

The Evening Times Star

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TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Airmen On West Active; May Mean Big Developments In The War Game

Intense aerial activity prevailing on the Franco-Belgian front indicates the probability of important developments there in the near future.

The Entente aviators are taking extra hazardous risks in their insistent search for information of hostile movements and dispositions. This is evidenced by Berlin's report of a large number of Entente airplanes alleged to have been shot down in air engagements on Sunday and yesterday. The aerial scouting, interrupted by Monday's storm, was thus apparently in full swing again on Tuesday, with the clearing of the weather.

In the realm of infantry activity, the British, while continuing to pick up stragglers abandoned by the Germans in their sustained retrograde movement along the Ancre, have contented themselves with raiding operations in the Bouchavesnes sector, north of Peronne on the Somme front, after having effected a gain along a front of nearly three-quarters of a mile there in a recent attack.

In the Verdun region the French and Germans are continuing to dispute ground north of Caurettes Wood, where the German crown prince's troops effected a considerable gain last week, only, according to Paris, to lose the greater portion of it as the result of French counter-attacks.

French Report

Paris, March 7.—"Between the Oise and the Aisne we made a surprise attack on German trenches at Quermeries and brought back fifteen prisoners," says today's official announcement.

"In the Argonne, in the vicinity of four de Paris we exploded a mine and occupied the crater."

"The Germans attempted several surprise attacks, northeast of Pifrey, in Bouchou Wood, north of St. Mihiel and near Amantawiller. The attacks were checked at once by our certain fire and losses were inflicted on the enemy. Elsewhere the night was calm."

"Adjutant Casale brought down his sixth German airplane yesterday. It fell to the ground in the region of Dieppe, in the department of the Meuse. One of our pilots was attacked near Rumpeler and fell within our lines north of Laval, in the Marne."

Enemy Reports

Berlin, Mar. 7, via Skyville.—An attack was made by the Premier last night on the Verdun front, says today's war office announcement. The statement reads:—"Western front.—On the Scarpe (Aras region) on both sides of the Ancre the east bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) there was lively artillery activity yesterday. Repeated engagements occurred between reconnoitering detachments and trench garrisons."

"In the evening the French attacked on the northeast front of Verdun our new positions in Caurettes Woods. They were repulsed by our fire."

"Clear weather favored the airman in the execution of their tasks. In numerous air engagements fifteen hostile airplanes were shot down. We lost one airplane through the enemy's action."

Berlin, Mar. 7, via Skyville.—There has been a let-up in the severe weather along the Russian front, accompanied by an increase in the activity, says army headquarters. The statement reads:—"Eastern front.—Between the Baltic and the Black Sea the conflict is diminishing and in some sectors the artillery fire grew livelier. The infantry activity, however, continued of small proportions." "Macedonian front.—Between the Vardar and Lake Doiran and on the lowlands of the Struma our outposts repulsed advances by British parties."

PAPER SITUATION MORE SERIOUS FOR THE LONDON PUBLISHERS

London, Mar. 7.—(New York Sun cable)—London newspapers, suffering from a shortage of paper, insist now that unless the public can be content with fewer pages it presently will get none at all. The circulating departments are fighting harder to lessen their circulation than they ever fought to increase them.

There has been some talk of reviving the old custom once in vogue among readers of the Times. Years ago when the paper was higher priced, the paper was "recirculated" by carriers and one copy was read in as many as a half dozen homes each day. This lessened the cost to the individual reader.

CARMANIA HIDES HERSELF IN DENSE SCREEN OF SMOKE

Cunarder at New York Has New British Device for Defence Against Submarines—Also is Armed

New York, Mar. 7.—The Associated Press this morning carries the following: "The steamer Carmania of the Cunard line, which arrived last night from Liverpool, is equipped with the best submarine defenses carried by any merchant vessel that have reached this port. The Carmania is the first ship here to show the smoke screen apparatus recently invented by the British admiralty."

In addition to this device she carries a naval six-inch gun, with a range of eight miles. By pressure of an electric button on the bridge the officer on watch can discharge through a ventilator on each side of the after-bridge dense clouds of smoke. The ship's gun is handled by three gunners from the Royal Naval Reserve, one of whom is on duty.

Security of tonnage and the uncertainties of the submarine situation caused an increase in freight and insurance rates today.

Walter E. Foster To Be The Next Premier Of New Brunswick

Walter E. Foster of this city will be the next premier of New Brunswick. At the opposition conference this morning it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Foster should be asked to continue as leader and to enter the new legislature as premier.

Mr. Foster has agreed to accept the honor and will secure admission to the house by means of a by-election as soon as matters can be arranged. Several seats have been offered to him and he will make his choice in the near future.

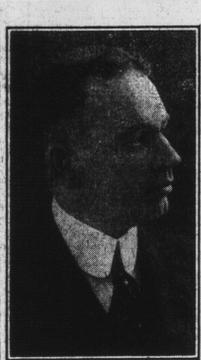
The conference of the opposition candidates in the recent general elections, including both those who were elected and those who were not so successful, which opened last evening was continued this morning in the hotel headquarters in the Fenwick building, Charlotte street. The gathering included practically all the candidates from all parts of the province.

The session, which was a short one, was devoted chiefly to the discussion of the leadership and the unanimous choice of the gathering was Walter E. Foster of St. John.

Mr. Foster had accepted the leadership of the opposition party since the election had been announced and during the brief campaign had increased the respect and esteem in which he had been held already among the members of the party. His success in leading to victory a party which had carried only two of the forty-eight seats in the last general elections showed how well justified was the faith which had been put in him. His personal defeat was due to his courage in meeting Attorney-General Baxter in his stronghold in the city instead of seeking a safer seat in the city and even under this disadvantage he fell short of victory by less than 100 votes.

