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Germans Still in Advance To Give Way Before Allies

Retreat Along Almost One-Fifth Of Front From Switzerland To The Sea

Military Men Believe Enemy Must March Two Days More Before Resuming Serious Defence

French Reach Railroad Between Nesle and Ham—Germans Said to Have Burned 300 Villages in Their Retreat—Entry Into Peronne Costs British Not a Man

Paris, March 19.—The German line at last accounts was in full retreat over a section which represents almost one-fifth of the vast front from Switzerland to the sea, closely pressed by the French and British. French troops advancing with the precision of a machine along a forty mile front, have recaptured important towns and many square miles of territory, accomplishing this at small cost to themselves, so carefully has every detail of the advance been thought out.

ONE LEAP OF 13 MILES In the Lassigny region, west of Roye, the Germans appear to have made only a weak defence, since the French were able to push forward thirteen miles at one bound. General Nivelle, the French commander, who is credited with possessing almost uncanny ability to gauge the powers of his opponents, is following up the retreating Germans with great rapidity. It is regarded here as doubtful whether the Germans will find it feasible to offer serious resistance before reaching the basic line of defence between Lille and Soissons, two days march from where they now are.

FRENCH REACH RAILROAD Paris, March 19.—The French closely following the retreating German, re-occupied Guiscard last night and at several points reached the railroad from Ham to Nesle. Troops were pushed along the National road to St. Quentin.

East of Nesle the second German position was captured. The statement says 100 villages have been re-occupied by the French in three days. Many of these towns had been devastated. Thousands of persons, whom the Germans were unable to send to the rear, came forward to greet the French.

On the Verdun front, the Germans made a heavy attack between Avoucourt and Dead Man Hill, after artillery preparations. They penetrated the French lines on a front of 250 yards, but were ejected from part of this position after violent hand-to-hand fighting.

RETREAT OF THE ENEMY CONTINUES London, March 19.—The newspapers generally take a fairly sober view of the German retreat on the western front, while insisting that the retreating army has been forced, not from making any contention that the Germans are on the run.

That the same viewpoint is held at the front is indicated in one despatch, which quotes an unnamed "distinguished staff officer" as deprecating the idea that the retreat had become a helplessness flight. At the same time this officer is quoted as saying: "The thing has suddenly become too big and too active to keep pace with."

Germans Still Going While newspaper comment is moderate in tone, the retreating army is described as unprecedented except for the period following the battle of the Marne and it is emphasized that there is nothing yet to indicate where the German line will be halted. Our correspondent writes that the German line between Arras and Roye is not that where it is. He says that it is dissolved and has not yet settled anywhere definitely.

The correspondents tell little of the work of the British cavalry. "They are over the hills and far away," says one. "The Germans have a cavalry screen behind their rear guard reconnoitering the roads in an attempt to ascertain the volume of the British advance."

A FINE RECORD One feature of the operations generally remarked upon, is that the British advance south from Bapaume has produced no important fighting. Peronne itself was occupied without a single British casualty. The place is said to have been thoroughly looted, but, although many buildings were fired, a great number are undamaged and Peronne, unlike Bapaume, is still a town.

Three Hundred Villages Burned Farther north, however, the destruction is complete and it is declared that at least 300 villages were burned to cinders. The small town of Athies is described as a flaming torch visible for miles around and many villages are still burning.

OF all this great tract of France which the enemy has been forced to abandon, says one correspondent, "there is no beauty left, no homes, no farms, only black ruins and devastation everywhere. There was never a moment in the war when the French inhabitants felt such a fury of rage against the German quality of cold and logical plunder and destruction."

Enemy Admission. Berlin, Mar. 19, via Sayville.—Evacuation of territory over a wider sector on the French front, extending from Arras

SEE WAR NEARER FOR THE UNITED STATES

At Last the "Overt Act"—Reports From the American Steamships That Were Sunk by Germans

Washington, March 19.—The United States today faces the pressing question of war with Germany over the immediate issue of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchant ships. Technically an armed neutrality still exists, but unofficially it was admitted Germany has committed an "overt act" which precipitates a virtual state of war. The next step beyond the arming of merchantmen, now going forward, is the dispatch of warships to clear the trans-Atlantic lane of submarine menace. President Wilson was considering carefully all sources open to him. He might continue arming merchantmen, or he might call for a special session of congress called for April 16; he might summon congress to meet immediately to authorize him to take aggressive action against the submarine menace, or he might declare forthwith that a state of war exists. Some officials say he is already has ample power for the last course, but that this would be subject to approval by congress.

