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FOURTEEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING MAY 12 1915 —FOURTEEN PAGES

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SENATE P O

BIG VICTORIES IN FLANDERS

1 BRITISH Severely Defeat the Germans Near Ypres

2 BELGIANS Cross the Yser and Defeat Whole German Division

3 FRENCH Win Brilliant Victory in Greatest Battle of the War

United States Will Demand Full Explanation From Germany

U.S. WILL CALL UPON GERMANY FOR A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF LONG SERIES OF OUTRAGES

Attacks Upon Falaba, Cushing, Gulflight and Lusitania Must Be Explained—Wilson Said to Be Firm in His Demand for Redress

WASHINGTON, May 11.—President Wilson has practically decided tonight on the first step in the policy which the United States Government will pursue as a result of the sinking of the British liner Lusitania with the loss of more than a hundred American lives.

The president will act promptly—within another day or two. Draft of a communication to be sent to Germany was submitted to the cabinet today and approved unanimously. While no official announcement was made, it was learned that the United States would present and insist upon an explanation of the series of incidents which have occurred since the proclamation of a war zone around the British Isles—the sinking of the Falaba, causing the death of Leon C. Thresher, an American citizen; the attack by German airmen on the American steamer Cushing; the torpedoing of the American steamer Gulflight, and finally, the destruction without warning of the Lusitania, with a loss of more than a hundred American lives.

Germany Must Play Game.

In what are described by those familiar with the document as firm and unmistakable terms, the president voices the intense feeling of the United States over these happenings, and in the name of international law, demands an adherence by Germany to the established rules of maritime warfare. The note asks that some assurance or guarantee be given hereafter that unarmed merchant vessels carrying non-combattants be visited and searched when encountered on the high seas by the German navy, and passengers and crew transferred to a place of safety before any prize is destroyed.

The president points out, it is understood, that his note, which said Germany would be held to "strict accountability" for any attacks on American vessels or lives, had not admitted any right on the part of Germany to carry on such methods of warfare and declared, moreover, that the giving of official notice of an intention to commit an unjustifiable act, did not justify the act or make it lawful.

Will Act Firmly.

What will follow in the event of a refusal by Germany to comply with the expressed wishes of the note, about to be sent, no one of the president's official family would predict. They said the president was determined to act firmly and deal with each situation as it arose.

Persons familiar with the president's point of view indicated however that he was by no means unprepared for, or unaware of the possible eventualities of the present crisis and knew that circumstances and events over which the United States might have no control might make vigorous action necessary.

What President Wilson Says

He will insist upon an explanation of the sinking of the Falaba, the attack on the American steamer Cushing by German airmen, the torpedoeing of the Gulflight and the destruction without warning of the Lusitania, with a loss of more than 100 citizens of the United States.

He will demand an adherence by Germany to the established rules of maritime warfare.

He declares that giving a warning before she sailed did not justify the sinking of the Lusitania.

He points out that strict accountability did not imply that the United States admitted any right on Germany's part to carry on such methods of warfare.

CONSCRIPTION DEMAND MADE IN NOTTINGHAM

Government Asked to Compel All Available Bachelors to Fight.

NOTTINGHAM, Eng., May 11.—(11.42 p.m.)—At a meeting of business men, held tonight to advance recruiting, a resolution was passed calling on the government to issue a compulsory notice to all unmarried men of military age to report at the nearest recruiting office within seven days.

ENEMY SOUNDLY BEATEN IN FIGHT IN ARRAS REGION

French Advance Threatens Communications on Oise and Aisne Rivers.

BELGIANS CROSS YSER

Hundreds of Germans Captured in War Operations Near Lille.

LONDON, May 11. 10.40 p.m.—With two of the greatest battles of the war in progress—one between Arras and the Belgian coast, and the other in western Galicia—to say nothing of the operations in the Dardanelles, and lesser engagements along the eastern and western fronts, the armies of the belligerents are now fully occupied.

The battle in northern France and Flanders might be divided into three sections. From the coast to Dixmude, the Belgians, supported by French marines, have taken the offensive, and, besides repulsing German counter-attacks, have gained a footing on the right bank of the Yser River. Around Ypres, particularly to the east of that town, the Germans made a big attack on the British lines, again using gas and a tremendous amount of artillery, and were severely defeated. Further to the south, as far as Arras, the French continue their offensive and have made very material progress,cup-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

MOUNTED INFANTRY ARE EAGER TO SERVE

Colonel Smart and Officers Send Notification to Ottawa.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 11.—Col. Smart, commander of the Mounted Infantry Brigade of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and all his officers, have notified the minister of militia that they are ready to go to the front as infantry officers, or in any capacity in which they can be used.

The spirit behind this offer is very highly appreciated here. The idea was doubtless due to the recent announcement that the Strathcona Horse, the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the King Edward Horse had gone over to France as infantry. It has not been decided yetw hat will be done regarding the mounted infantry corps that have been mobilized in different parts of the country.

