

## BRITISH AND FRENCH HOLD OWN IN DEFEERATE COMBAT

### BRITISH CAPTURE THREE MORE TOWNS

Cavalry Carries Village of Villers—Faucon and Saulcourt, North of Roisel—Further North of Region Army of Britain Takes Town of Touraine From Huns.

### HOSTILE ATTACK WEDNESDAY NIGHT BY GERMAN ARMY ON NEW POSITION AT AGANCOURT REPELLED WITH CONSIDERABLE LOSS—BRITISH MAKE STAND AT TWO POINTS ON BOIGNES - L'AGINCOURT ROAD.

London, Mar. 28.—British cavalry today captured the villages of Villers-Faucon and Saulcourt, north of Roisel, and also to the north of this region took Touraine from the Germans at two points on the Boignes-Lagincourt road and south and west of Corailles, according to the official communication, issued tonight.

The communication says: "Following up their success of yesterday morning, our cavalry captured during this afternoon, Villers-Faucon and Saulcourt, and several prisoners and four machine guns.

Huns Suffer Heavily. "Last night a hostile attack on our new position at Agancourt was driven off with considerable German losses.

Further north our troops established themselves during the night at two points on the Boignes-Lagincourt road, after a short fight, and today gained ground south and west of Corailles, meeting with strong resistance.

"We carried out successful raids early this morning east of Ais-Neuville and north of Neuville St. Vaast."

British Still Winning.

London, Mar. 28.—Summarizing the progress of the British forces in the past 24 hours, the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France mentions the capture of the villages of Agancourt and Villers-Faucon, and says:

"Taking the line between Longuevillers and Agancourt as representing our progress to Tuesday morning, this means that we pushed forward some 3,000 yards. This does not mean, however, an advance of the whole British line. In the present phase there is no continuous front line, but rather a succession of posts and patrols, all in touch with each other, but varying their positions from time to time, as opportunity offers for pushing on."

"A similar stampede occurred at Longuevillers. But in Villers-Faucon the enemy made a stand. Lierlemont was entered without opposition."

German Statement.

Berlin, March 28, via Sayville.—An announcement with the British today near Croisilles, northeast of Bapaume, resulted favorably to the Germans, army headquarters announced in tonight's supplementary report.

"On the western front an engagement occurred near Croisilles, northeast of Bapaume, which was favorable to us."

"In the Champagne and on the west bank of the Meuse (Verdun region), there was lively artillery activity."

"From the eastern and Macedonian fronts no important events are reported."

### VOTES FOR WOMEN WIN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

By Majority of 279 House Expresses Approval of Legislation on Lines Laid Down by Speaker.

London, Mar. 28.—After an interesting debate today the House of Commons, by a majority of 279, expressed approval of legislation on the lines of the Speaker's conference recommendations for franchise reforms. The small minority against such a measure represented not the actual opponents of the reform, but rather members who were desirous of postponing legislation of such a contentious character until after the war.

Premier Accepts.

The great feature of the debate was the frank acceptance by ex-Premier Asquith and Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, of woman's right to vote as a result of their war sacrifices and services, and Premier Lloyd George's whole-hearted acceptance of the conference recommendations, except proportional representation. He was even willing to go still further and make the qualifying period three, instead of six months.

A small party in the Commons during the course of the debate expressed their continued firm opposition to woman suffrage, but their numbers were too small to carry weight. The Nationalists announced that they would support Mr. Asquith's motion.

Bonar Law's Statement.

As a result of the debate, the gov-

ernment, as Mr. Bonar Law announced, will proceed with legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the conference. The bill will embody all of the recommendations, except proportional representation and woman's suffrage. These will be omitted, first, because the government is still undecided on the question, and second, because it is held that parliament, must first of all, express acceptance of the principle of woman's suffrage.

Idea of Bill.

The present idea is to make the bill as little contentious as possible, so that the second reading may be easily secured; then, in committee, these two excepted questions may be raised as amendments to the bill, thus giving the House an opportunity to record its opinion.

It cannot be doubted that the views expressed today by Mr. Asquith, Walter Hume Long and other prominent former opponents of woman's suffrage, will influence many other opposing members, and in any case during the war this opposition has been a rapidly dwindling one. It is still possible that the women may have to wait until after the war for the fullest recognition of their claims, but the vote for women, in some shape, is now certain.

The new bill will not be introduced until some considerable time after Easter, as the budget and other urgent business claim priority.

