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War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A.M.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL PROTEST.

PARIS, March 25. The French Government gave notice to-night of its intention to address to neutral countries a protest against the acts of barbarism and devastation on the part of the Germans on French territory which they are evacuating.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, March 25 (Official). North of the Somme we drove the Germans to Savy Borders, where they entrenched in previously prepared positions. From the Somme to the Oise our troops, continuing their success, opened battle on the enemy, and drove him about one kilometre to the north of Grand Seracourt and Gibeaucourt, in spite of the enemy's stubborn resistance, and captured the western bank of the Oise from La-Fere suburbs to north of Vendoul. Two advanced forts protecting La-Fere fell into our hands. South of the Oise, in spite of floods, we progressed considerably on the eastern bank of the Ailette, capturing several villages and driving the German rearwards into Coucy forest. North of Soissons there is very little change. We found numerous Germans dead in the trenches that we captured yesterday to the north of Targival. About noon today a German long range gun fired several heavy calibre shells on the town of Soissons. A lively artillery duel took place in Berry-au-Bac and Rheims region, also in Alsace, towards Viols, south of Sainte Marie Pass. The aviation corps was active bombing enemy lines, and 1,100 kilos shells were dropped on Thionville, Briley and Conflans Station. The eastern army says nothing important, mutual fierce cannonading. British hydroplanes bombed Pradgita, Kannli, Orfano. During the night we secured a further advance north of Grand Seracourt, in the direction of St. Quentin. The prisoners captured belong to seven different German regiments. On the eastern bank of the Ailette we advanced south of Chauney. A raid west of the Meuse enabled us to capture German trenches east of Malancourt Wood. A German raid in Apremont district failed. A sixth German plane was brought down by Adjutant Artaly. A second German plane was brought down near Fontaine Wood. German planes bomb-

ed Calais and Dunkirk. Two civilians were killed, one wounded.

FRENCH SUCCESS.

PARIS, March 25. Another important advance has been made by the French in their movements against the strongly defended town of St. Quentin. The War Office reports to-night that the position embracing Castors and Esigny-le-Grand, extending over a front of about two and a half miles, has been taken. Heavy fighting has been in progress in various sectors, and the French report large German losses.

POSITIONS IMPROVED.

LONDON, March 25. The official report from the British headquarters in France to-night reads: North of the Bapaume-Cambrai road an enemy bombing attack on one of our posts in the neighborhood of Beaulieu-les-Cambrai last night, was successfully driven off. We improved our position west of Croisilles. We entered enemy trenches during the night, northeast of Loos and captured several prisoners and machine guns. An enemy raiding party entered our trenches early this morning west of Hulluch, but was ejected with loss, leaving prisoners in our hands. A few of our men are missing.

PRUSSIAN PRINCE WOUNDED.

MADRID, March 25. King Alfonso received a wireless despatch to-day to the effect that Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia has been informed from France that his second son, Prince Friedrich Karl was shot down by artillery while flying over the British lines near Peronne, and wounded grievously in the stomach. The message said the Prince had to be operated on to-day. A German statement on Thursday said that Prince Friedrich Karl, cousin of Emperor William, who is an army aviator, had not returned from a raid over the lines between Arras and Peronne.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE.

(From Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

March 24. The open fighting the past 10 days during the German retreat presented war pictures fascinatingly spectacular, closely approximating the older ideals of modern martial splendour. Roads, or more exactly remnants of roads, in some of the stricken districts of France, have been fairly choked with troops on the move. From the eminence of the recently evacuated German stronghold could be seen to-day the seemingly endless column of cavalry coming over the

