

GERMANY ABOUT TO DECLARE WAR ON U.S.

Great Franco-British Drive on the Western Front Knows No Halting

TREASON IN RUSS COURT IS REVEALED

Imperial Palace of the Czar Charged With Being the Nest of Hun Spies
PRO GERMAN CLIQUE
Included Premier and Numerous Other Ministers

By Courier Leased Wire.
Petrograd, March 21.—via London.—The Russia Volla, in a long unsigned article, exposes what it terms the treason of the count clique and alleges that Tsarchoke Selo was a "nest of German spies." The paper says that a special committee has been appointed to investigate the crimes of former ministers during the last bacchanalian nightmarish years of the dynasty, on which Rasputin put the final touches. The article says in part:

"The first crime was treason and espionage had its nest in the palace. The count was partly and chiefly German and the pitiful role of Sturmer in his efforts to drag Russia towards a separate peace was known everywhere. The press of our allies accused Russia of giving Germany Russian military secrets.

"Alexei Khvostoff, who was dismissed as minister of the interior because he aimed to divorce Nicholas and Alexandra and kill Rasputin, de-livered to friends that he has documents showing the connection between the court and Berlin and that Rasputin was surrounded by German spies, who were sending out military secrets obtained from the drunken monk. Khvostoff himself, one of the band of dark forces, did nothing to hinder the treason at Tsarsko Selo.

"We know from the letter of General Guchkoff, minister of war, to General Alexieff, that Sturmer and Belaitoff refused to give England a million rifles to the Russian army. Similar facts have been collected by the defense committee of the Imperial duma. We know the consequence of general Soukhomir-noff's doing when he was only governor of Kiev and when he surrounded himself with spies. His nearest friend was commander of the Austrian spy organization. Our military secret service knew, but could do nothing. The result of his treason was a Russian defeating costing millions of lives. What are we to do now? Allow Nicholas to live in beautiful Livadia, among the flowers he was so fond of among the conditions of freedom he always denies to others? Allow him to do this so that he may organize other dark forces for the reestablishment of the Romanoffs?"

SOCIALISTS NOT STRONG IN CABINET

By Courier Leased Wire.
Paris, March 22.—At a meeting of the Socialist Radical group of deputies, several members expressed regret that their group, numerically the strongest in the chamber, should have only one representative minister of the interior, Louis J. Malvy, in the cabinet. The hope was expressed that as a compensation, Minister Malvy would be invited to attend the meetings of the war council. The Matin says that Premier Ribet at once agreed to this, and also that he intends to revive the higher council of national defense, of which the minister of the interior will be a member.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, Mar. 22.—Pressure is now high over the eastern half of the continent and in the Pacific, elsewhere comparatively low. The weather has been fair in Canada except that a few light snow falls have occurred over the southern parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Forecasts: Winds mostly east and south; fair and mild to-day and on Friday.

French Continue to Press on Teutons; Russians Assume Offensive in East

By Courier Leased Wire.
French troops are in contact with the main German army and what may prove to be the initial stage of the greatest battle of history has opened before the gates of La Fere. For the first time since the great German retreat began patrol and rear guard fighting has given way to the thunder of artillery and the clash of major forces. The Germans are making a stand on a line running north and south of La Fere from St. Simon to the forest of Coucy, a distance roughly estimated at about twenty miles.

Hun Position.
The position selected by the Germans is protected by the Croat canal and the Ailette River, a tributary of the Oise, but in this line the French have driven a great wedge directly in front of La Fere and reaching to within two miles of that important town. On this wedge is based the hopes of French military critics that General Neville has outmanoeuvred Field Marshal von Hindenburg and that La Fere is doomed, and with it the whole of the famous Hindenburg line. Paris believes that the extraordinary speed with which the French have advanced has disconcerted the German plans and renders probable a continuation of the retirement to the Belgian frontier. The Berlin official reports throw no light on the situation, but it seems certain that a few days or even hours must decide the fate of La Fere.

British Front
The situation on the British front is somewhat more obscure owing to the rather vague character of the British official reports. The latest reports from London say that General Haig has pushed ten miles eastward from Poznan this would place the British within four or five miles from the vital point of St. Quentin and this estimate is supported by unofficial despatches from the front.

Still Advancing
The German retirement is priviledged from their positions east of Arras and in this vital region General Haig reports steady progress, but no localities are mentioned which might give a clue to the relative importance of the advance.

Russians on offensive
Apparently the spasmodic fighting in the Champagne and Verdun sectors has ceased for the time being at least, but important news comes from another and far-reaching field of the world war. The Russians, driving forward from Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian border at Mosul, while a second army is continuing its advance from Kerman-shah in support of the British advance from Bagdad. This means that the retreating Turks are being others are suffering from less serious wounds. Fifty-nine houses were demolished.

BULGARS AVENGED RETREAT

Driven Back by Allied Forces, They Renewed Bombardment of Monastir

By Courier Leased Wire.
Corfu, Greece, March 22, via London.—A semi-official Serbian statement from Saloniki to-day, declares that the Bulgarians, in order to avenge themselves because they were being forced by the pressure of the allied army to retire gradually from Monastir, renewed on March 18 and 19 their bombardment of the open town of Monastir.