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### RUSSIANS REPULSE GERMANS

Petrograd, March 28, via London, March 29.—The following official statement was issued today: "Western (Russian) front: After artillery preparation the Germans attacked our positions east of Illutz, but were repulsed. A German attack northwest of Pustary also was repulsed.

### TRANSPORT TORPEDOED BY GERMANS

British Steamer Struck Near Spot Where Troopship Birkhead Was Lost—Ship Saved.

London, Mar. 28.—The British transport Tyndareus was torpedoed on Feb. 9, says an official statement issued this afternoon. A battalion of the Middlesex Regiment was on board and, says the statement, "upheld army tradition." The ship was saved.

The torpedoing occurred near the spot where the troopship Birkhead was lost. King George expressed his admiration to all ranks for the manner in which they had upheld the cherished traditions of the Birkenhead.

The British steamer Tyndareus, apparently the one alluded to in the official statement, was an 11,000-ton vessel, built last year at Greenock, and owned by the Ocean Steamship Company of Liverpool. Shipping records show the Tyndareus leaving Liverpool on December 20 last for Yokohama and Hong Kong, and reported arriving at Simonstown, Cape Colony, about Feb. 8.

Whether the torpedoing was the result of the conference, to better systematize the operations. Some firms have experienced great difficulty in obtaining steel, but arrangements are being made to overcome this obstacle.

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### THE GERMANS THREATENING ROUMANIA

Berlin Wants Prisoners Released by April 14—More Hostages to be Held.

London, Mar. 28.—An official despatch received from Jassy, Roumania, says the Swiss minister there has notified the Roumanian government, on behalf of the German foreign office, that unless Roumania releases, by April 14, all interned Germans, including those of military age, Germany will seize more hostages in the occupied districts of Roumania, and will deport these new hostages to Bulgaria and Turkey.

The despatch adds that no reply to the demand has been made, but that it is not likely that Roumania will accede.

### SENSATIONAL SUICIDE IN BETHLEHEM WORKS

Allentown, Pa., Mar. 28.—William Morris, proof commissioner for the British government in the United States and Canada, committed suicide early today in the office building of the Bethlehem Steel Company by shooting himself through the heart with a revolver.

Morris arrived in South Bethlehem yesterday, after visiting the munitions plants in Canada. He was engaged in his office the greater part of the night.

Telephone operators for the steel company heard a shot, and investigators found the commissioner dead in his chair. There is no known motive. He was 45 years old and leaves a widow in England.

### QUEBEC BRIDGE COLLAPSES

Quebec, Mar. 28.—An iron bridge on the E. G. R. near St. Germain, Drummondville county, collapsed at seven o'clock this morning through the ice pressure. Trains were stopped before reaching the bridge, thus averting accidents.

### GREAT FIGHT BEFORE CITY OF ST. QUENTIN

Army of France Holds Back Terrific Drive Against Maison de Champagne—French Odlged to fall Back on Essigny-Benay front in Champagne Region

### U.S. TO DECLARE WAR APRIL 2

Entire Nation Preparing for Great Struggle—Washington Getting Ready for Emergencies.

Washington, Mar. 28.—It was learned definitely today that the American government has no knowledge of any development likely to come before congress convenes which would change the present situation between the United States and Germany. If Germany contemplates any sort of peace move, or has considered abandoning submarine ruthlessness, or if any other nation has a step in mind designed to alter the present international status, the government is without information on the subject.

Wilson in Conference.

President Wilson today continued conferences with his advisers preparatory to writing the address he will deliver to congress next week.

The administration is said to be chiefly concerned with the form of action to be taken by congress regarding the status of Germany in making war on the United States, and with preparatory measures. Aggressive steps, while being carefully considered, are understood to be looked upon as questions for determination after congress has defined the status of the nation.

Whether suggestions that a huge loan or gift of money to one or more of the Entente Allies should be adopted, whether an army should be sent abroad, and whether increased supplies of munitions should be forwarded, are generally regarded as questions which would only confuse the issue if pressed to decision now.

The president has told no one just what his message to congress will include. It is expected to review the history of the negotiations with Germany leading up to the present situation, and submit what he believes congress should do. The preponderance of opinion still is that congress will adopt a resolution declaring that a state of war exists.

The president conferred during the day with Colonel E. M. House, who came last night and returned to New York tonight, and with Senator Huston of Wisconsin. Secretary Lansing, Daniels and Baker met to discuss activities common to their departments, and at the department of labor there was a conference to lay plans for the mobilization of the labor forces of the country. Secretary Daniels, Attorney General Gregory and Secretary McAdoo paid brief visits to the White House.