distant hill, dipping down into the beautiful valley and rising again by a winding road to the broad, open field where camp was pitched for the night. At times the brown-hued horses and brown-clad men were almost invisible against the brown winter landscapes. At points further forward infantry detachments could be seen disappearing in the distance, skirmishing and dodging, one-unit covering another, until it seemed almost as if the days of Indian fighting had returned. This open movement is a striking change from the deadly stalemated depression of fixed trench fighting. On the other hand it is wonderful how the men, long inured to trench life, have come to love the holes in the ground. During the rest period on long marches, many of them can be seen sitting in deep shell craters in preference to the paved road side. There is a warmth below the surface and a protection from the wind, which "Tommy" has learned to appreciate. It is difficult to understand why the retreating army gives up without fighting some of the enormously strong positions which are now in British or French hands. Of course these positions, including the high barriers of the heaviest wire, could have been destroyed by a sufficient concentration of gun fire, as were positions which the Germans were forced to relinquish along the Ancre and the Somme, but the retirement will have saved the Allies countless tons of ammunition. The changes which have occurred within a few days in the territory recently occupied by the Germans are almost miraculous. Ruined villages which two days ago seemed isolated within the zone of deadly desolation, had military traffic and policemen on duty on their streets to-day; advanced hospitals have been established; divisional and brigade headquarters have been taken up, while on the corners of shattered villages blacksmith shops were ringing with the sound of hammer upon the anvil, and soup kitchens were sending out their savoury odors. Everywhere were visible activities of the great army moving forward. Major-Generals and Brigadier-Generals who a few days ago were occupying comfortable houses behind the old fixed positions, are directing operations to-day from huts and dugouts, and thoroughly enjoying the change. Motoring over pontoon bridges hastily thrown across streams to replace the permanent structures blown up by the Germans, was one of the many novelties offered by the present situation. Another has been to see Indian Sheikhs, khaki-clad, with immense khaki turbans on their heads, moving forward with the patrols.

PREPARING.

WASHINGTON, March 24.

President Wilson took steps to-day to place the nation on a war footing by an executive order which directed that the navy be recruited without delay to the full authorized war strength of 85,000 enlisted men. Taken in connection with the emergency naval construction already ordered this means the President has exercised to the full the limit of his legal powers as Commander-in-Chief to prepare the navy for war. For the army the President has directed that two new military departments be created in the Atlantic coast region. This order means that the task of organizing whatever army congress may authorize will be divided among six departmental commanders, instead of four, in the interests of speed and efficiency in mobilization. A third step was to assume as a national duty, the task of protecting American industries from domestic disorders in the event of hostilities. For this purpose 11 full infantry regiments, two separate battalions and one separate company of national guards were called back into the federal service to act as national police in important districts. Supplementing these troops a regiment of Pennsylvania guards and two companies of Georgia infantry on the way home from the border, were ordered retained in federal service. The President's orders were made known in a terse official statement issued by both departments. No explanation accompanied them except the statement that the reorganization of military departments, effective May 1st, was designed to facilitate the decentralization of command.

NEWSPAPER TALK.

BERNE, via Paris, March 25. "If peace negotiations were begun to-day," says the Journal De Geneve, which does not reveal the source of its information, but declares it is absolutely reliable, "Germany would offer to restore the territory she now occupies in France, except in the mining district of Briey, in exchange for a Charolais port, Calais or Dunkirk, and an indemnity of 25,000,000,000 francs." "Germany would also offer," says the newspaper, "to restore the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Belgium, on the condition that Belgium would not be allowed to maintain a national army and that Germany would be permitted to garrison Namur, Liege and Antwerp perpetually." It is added by the newspaper that Germany must be given control of the Belgian railway ports and be favorably treated by economic treaty. This is not the programme of the Pan-Germans, but the actual terms of the German Government, says the Journal De Geneve.

IMPRISED FOR SHELTERING FRENCH SOLDIER.

LONDON, March 25.

Monsieur Louis LeGrave, Vicar-General to Cardinal Mercier, the Primate of Belgium, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and deported to Germany, for sheltering a discharged French soldier for one night, according to a Central News despatch from Amsterdam.

THE MOEWE'S CAPTURE.

BERLIN, March 25. The additional list of ships captured by the German auxiliary cruiser Moewe, which recently returned to Germany from her second cruise in the Atlantic, issued by the Admiralty to-day, includes the Canadian sailing ship Jean, 215 tons gross, and Duchess of Cornwall, a British three-masted schooner owned in St. John's, Nfld., which was last reported sailing from St. John's on Dec. 4th for Gibraltar. The auxiliary cruiser Moewe had on board 593 prisoners when she reached her home port.

RUSSIANS TURN NOW.

PETROGRAD, March 25. Under pressure of German attacks against Russian positions between the rivers of Silecia and Chancin, on the Roumanian front, says the official statement issued to-day by the Russian war department, the troops withdrew to the next line of defence about two-thirds of a mile to the eastward.

INTERESTING.

LONDON, March 25. All clocks in the United Kingdom it is announced officially, will be moved forward one hour at 2 o'clock on the morning of April 8th. The clocks will be moved back again on September 17. The Italian Government has issued a decree that all clocks will be moved forward one hour for the period between April 1st and Sept. 30th. France will move its clocks forward one hour beginning March 24th.