Six hundred additional shells, many of which contained asphyxiating gases, were dropped upon the city. The victims, it is said, were again only old men, women and children. The death list numbers 25, while 23 persons are dying and 10 others are suffering from less serious wounds. Fifty-nine houses were demolished.

The previous gas bombardment of Monastir occurred on March 17th, when more than eighty civilians, a Serbian statement announced, were killed by the asphyxiating bombs and by ordinary gun fire.

FIRE, WIND AND WATER!
Hear Kemp at Park Baptist.

BRANTFORD'S GIFT TO VICTORY

A grand total of \$158,678.24 was raised in Brantford during the recent campaign for the Patriotic Fund. A detailed financial statement of the collections is submitted herewith:

BRANT PATRIOTIC AND WAR RELIEF ASSOCIATION, 1917 CAMPAIGN.	
Total subscriptions during campaign	\$158,678.24
Brantford City Council	\$ 24,000.00
Classified as follows:	
Cash subscriptions (not including U. S. firms or Old Boys)	8,923.08
General subscriptions	90,334.48
Subscriptions from employes of factories and other establishments	33,570.43
Brantford Board of Trade (collected from U. S. firms)	350.00
The Brantford Semi-Centennial Association (collected from Brantford Old Boys)	1,515.25
	\$158,678.24

With the sum of over \$158,000,000 raised by the city of Brantford in the 1916 campaign and other large contributions earlier in the war, the city's grand total to the Patriotic Fund will be approaching \$400,000.00, which has sustained the wives and families of the soldiers of this city.

GERMANY TO DECLARE WAR ON U. S. WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS

American Journalists in Berlin Warned to This Effect, Says Private Telegram—Sensational Revelations of Hun Activities Within the United States

By Courier Leased Wire.
London, March 21.—According to private telegrams from Berlin to the Amsterdam Bourse it is expected that a state of war with the United States will be an accomplished fact within forty-eight hours, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam. "American journalists in Berlin," the despatch adds, "have been warned to this effect by the foreign office."

Enemy Within.
New York, March 22.—A despatch to the Tribune from Hartford, Conn., says:

Men hostile to the interests of the United States are holding regular nightly drills in Hartford and other parts of Connecticut, Governor Marcus H. Holcomb said in an address before the Hartford Inter-Churchmen Association yesterday. That is one reason, he went on to explain, why he has hurried through the legislature the extraordinary emergency measure for the protection of property in Connecticut, "the arsenal of the nation."

Hidden Peril.
In the last few weeks the governor has provided for the establishment of a home guard and has had a census taken of the human and industrial resources of the state. He amazed his audience yesterday by stating flatly that Connecticut was facing the peril of an attack from within its borders.

"I am informed that there is a good deal of drilling going on within the borders of Connecticut, and it is going on every night right here in Bradford," said the governor. "And it is not in the interests of the United States." Also we know of activities of men in the munition plants who are going to prove difficult in time of war."

SPIRITED FIGHTING BRINGS FURTHER GAINS FOR FRENCH

Germany Made Energetic Resistance on Somme and Aisne Fronts, But Were Driven Back by Forces of Gen. Nivelle; Important Positions and a Number of Villages Taken—Cousin of Kaiser is Missing After Air Flight

By Courier Leased Wire.
Berlin, March 22.—(Via Sayville.)—Spirited fighting in the sector over which the Germans have been retreating is reported in today's official communication, which mentions no further evacuation of territory.

Announcement is made that an airplane piloted by Prince Friedrich Karl, a cousin of Emperor William, has not returned from a raid over the lines between Arras and Peronne. Paris, March 22.—Noon.—The Germans made energetic resistance to the French last night between the Somme and the Aisne, but after spirited fighting north of Tergnier the French forced them out of several strong positions. The French occupied a number of villages. The villages are situated to the north of Soissons. They were carried in the face of determined resistance by the Germans.

The statement follows: "In the region north of Tergnier we enlarged our positions east of St. Quentin canal after spirited fighting, and expelled the enemy energetically from several important defensive positions. South of the Oise and north of Soissons we also made progress during the night, occupying several villages in the face of severe opposition in the region of Vregny.

Fall of St. Quentin to the Advancing French Forces Must Come Soon

By Courier Leased Wire.
Paris, March 22.—The German retreat to the Assas-St. Quentin La Fere line is now practically complete since the French are now within artillery range of St. Quentin and La Fere. The movement has been carried out by echelons, according to approved principles, one section holding firm while the next fell back. The allied operations are now concerned with driving in the last of these sections which are still resisting. They are situated respectively south of Arras, southeast and east of Peronne, east of Ham and the valley of the Ailette and north of Soissons.