Despatches from the various battle fronts took on added interest today, as officials realized that the United States is practically certain to become involved in the war.

The war and navy departments particularly were confronted early with problems of precisely what plans they should follow if war comes.

Many senators and representatives who returned in Washington today expressed the opinion that the German submarine's latest act constitutes a clear case for war.

The Sunk Ships. New York, Mar. 19.—Eighty-five Americans, comprising a large majority of the crews, were aboard three American steamers—Vigilancia, City of Memphis and Illinois—sunk by German submarines on Saturday and Sunday in the Atlantic zone. The latest information here is that fourteen men are missing from the Vigilancia and eight from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois was landed safely.

The City of Memphis left Cardiff, Wales, on Friday, in ballast for New York. She encountered a submarine on Saturday evening and the crew was given fifteen minutes to take to the boats. The vessel was owned by the Ocean Steamship Company and valued at \$800,000. She left New York on January 25 with a cargo of cotton which was delivered at Havre, France. There were fifty-seven men in her crew.

The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning according to the survivors' story, and the submarine did not appear. She carried a crew of forty-five men, twenty-one of whom were Americans. Thirty-one of these have been landed at the Selly Islands. The Vigilancia sailed from New York on February 28 with a cargo consisting in part of provisions and valued at nearly \$100,000. The ship herself was said to be worth one million dollars.

It is reported that the crew was saved, no details had been received here early today regarding the destruction of the Illinois was in the hands of the British navy. The Illinois was a tank ship owned by the Texas Oil Company. She left Port Arthur, Texas, on February 17 for London with a full cargo. There were sixteen Americans on board, including all the officers and most members of the crew. Her entire crew consisted of thirty-five men. Her home port was New York.

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RAILROADS GRANT MEN'S DEMAND; STRIKE AVERTED

Patriotism Important Factor in The Settlement

MEANS \$60,000,000 A YEAR

Crisis Caused by Sinking of Three American Ships by German Submarines Brings Success for Appeal of President Wilson

New York, March 19.—The railroad strike has been averted, yielding to the appeal of President Wilson and facing the probability of the United States' entrance into the world war, the railroad men today granted the demands of a basic eight-hour day. The telegraph wires this morning are carrying throughout the country messages from the brotherhood chiefs regarding the orders for the inauguration of the great progressive strike at 7 o'clock tonight.

The decision is regarded as a complete surrender to the brotherhoods, brought about, however, after the patriotism of the railroad managers had been put to the test. The president's mediators playing what they considered their last trump card, were not successful in their mission until after more than fifty hours of anxious waiting, all of which up to within a short time before the decision was announced pointed to an inevitable deadlock.

By the terms of the settlement, the combined salary list of the railroads will be increased approximately \$60,000,000 a year, according to conservative estimates. The number of workmen profiting by the increase will be more than 300,000.

That the crisis from the sinking of three American ships by German submarines was the prime factor in ending the situation and restoring the country to the normal conditions in so far as its transportation system was concerned, was conceded by all.

New York, March 19.—Secretary Lane today stated that the L-89 has been ordered to the Atlantic coast, regardless of the decision of the supreme court on the Adamson law, the basic eight-hour law for railroad workers.

Washington, March 19.—The Adamson eight-hour law test case was decided today by the chief justice. The eight-hour standard for railroad wages provided in the Adamson law was held constitutional.

Oise and Aisne Cleared Of Enemy This Week

Is News From Front

Two Entire Departments—Allies Have Regained 620 Square Miles—Important Developments Near Soissons

Paris, Mar. 19.—Tomorrow or the day after, two entire French departments, those of the Oise and Aisne, will be liberated from the German invader, according to reports from the fighting front.

The total territory now regained is roughly calculated at 620 square miles. The nature of the ground over which the Germans retreated was almost all against them and they were harried by cavalry, which is now being used in force for the first time since the battle of the Marne.

At a few points where nature offered an opportunity for resistance, the Germans tried to make a stand and left back only after considerable fighting. The principal of these points were the Forest of Ourscamp and the village and part of the Wood of Carlepoint, south of Noyon. There was also a sharp struggle for the important Croix Plateau, across the river from Soissons, the capture of which is believed by military critics likely to be followed by highly favorable developments.

SEES POSSIBILITY OF NEW TRIPLE ALLIANCE Maximilian Harden Suggests That United States, China and Japan May Get Together

London, March 18.—Maximilian Harden, writing in the last issue of Die Zukunft and quoted by Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, says with reference to the occupation of England by the British, that only a blockade of one to whom the map of the world has taught nothing or who has to himself in order to be better to others can give the importance of the change of power in Eurasia.