### BONAR LAW EXPLAINS THE WAR CABINET

London, Mar. 28, via Reuter's Ottawa agency.—The government was interpolated in the House of Commons today in regard to the status of the Imperial war cabinet and the Imperial war council. Mr. Rowntree asked: "Is the Imperial war cabinet an executive body, or only a consultative body, like the Imperial war council?"

Mr. Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, replied: "The Imperial war cabinet is both executive and consultative, its functions being regulated by the nature of the subject under discussion."

Mr. Morrell inquired: "If it is executive, what is its relation to the war cabinet of five?" "It is superior, or subordinate?"

The chancellor answered: "It is difficult, and not very desirable, to define the relations, which are entirely friendly."

### UNITED STATES ON THE VERGE OF GREAT WAR

Washington, March 28.—Senator Huston, of Wisconsin, who conferred with President Wilson today, said he believed Germany already is making war on the United States, and that congress should recognize this fact as soon as it meets. Armed neutrality, the senator added, has not stopped Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and the only question for congress to determine is whether to declare war on Germany or say that a state of war exists.

Senator Huston just returned from the west, and said he believed the people there are ready to stand solidly behind President Wilson. He found sentiment general that Germany has shown an utter disregard of American rights.

### THE FIRST RACE AT NEWMARKET ON MAY THIRTIETH

New York, March 28.—According to cable advices from London today the stewards of the Jockey Club have decided that the substitute for the famous Epsom Derby, the blue ribbon of the English flat racing season, will be run at the first extra meeting arranged at Newmarket on May 30, and the Oaks on June 1.

### HUNS VIOLENTLY BOMBARD FRENCH POSITIONS WEST OF MAISONS DE CHAMPAGNE AND GAIN FOOTING IN SOME OF ELEMENTS IN FIRST LINE—FINALLY HEAVY GUN FIRE FORCES ENEMY UNDER COVER.

Bulletin—Paris, March 28.—Heavy artillery fighting between the French and Germans took place today on the Essigny-Benay front. The Germans delivered a strong attack in the Champagne region, gaining a foothold in the French first line, but, according to the official communication issued tonight by the war office, all their attempts against Maisons de Champagne were defeated, with sanguinary losses. The text reads:

"Between the Somme and the Oise great activity was displayed by both artilleries, especially on the Essigny-Benay front. Our front dispersed enemy pioneers south of St. Quentin; there was no infantry action.

"South of the Oise and north of Soissons skirmishes between the patrols and lively rifle firing occurred at a number of points.

### SWEDISH MINISTRY RESIGNS

Stockholm, via London, Mar. 28.—The King has accepted the resignation of the entire cabinet, headed by Premier Hammarskjold.

The Swedish ministry resigned on March 5, according to previous Stockholm dispatches; but King Gustave requested the ministers to remain in office, which they consented to do temporarily. The resignation on that occasion followed a defeat of the government in parliament on the matter of an appropriation to be used for the preservation of Swedish neutrality, only one-third of the sum required being granted.

Eastern Front.

"Eastern front: After a violent artillery preparation the enemy attacked the trenches which we had captured on March 26 around Tarnava Stena, in the region west of Monastir. The attack was stopped short by our barrage fire.

"The prisoners numbered twenty-six, bringing the total taken by us in the latest operations around Monastir up to 2,194 of whom 29 are officers.

"We captured also six bomb-throwers and sixteen machine guns.

"Belgian communication: In the sectors of Dixmude and Steenstraete both artilleries were active, although the results were not important."

### PRIZE SHIP APPAM GOES TO BRITISH

United States District Court of Virginia on Order of Supreme Court Orders Vessel to be Turned Over to British Owners.

Norfolk, Va., March 28.—The United States district court here today, on order of the supreme court, turned over the prize ship Appam to Floyd Hughes, representing the British African Steamship Navigation Company, owners of the vessel prior to her capture by Germany. The court ordered that \$590,000, the proceeds of the sale of the cargo, be paid to the English owners.

The money is in Norfolk and Richmond banks, the unpaid portion of the cargo, consisting of ore, is ordered restored to the owners.

The German defendants are ordered to pay all costs in connection with the case.

### HUNS BUSY IN ITALY.

Rome, March 28, via London.—The artillery was active yesterday over the whole front, particularly between the Frigidio Valley and the northern edge of the Carso plateau. The war office announces that all efforts of the Austrians were defeated and that a few prisoners were taken in minor engagements.