Just in the middle of the line east of Peronne and between the plain of the Somme to the south, is one of the few positions of defensive value, running to the east of Roisel and Vermand. The Germans showed signs of intending to cling to this salient but it is now, too, gone, the British being close to both Roisel and Vermand. Another strong section which is still holding out, occupies a formidable defensive position, formed by the forest of Coucy, but from the signs of destruction in the rear of the defenders, apparently resistance is only being made to secure the retreat to the principal line at St. Gobain.

As the result of Wednesday's operations the British line is now level with the French, which runs along the Crozat canal from St. Simon to Tergnier. At the latter point the French positions are less than two and a half miles from La Fere. Part of the road from Ourcamp to Noyon, which was paved with granite setts, had been unpaved by the Germans, but in less than a day the French engineer corps had repaired the road, rebuilt bridges and put the railroad in working order as far as Ourcamp. The military commissariat has sent 250 bullocks to Noyon and distributed 10,000 bread rations. Before leaving, the Germans made a clean sweep of the Noyon banks, sending to Germany securities valued at 18,000,000 francs.

Total Territory
Paris, March 22.—The total amount of French territory liberated from the German invaders by the Somme offensive up to March 21, is 853 square miles, situated in the four departments of Pas de Calais, Oise, Aisne and Somme. It includes 316 towns and villages, the homes of 181,925 Frenchmen. The Germans are still in possession of 7,126 square miles of France.

Dr. Henri de Rothschild has given 100,000 francs for the relief of the inhabitants in the liberated sections of Picardy. Dr. Henri de Rothschild is a grandson of Nathaniel Rothschild, the founder of the famous banking house. He is well known as a philanthropist, and has taken a prominent part in the war against cancer.

CAVALRY NOW USED BY HUNS

For the First Time Since 1914, Fighting No Longer in Trenches
MOUNTED MEN USED IN Present Western Offensive by Both Sides

By Courier Leased Wire.
Berlin, Tuesday, March 20, via Sayville, March 22.—German cavalry is now in touch with the French and British mounted troops, which have been in action for several days in the territory evacuated by the Germans, so that for the first time since the fall of 1914 cavalry on both sides is being employed on the western front. This is regarded here as an indication that great events are taking place and that a real battle is in prospect, trench warfare being over for the time on this part of the front.

The French and British attempted to use cavalry on the Somme last year, as well as at the time of the Champagne offensive, but the employment of these forces in the face of entrenched troops with machine guns resulted in very heavy losses. The present situation is a different one because neither side is now protected by trenches.

CZAR AND HIS FAMILY ARRESTED

All Members of Former Russian Dynasty Surrender to Government
PETROGRAD UNRULY
Disturbances Take Place; Quelled by the Soldiers

By Courier Leased Wire.
London, March 22.—All the members of the former Russian dynasty have placed themselves at the disposition of the provincial government according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd, Grand Duke Cyril has resigned his command of the naval guards.

Arrest Ordered
Petrograd, March 21, via London.—An order for the arrest of Nicholas Romanoff and Alexandra Feodorovna, former emperor and empress of Russia, has been issued by the provisional government. Gen. Alexieff has been charged with the duty of guarding the prisoners until members of the Duma arrived with an escort to take them to Tsarsko Selo.

Free Passes
Petrograd, March 22, via London.—In view of the financial straits of pardoned political prisoners, the council of ministers has decided to grant them free railway passes. The minister of foreign affairs has also been authorized to grant money subsidies to all emigrants desiring to return to Russia, and instructions have been issued to the frontier authorities to raise no difficulties in the matter of identification papers.

Disorders
London, March 22.—Robberies, incendiaries and some murders have occurred in Petrograd, according to a despatch to Reuters from the Russian capital. The disorders were started by rowdies, who were encouraged by the police, the despatch says, but were quickly suppressed by the militia force, composed of soldiers and workmen who disarmed the police.

Equal Suffrage
London, March 22.—The Berlin Vorwaerts says that the Russian revolution indicates that one of the consequences of the war will be the far-reaching democratization of Europe, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam. The paper scores the pan-Germans for holding that after the war will be time enough to settle the question of direct suffrage in Prussia and adds:

"It will be a great and dangerous mistake if equal suffrage is not introduced into Prussia while the war is actually going on."

LIEBKNECHT IS REPLACED IN HUN DIET

Dr. Franz Mehring Elected to Seat of Socialist Agitation

By Courier Leased Wire.
London, March 22.—Dr. Franz Mehring has been elected to the seat of Dr. Karl Liebknecht in the lower house of the Prussian diet, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam. Dr. Mehring is a member of the Socialist minority, which is opposed to the war, and which was led by Dr. Liebknecht up to the time of his imprisonment on charges of treason. The new deputy has also incurred the displeasure of the authorities, and at one time was put under "preventive arrest." According to the despatch, he was opposed in the election by a member of the Socialist majority, but received 341 votes out of a total of 427.

Amsterdam, March 22.—Commenting on Dr. Mehring's election, The Cologne Gazette says: "It is remarkable that in a by-election for Liebknecht's seat in the Reichstag, where the election was direct and secret, Mehring was defeated by the Socialist candidate, whereas, under the three class system enforced for elections to the Prussian diet, the candidate of the Radical Socialist party has been successful."

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