Since the birthday of the submarine war, which was greeted with gushing hope, he also writes, "the greatest republics of the earth, the United States and China have resolved to break off their relations with Germany."

Herr Harden suggests the possibility of a triple alliance of the United States, China and Japan, which he says would permit more energetic participation in the war. To doubters of such a possibility he replies that Great Britain, France and Russia, before yielding, would attempt everything imaginable.

He also writes, "the greatest republics of the earth, the United States and China have resolved to break off their relations with Germany."

RAIDING ZEPPELINS GET INLAND 25 MILES No Important Places Reached, Says British Announcement

Berlin, March 19.—Via London.—An attack on London by Zeppelins, lasting one and one-half hours, has been made, the war office announced today. Bombs were dropped successfully and the ships returned safely.

The statement also says: "According to French information, the L-89 has been brought down by French anti-aircraft guns near Compiègne, northeast of Paris, at an altitude of 3,600 metres."

Official announcement was made in London on March 17 as to a Zeppelin raid over the southeastern counties on Friday night and early Saturday morning. No word has been received of a raid on Saturday night, nor has Berlin reported an earlier raid. It is possible that the German statement gave the time as the night of March 16-17, a form frequently used by Berlin and that it has been confused in transmission. The fact that London was bombarded has not been announced by the British, although there were indications in press despatches that Zeppelins had reached the city.

The French war office on Saturday announced the destruction of the L-36, all of whose crew perished. The Zeppelins penetrated about twenty-five miles inland, but reached no important points. Several bombs were dropped in rural districts. No accounts of casualties have reached London.

Petrograd, March 19.—Via London.—Further progress by the Russians in Persia, who have now reached the vicinity of the Turkish border, is reported today by the war office.

Austrians Want Armistice With Russians

London, March 18.—Despatches from Vienna, according to the Exchange Telegraph Company's correspondent at the Hague, say that the German chancellor was received on Saturday by the Austrian emperor and Empress at Laxenburg Castle near Vienna. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg had a long conference with Emperor Charles and Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, chiefly with reference to the Russian situation.

Political circles in Vienna, the despatch adds, are considering the possibility of entering into negotiations with the Russian cabinet with a view to an armistice. Emperor Charles is very anxious about the matter. The German chancellor will leave at once for Berlin and will immediately visit the German emperor at headquarters.

LARGE SCHEMES FOR SETTLEMENT HERE AFTER WAR

Hon. Robert Rogers Gives Interview in London—Britain Less Congested, Canada More Replete

Montreal, March 19.—A special cable to the Star from London today says: "The Hon. Robert Rogers, in a special interview with your newspaper, has stated that there are large schemes under way for land settlement in Canada for returning imperial soldiers and the same will not forget the dominion when the restless fighters again have to seek peaceful pursuits."

"The development of the empire is no idle dream. Fresh from the fighting line in France, I have seen that we have reached a stage in the crisis when, though every effort must still be bent on winning the war, it is equally our duty in our own minds to what honorable and prosperous aim the fruits of victory should be at once dispensed."

"I have just returned from an all-Canadian tour of the front. I have only one wish and that is that every Canadian—perhaps in view of the impending imperial conference, I should say every Britisher—could be granted the same privileges. If that could be, then every doubt as to the ultimate victory of the allies would be at once dispelled. If they could be transported temporarily on a magic carpet to the western front, they would learn that, though much remains to be done, what remains is being well planned for. They would learn the true meaning of alliance with the empire."

"What would they see? Men gathered together from a dominion whose lands reach to the Arctic Pole, fighting in the same line with men from the commonwealth whose birthright extends to the Antarctic—fighting together for the flag of the little islands that gave them birth. Many citizens from the United States who are near at hand, have been quick to see the possibilities of Canada. After the war every effort will be made to create an open house in Canada for the people of the British Isles. Already, we are mapping out a program, not to grant us country of the men and women she will need but so to reorganize it under imperial unity that British will be less congested and Canada will be more replete. With the help of the conference this programme will be sound and will be sure to be good."

R. R. GAMEY DEAD. Toronto, Ont., Mar. 19.—R. R. Gamey, member of the legislature for Manitoba, died in the general hospital at 5:30 this morning. He was operated upon last week for an abscess on the lung.

THE 62ND NAMED IN MOBILIZATION ORDERS TODAY

HUNDREDS DIE AS MUNITION PLANT IN GERMANY BLOWS UP

Ottawa, March 19.—Instructions sent out today from militia headquarters for the immediate mobilization of forty-eight city regiments under the newly promulgated plan of the militia reorganization.