Great Days

This war and its reverses and our losses on the Lusitania are making Canada into a great nation and giving us a new place on the world stage. Our losses are severe, and others may come; but we bear them gladly for a great cause. Many an individual heart is stricken, but the heart of the nation beats truer and finer than ever!

If we suffer, we grow; if some must weep, the rest must cheer for Canada and the empire.

GERMANS SHOW SIGNS OF FRIGHT IN LATEST NOTE

Distinct Backdown in New Decree Issued by Kaiser's Government.

INDEMNIFY NEUTRALS

Ships Accidentally Damaged in War Zone Will Be Paid For.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Germany, thru Ambassador Gerard, today notified the United States that submarine commanders had been specifically instructed not to harm neutral vessels not engaged in hostile acts; and that Germany would pay for damages to such ships in the war zone.

Neutral ships carrying contraband will be dealt with, the announcement says, according to the "rules of naval warfare." If neutral ships are accidentally damaged in the war zone Germany will express its regret and pay damages without prize court proceedings.

The German Government excuses its submarine warfare on the grounds that England is threatening to starve the civilian population of Germany by prohibiting neutral commerce in foodstuffs and other necessaries.

(Continued on Page 7, Column 1).

Are Things on the Mend?

Or, put in stronger terms, does it not look as if the war was about to reach a surprisingly favorable turn? Germany has been making desperate efforts within the last two or three weeks to break the line of the allies in France and Belgium, and to this end she has been moving whole army corps from the Russian or eastern frontier, also resorting to all kinds of desperate contrivances and methods to terrorize her opponents; notably, sinking the Lusitania, the employment of asphyxiating gases, the violation of all the recognized rules of war, the constant publication of victories against the Russians, which now prove to be wholely baseless; of encounters with British warships, which never occurred.

What is the reason of this policy and this action? Is it not likely that the Germans are anxious to do something before what they most fear may be realized, viz., the opening up of the Dardanelles and what will follow therefrom; Italy coming in; Greece most likely coming in, and the Balkan states being widely influenced by such events.

Another very significant thing, that must force the enemy to increased efforts at this moment, is that Japan, now that she has effected a settlement with China, will be in a position to take an active part in the campaign on the battlefields of Europe; and the beginning of some extraordinary move in that direction may happen at any moment.

The conduct of Germany towards the United States alone is proof of her desperate condition, and of a consciousness that she inevitably is doomed to defeat.

ALLIES WINNING BRILLIANT VICTORY OVER GERMANS IN NORTHERN FRANCE ENEMY LOSES IMPORTANT POSITIONS

British Wearing Masks Defy Gas, Slaughter Foe

Germans Literally Mown Down After Advancing on Trenches East of Ypres Under Cover of Fumes.

LONDON, May 11.—(9.52 p.m.)—The British war office made public tonight the following communication:

"Yesterday afternoon the Germans made another attack east of Ypres, in the neighborhood of the Menin road. Altho they subjected our trenches to a very heavy bombardment and made their infantry advance under cover of poisonous gas, their attack failed.

"During this attack our shrapnel inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy when they were in mass formation, literally mowing them down.

"Today there have been artillery actions on the greater part of the front."

The French official statement tonight says: "To the east of Ypres the British troops have been attacked again with the aid of asphyxiating gases. They allowed the fumes to pass over, under the protection of masks recently put into use, and by rifle and machine-gun fire they annihilated at the very point of their guns the German columns which had advanced in close formation."

British Troops Also Gain Big Success Over Kaiser's Troops East of Ypres, Despite Use of Poisonous Gas, and French Army Carries by Assault Whole Series of Trenches, Blockhouses, Forts and Arsenals in the Arras District.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, May 11.—The rapid procession of events in the severe fighting in northern France and southwestern Belgium now threatens to involve the Germans in the worst disaster to their arms that they have so far experienced in this war, for in spite of all they could do today the French troops in the Loos district, near Lille, and north and south of Arras, gained several important successes, the exact values of which may be counted almost beyond measure at the present hour.

In front of Loos the French soldiers today captured an important German field fortification and the entire German system of trenches which the enemy had laboriously and scientifically constructed along the road between Loos and Vermelles. The French troops also carried by assault the big chapel and blockhouse at Notre Dame de Lorette, which the Germans had ardently defended for months and had also converted into a strong fortress, and they cleared the Germans out of all their trenches between that chapel and Ablain-St. Nazaire. From this last point the Germans were severely defeated in debouching to attack the French.

Germans in Grave Danger

The German position at Carency is also in grave danger, being surrounded, except in one section, by a French cordon, and the German communications between this town and Ablain-sur-Souchez have been rendered extremely difficult. Fifty German soldiers and an officer were captured in several blocks of houses which the French occupied. The Germans also lost the cemetery at Neuville-St. Vaast, which they had converted into a strong fort and arselan. They were driven to the southeast of this village, and were unable to prevent the French from extending their line east and west beyond this point. The French were in process of carrying the fourth line of German trenches in the Loos-Arras sector late this afternoon, when the latest word was received in Paris.

Importance of Successes

Thus, while the battle is still in progress, the French troops have made most important and brilliant gains in this area in the past two days and their successes will have an important influence in easing the Russian situation. The Russians will endeavor to hold the Austro-German army in west Galicia while the German lines are being crumpled up in the west.