RUSSIA'S PROCLAMATION.

PETROGRAD, March 25. The following proclamation to the people of Petrograd has been issued by Gushkoff, Minister of War: The enemy is menacing the capital from two directions. First, he is concentrating continually on our northern front with great quantities of munitions supplies and men. Second, he is concentrating his spies in Petrograd. Steps against the latter are immediately necessary. It is always a difficult task to unmask these traitors, who hide everywhere seeking cover for their criminal activities, under the cloak of all social conditions and all trades, wearing all uniforms, and mixing themselves with the

crowd in which they sow discord and spread distrust among the timid and weak. To the enemy's clandestine spy system we must oppose that of our General Staff. Citizens and soldiers should be watchful and wise, for the danger is great. Do not confound our anti-spy agents with the secret police of the old regime who have gone forever and who are useless to the new regime which governs in accordance with the will of the people. The new regime will not permit any revival of the old dark forces. Citizens must be prudent and do not reveal secrets of national defence, but be vigilant and attentive. Be on guard.

AWARD TO CARDINAL MERCIER.

PARIS, March 25. The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, yesterday, awarded to Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium, its Grand Prize of fifteen thousand francs, which was destined to recompense the finest and greatest acts of devotion of whatever kind. The Academy made the award in these terms: "In awarding this prize to Cardinal Mercier, the Academy desired to honor his noble patriotism, his respect of right, his zeal for justice, his firmness in the face of oppression and his devotion to the poor and oppressed. It desired also to render homage in his person to the nation which, in so many ways, is dear to France."

RELATIONS NOT YET SEVERED.

PEKING, March 25. The Chinese Foreign Office has directed that the Chinese Minister at Vienna ask the Austro-Hungarian Government if it approves of the German submarine policy, because of which China has severed relations with Germany. Should a satisfactory reply be not forthcoming, diplomatic relations between China and Austria-Hungary probably will be severed.

VISIT BATTLE FRONT.

PARIS, March 25. President Poincare and Ministers, accompanied by the Senators, and Deputies from the Departments of the Somme and Oise, yesterday visited Noyon, Guiscard, Ham, Nesle and Roye, where they were given a warm reception by the aged men, women and children, who repeated shouts of "Vive la France." The tri-color was displayed everywhere. President Poincare at Roye, standing before the wall of the half-destroyed City Hall where the Germans threatened to shoot assistant Mayor Maudron, pinned the insignia of the Legion of Honor on the breast of M. Maudron. A gift of 10,000 francs was left to the poor of the villages visited by the President.

PROMISES ALLEGIANCE.

LONDON, March 25.

The British, French and Italian Ambassadors to Russia went to-day to Marie Palace, where the Council of Ministers was sitting, and paid their respects to the Provisional Government, on behalf of their Governments,

says a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch has telegraphed Prince Lvoff, Premier, from Kiev, on behalf of himself and his wife, the Grand Duchess Xania, sister of the former Emperor, and their family, intimating their readiness to support the new Provisional Government in every way.

RETIREMENT CONFIRMED.

LONDON, March 25. The retirement of Grand Duke Nicholas from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies is officially confirmed, according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. Pending the appointment of a successor, the despatch adds, General Alexieff, Chief of the General Staff, will act as Commander-in-Chief. The retention of Grand Duke Nicholas as Commander-in-Chief is considered undesirable by the Russian Minister for war because of the Grand Duke's connection with the Romanoff Dynasty.

WILL MEET ALL OBLIGATIONS.

LONDON, March 25.

The Provisional Government, says a Reuter correspondent at Petrograd has issued a proclamation that it will meet faithfully all the pecuniary engagements of the late Government, notably with regard to the interest on state debts and the fulfillment of commercial contracts and the payment of official salaries. Direct customs duties and other taxes will be levied as in the past, until modified in accordance with new laws.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE KERIND.

PETROGRAD, March 25.

The capture by the Russians of the Persian town of Kerind, in the sector west of Kermanshah, about 40 miles from the Mesopotamia border, is announced by the war office. The pursuit of the Turks towards the Mesopotamian border continues. The town which was occupied on March 17th had been set on fire and destroyed by the Turks who withdrew to positions in the vicinity of the village of Khalir.

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