District officers commanding will report to the department such of the local corps as it is considered desirable to mobilize.

Included in the mobilization scheme are the following maritime battalions: The 62nd, St. John, 63rd and 66th Halifax.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, Director, of Meteorological Service

Synopsis.—The disturbance which was over the Straits of Mackinac yesterday now covers Newfoundland, while a cold wave has spread into Ontario and Quebec. In the west the weather is fair and mild.

Ontario valley.—Fair and cold today, Tuesday, fair and milder.

Fair and Cold. Maritime.—North to northwest gales, decreasing tonight, local snow flurries but generally fair and cold today and on Tuesday.

New England forecasts.—Fair and cold tonight, Tuesday, fair and slightly warmer; northwest winds, diminishing and becoming variable by Tuesday.

HEADS SHIP FOR THE SUBMARINE

Leyland Liner Canadian Has Experience

U-BOAT WAITING FOR HER

Captain Steers Vessel Full for the Undersea Pirate Craft, Latter Submerges But Canadian's Keel Scrapes Her

Boston, Mass., March 19.—The Leyland line steamship Canadian, which arrived in Boston yesterday from Liverpool, almost accomplished the destruction of a German submarine as she was entering the English port on her last journey across the Atlantic, according to the members of her crew. The submarine, which was lying in wait to launch a torpedo against the Canadian, barely saved herself by submerging in record time.

Captain Bullock, commander of the ship, was at the wheel and the vessel, 100 miles from Liverpool, had just dropped anchor of a naval convoy which had escorted her through the most dangerous part of the German barred zone. Suddenly the captain caught sight of the submarine lying awash and almost in his path, evidently waiting for the liner to reach a favorable position before firing. Calling for full speed ahead, Captain Bullock steered his vessel directly for the German craft, hoping to ram and sink it.

The submarine commander was warned in time, however, and managed to sink beneath the surface. A slight scraping along the keel of the Canadian was indicated that the ship had grazed the submarine and perhaps sunk it.

The Canadian's captain, however, did not stop to ascertain the success of his manoeuvre, but hastened away to port, guiding his ship in six zigzag well clear of the danger zone.

BUSINESS NOTES

J. M. Robinson & Sons, Private Wire New York, March 17.—Failures in the U.S. this week 269, against 256 last week and 287 last year.

Dun's and Bradstreet's reports on business conditions covering the United States say that while conservatism still prevails, a change for the better occurred in the last week.

ASTOR BABY'S BILLS UPHELD

Special Guardian's Report Ready on \$75 a Day Expenditure

New York, March 19.—Cornelius J. Sullivan, appointed special guardian by Surrogate Cochran to examine the accounts of expenditures made by Mrs. Madeline Fox Astor Dick for her son John Jacob Astor, which showed that she had spent an average of \$75 a day for him during the first three and one-half years of his life, reports recommending that the accounts be approved.

The accounting was filed on January 30, and Mr. Sullivan, because of illness, obtained several extensions of time in which to examine it. The principal items listed were \$88,778, representing one-third of the taxes on the Astor home at 840 Fifth avenue, and \$22,666 for one-third of the maintenance of the household. Clothing and toys were listed at \$5,700. The account covered the period from Aug. 14, 1912, to Dec. 31, 1915.

The income of the \$50,000 trust fund which Colonel Astor provided in his will for the child averaged \$140,000 a year. The executor allowed Mrs. Dick to receive the income for the period covered in the accounting.

Mrs. Dick was appointed guardian over the baby until he becomes 14 years old. She surrendered the income from a \$60,000 trust fund last summer by marrying William T. Dick.

CAPTURES WILD CAT

Big One Near Kingsclear Farm—Six Below in Frederick—Government Meeting Thursday?

Frederick, N. B., Mar. 19.—John L. Myhrall, a farmer of Myhrall Settlement, Kingsclear, found the carcass of a large buck deer in the woods near his home one day last week. It was partially devoured and there was other evidence to show that it had been killed by a bobcat. Mr. Myhrall set a trap and on the following day caught the marauder, which proved to be a cat of enormous size. The deer had shed its horns, but there were indications that it had put up a stiff fight.

The thermometer registered six below zero here last night.

Sergeant Major J. H. McCollom of St. John has opened a special recruiting office here for the Ninth Siege Battery. He will endeavor to raise a Frederick section.

A member of the provincial government said today that there would likely be a meeting of the executive here on Thursday.

RUSSIANS CLOSE TO TURKISH BORDER

Petrograd, March 19.—Via London.—Further progress by the Russians in Persia, who have now reached the vicinity of the Turkish border, is reported today by the war office.