In the meantime the Germans who have been suspecting the British army in the Ypres region of fighting another battle of Neuve Chapelle, and of following up their success on the road to Fromelles, are pounding away at the British lines without much effect.

British Defeat Germans

The use of poisonous gas and the employment of heavy artillery to cover their advance did not save the Germans from suffering a severe defeat in a tremendous massed attack on the British positions to the east of Ypres yesterday afternoon and evening. British artillery poured a hail of shrapnel fire into the ranks of the enemy, while his troops were in close formation, and they were literally mowed down by battalions. The Germans prepared for their attack by heavy gunfire, but the British troops, possessed of tremendous staying power, clung to their positions. Then the enemy produced an immense cloud of poisonous gas, under which he attempted to move forward and capture the British positions. The Germans, as usual, were formed up in the familiar shape of a huge wedge, with the men packed in their ranks shoulder to shoulder, and marching forward at the touch. British artillery, which had been waiting for its opportunity, then opened a terrific fire, under which no human being could hope to live. Vast gaps were torn right thru the German ranks, and bursting shrapnel struck them down in all directions. The British welcome was so hot that the remnants of the Germans who had not fallen in their tracks turned and fled.

Belgians Cross the Yser

While the Germans were devoting their energies to an attack on the British troops the Belgians stole a march on them and threw several detachments across the Yser River north of Dixmude, on the extreme German right flank. The German reply to the Belgian advance was an intermittent cannonade near Ramscapelle, in front of Dixmude, and on the outskirts of Nordichmon and Pyregael, and the Belgian batteries, getting the range, overwhelmed the enemy by a terrific fire.

The Belgians now possess a bridge head across the Yser to the right bank, and last night defeated a trong German attempt to dislodge them. Three German battalions were engaged in this attack and they were severely cut up in the adventure. A Belgian division at the same time gained considerable wround at the south of Dixmude.

The following is the French official statement, issued at Paris, and received here tonight:

"Our success to the north of Arras was sensibly enlarged today during the course of the fighting. In an engagement of extreme violence in front of Loos, we captured, after a desperate struggle, and despite an intense cannonade, an important Ger-

BRITAIN'S REPLY SHATTERS GERMANY'S "JUSTIFICATION" OF MURDER ON HIGH SEAS

Germany Was First to Attempt Blockade, Britain Being Forced to Reprisal—Lusitania, While Carrying Ammunition, Was Never Armed.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, May 11.—From a high official source The Tribune today obtained a statement answering German efforts to shift responsibility upon England for the sinking of the Lusitania. It is a crushing reply, showing that upon Germany rests the whole responsibility. The chronology of events is set forth in such a manner that it is shown Germany's inception of a submarine blockade preceded and didn't follow the British cutting off of the German food supply. It is not considered possible that American public opinion doesn't fully grasp the enormity of the latest German crime, and the statement now made is only in response to the utterly unwarranted, misleading and impudent German claims.

The statement is as follows:

"The German Government state that responsibility for the loss of the Lusitania rests with the British Government, which thru their plan of starving the civil population of Germany has forced Germany to resort to retaliatory measures. The reply is as follows:

Von Tirpitz's Warning.

"As far back as last December Admiral Von Tirpitz (the German marine minister) in an interview foreshadowed a submarine blockade of Great Britain, and a merchant ship and a hospital ship were torpedoed Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, respectively.

"The German Government on Feb. 4 declared their intention of instituting a general submarine blockade of Great Britain and Ireland, with the avowed purpose of cutting off supplies for these islands. This blockade was put into effect Feb. 18.

"As already stated, merchant vessels had, as a matter of fact, been sunk by a German submarine at the end of January. Before Feb. 4 no vessel carrying food supplies for Germany had been held up by his majesty's government, except on the ground that there was reason to believe the foodstuffs were intended for use of the armed forces of the enemy, or the enemy government.

"His majesty's government had, however, informed the state department on Jan. 29, that they felt bound to place in a prize court the foodstuffs of the steamer Wilhelmina, which was going to a German port, in view of the government control of foodstuffs in

(Continued on Page 2, Column 6).

The Beginning of a Great Crop in Western Canada

Winnipeg Grain Growers' Guide, May 5: The wheat is in the ground. It has been put in under favorable conditions and in a good seed bed, and in most cases with plenty of moisture. Thousands of acres of wheat are already showing two or three inches above ground, and the season generally is reported to be from a week to ten days earlier than last year. Good weather will see the other grains sown in record time and everything in readiness for an abundant harvest. The seeding and the harvesting will be well done.

"GO AS FAR AS YOU LIKE" ILLINOIS TELLS WILSON

Senate Says State Will Back Him in Any Action.

SPRINGFIELD, Ills., May 11.—President Wilson was today assured by a vote of the senate that the people of Illinois would endorse whatever action he might take "for maintaining the honor and dignity of the nation" in connection with the torpedoing of the Lusitania.

A copy of the resolution was telegraphed to the president.

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