice occurs, said Lloyd George, some men use the word "conscientious" as a cloak for cowardice. If a man objects to helping the wounded, then the tribunals are quite justified in putting his objection down to fear. There is national work for all. The whole destiny of the country depends on what happens in the near future. The Government has the right to ask men to contribute something towards helping the country in emergency.

Wait and See

WASHINGTON, Mar. 22.—Latest official advices from the American expeditionary forces in Mexico, are that General Pershing and his men are close to Villa and his outlaws. only inflicted, he added, in the event of refusal to obey orders in presence of the enemy, but never in this country.

OFFICIAL

BRITISH LONDON, Mar. 22 (Official).—Last night two enemy mine explosions failed to inflict any casualties on our troops. There was some hand-grenade fighting in mine craters north-east of Vermeles without changing the situation there. To-day we successfully bombarded the enemy's position south-west of Wexmarquart with guns and trench mortars.

FRENCH

PARIS, Mar. 23.—German infantry attacks were again directed to-day against the French front between Avecourt wood and the village of Malancourt. All the German attacks debouching from Avecourt were checked, according to an official statement issued to-night by the French. The Germans succeeded in gaining a foothold on the small hill at Maucourt.

Admits Breakdown Hospital Arrangements In Mesopotamia

LONDON, Mar. 22.—In making a general defence of the conduct of the Mesopotamia campaign, against attacks in the Commons to-day, J. Austen Chamberlain said, that he regretted he was compelled to admit that in his opinion there had been lamentable breakdown in hospital arrangements. He did not seek palliation of some things which had taken place, but begged the House to remember that the campaign had been carried on under circumstances of very great difficulties.

Is a Violation of International Law

Feared Crew Have Perished—London Paper Express Great Indignation Over Sinking of Lightship

LONDON, Mar. 22.—The Galloper lightship at the mouth of the Thames has been torpedoed and sunk, according to Lloyd's report. The Dutch steamer Amstelland from Buenos Aires, for Amsterdam, reports, according to a Reuter despatch from Ymuiden, that she set her course for the Galloper Lightship, but found on the spot only a mast above the surface of the sea.

Stirs Commons With Attack On Air Dept.

London, Mar. 22.—Pemberton Billing stirred the Commons this afternoon with an arraignment of the British air service, which he charged with inefficiency. He asserted that its blundering policy had been responsible for the deaths of many officers, who had been murdered rather than killed. He declared that Earl Derby was not qualified for appointment as chairman of the Committee of control of air defence, because he was not well informed on the subject. Billing said that within the next few years the big nations would possess from 100,000 to 200,000 aeroplanes, with which the sky would be blackened, while even small nations, which were unable to afford battleships, would be able to maintain fleets of aircraft which would cost only from £100 to £200 apiece.

Fire Sweeps Two Towns. Big Loss

AUGUSTA, Ga., Mar. 23.—Fire caused damage, estimated at more than \$2,000,000 in the downtown section of Augusta to-night. At a late hour it was eating its way unchecked down Broad Street, where the City's principal business houses are located. Ten blocks are destroyed or burning. Fear is expressed there has been loss of life in the Dyer Building, where the blaze started, but it is impossible to learn definitely. Shortly before midnight, flames, carried by the wind into the residential section, where now the conflagration is making rapid headway.

Cannot Effect Final Issue of Verdun Battle

LONDON, Mar. 22.—The Paris correspondent of the London Daily Mail wires to his paper as follows, to-day:—"The German attack on Malancourt cannot possibly make any difference in the position of affairs. The Germans profited by artillery emplacements and flame throwings to surprise the first French trenches and gain a couple of hundred yards advance. This they well know cannot in any way affect the final issue of the battle for Verdun, which already has been decided."

Many Prisoners Are Closed in Britain

LONDON, Mar. 22.—The reduction in prison estimates of the British Isles for the coming year, of \$500,000 or about 12 per cent, and the shutting up, in whole or in part, of scores of prisons, are some of the visible evidences of reduction of crime owing to the war.

Russians Offensive Increased

Capture Three Miles of German Trenches Near Lake Narocz—Russians Force Entanglements and Rout Huns in Hand to Hand Encounter

LONDON, Mar. 23.—The Russians' offensive in the northwest has increased in intensity and fighting is in progress day and night. The latest official statement from Russia says: "Desperate infantry fighting is proceeding north of the town of Postavy, where the Germans launched violent counter attacks in an attempt to dislodge the Russians from trenches which they had previously captured." Respecting this operation, the Berlin communication says on this point the Russians delivered their heaviest attack, their losses reached extraordinary high figures, even for the number of Russians in action. The Russians have captured three lines of German trenches on the south-western shore of Lake Narocz, where it is officially declared, fighting is developing in favor of the Russian forces. Here the Russians, despite asphyxiating gases and murderous fire, forced three lines of wire entanglements, and made their gain in a series of fierce hand-to-hand encounters. The Russian War Office also officially announced the capture of Ispahan, in Persia, after an engagement. An unofficial report received by way of Rome and London says the Austrians have abandoned Czernowitz, the capital of Bukovina.

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4000 Natives Killed In Big Battle

CAPE TOWN, Mar. 22.—"The greatest battle ever fought against a native race in Africa," is the way the Government blue book, just issued, characterizes the fight in the north of what was formerly German South West Africa, between the Portuguese and the rebellious Ovakwanyama. More than 4,000 natives were killed in the battle, which lasted from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to a statement from Portuguese headquarters, their casualties were only one hundred.

Hun Subs Lay Mines Mouth of Thames

LONDON, Mar. 23.—A despatch of March 8th said, according to naval circles German submarines have been busy laying anchored mines between the mouth of the Thames and the Galloper Lightship. Many disasters have occurred the last few months in this neighborhood.

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Bad Little Boy

"Bad little boy" when he asked for a penny; "Bad little boy" when he wanted to play; "Bad little boy"—oh, the times were so many; "Bad little boy" all the time, every day; "Bad little boy" when he teased his small kitten; "Bad little boy" when he climbed up a tree; "Bad little boy" when he mislaid his mitten; "Bad little boy" when he came late to tea; "Bad little boy" if in school he just wriggled; "Bad little boy" if he looked off his book; "Bad little boy" if he whispered or jiggled; "Bad little boy" if his memory forsook; "Bad little boy" just for once over-sleeping; "Bad little boy" if he made sister cry; "Bad little boy" just for running and leaping; "Bad little boy" just for asking, "Well, why?" "Bad little boy" if his fingers were sticky; "Bad little boy" if he tracked in the dust; "Bad little boy" if he spotted his dickey; "Bad little boy" if his hair would get mussed; "Bad little boy" if he talked a bit wildish; "Bad little boy" if he laughed, sang or danced; "Bad little boy" at each act that was childish; "Bad little boy" if he shouted or pranced; "Bad little boy!" All the time it was shaming him; "Bad little boy!" It was all that he heard. If he grew up a failure, well, who would be blaming him? He took all the grown-ups, at least, at their word.