In the next premier the province has a business man of demonstrated ability and one in whose integrity the highest confidence is placed by friends and foes alike.

After the morning conference the party adjourned to the Manor House at Glen Falls, where they were the guests of Hon. William Pugsley at luncheon. The conference was resumed at three o'clock this afternoon for the discussion of some of the matters which face an incoming administration.



WALTER E. FOSTER The Next Premier of New Brunswick

TO CONTINUE THE WAR THROUGH 1918 CAMPAIGN?

Intimation by Winston Churchill in British Commons That Allies Will Press Blockade and Save Lives of Soldiers

London, March 7.—(New York Sun cable)—A speech by Winston Churchill in the House of Commons yesterday urging that preparation be made for the 1918 campaign, is construed as indicating that the allied authorities do not expect to end the war this year.

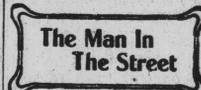
Mr. Churchill intimated a strong belief that the blockade will force the collapse of the Central Empires and bring about the finish of the war in 1918 without such huge sacrifices of life as would be necessary in forcing a military decision.

This view is widely entertained, and Mr. Churchill's wide reputation as a man who ordinarily favors action, gives special significance to such a declaration.

AGAIN LEAD POLL IN I. C. R. ELECTION

Moncton, N. B., March 7.—Willard Hutchinson and Bliss A. Bourgeois, both of Moncton, have been for the fifth time in succession at the head of the polls in election of representatives of employees of the Canadian Government Railways system upon the Provident Fund and Insurance Association Board. Although official declaration will not be made before tomorrow afternoon it is learned that the vote stood as follows:—

Willard H. Hutchinson, train despatcher, Moncton, N. B., 4,650; F. A. Doyle, operator, Lewis, 2,227. Permanent members of board other than the two elected are General Manager F. P. Gutelius, chairman; S. L. Shannon, comptroller and treasurer; H. H. Melanson, passenger agent; C. B. Triles, secretary. It is the seventh time that Mr. Hutchinson has been honored in this way by fellow employees.



The Man In The Street

No, indeed; the present variety of weather cannot be classed among the eagerly looked for signs of spring.

While the arrival of maple sugar is one of the certain indications, alleged maple products merely serve to emphasize the fact that the sap has not begun to flow.

Tourist Association seemed to have a certain well-known proverb in mind when they decided that the proper thing to do would be to "set a tourist to catch a tourist."

If the United States does go to war where will the ships go who are said to be ready to head southwards if conscription is introduced in Canada?

Residents of Somerset street were emitting loud whoops of joy last week. They say that the sand man discovered that street for the first time in nineteen years.

It has been suggested that the railways which occupy considerable frontage in Mill street might show the citizens a good example by clearing the snow off their sidewalks.

Pigeon's Pie

A local restaurant keeper discovered this morning that custard pie may become pigeon pie—or at least pigeon pie without any assistance from the cook. Half a dozen fine large pies of the former variety had been baked and were put out on a window sill to cool. That is the beginning of the story; the end of the story and the end of pie began as soon as a flock of pigeons noticed the treat. The story finished with language it might not be kind to quote when the cook discovered some remnants of crusts as the sole evidence of what had happened to the pies.

A Main Street Battle

It looked like the case of Germany and Belgium all over again the other day when a big, burly brute of a dog tackled a little one in Main street. He was proceeding to eat the pup alive, but suddenly help appeared from an unexpected quarter. With a "yip-yip-yip" of defiance, another tiny dog dashed across the street. He was little, but he was wise and he knew the value of a rear attack. Without taking any chances on the big dog's teeth, the little fellow grabbed him by the tail and hung on. It was too much for the canine bully; with one movement he brushed his first victim aside; with another he gathered his legs under him for a spring; next moment he was headed up the street with his maltreated tail safely tucked between his legs.

GOVERNMENT MEETING DID NOT MATERIALIZE

Fredericton, Mar. 7.—The government which is about to be sworn in has held their meeting here last evening, but none of the members put in an appearance. This morning Organizer Harry Woods arrived, and was busy conferring with office holders and other party leaders. J. Carter, M. P. P. is also here. It was said this morning that Governor Wood and the members of the executive will arrive this evening.

Doctors W. H. Irvine and W. J. Irvine will leave for St. John this evening to attend the funeral of their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Irvine.

E. S. Horncastle, who was nominated as a labor candidate for the city council, withdrew his name this morning. This means the return of the old board without opposition.

Two weddings will take place here this evening. Victor Dods of the Bank of Commerce staff, Halifax, will be married to Miss Helen Merreman, daughter of Lieut. Col. Merreman, now overseas, and Tyler Webb will be married to Miss Gladys Kilburn, daughter of A. E. Kilburn.

ITALY TO ARM THEM

Rome, Mar. 7, via Paris.—A decree has been promulgated re-organizing the system for the defense of ships against submarine attack and placing it in charge of an admiral. The new official will, among other duties, undertake the arming of merchant ships and award money prizes to those which sink or disable hostile submarines.

The Wheat Market

Chicago, Mar. 7.—Wheat developed weakness today, after a show of strength at the start. Opening prices, which ranged from 1-4 to one cent higher, with May at 191 1/2, and July at 191 1/2 to 1/4, were followed by slight further gains and then a set-back all around to below yesterday's figures.

BELIEVE WILSON WILL SOON ARM THE TRADERS

Definite Impression Gains Ground in Washington Following Conferences Held by President, Officials and Senators

Washington, March 7.—The definite impression that American merchant-masters would be armed in the near future, gained ground today following conferences between President Wilson and administration officials and Democratic senators. After the conference, the Democratic senators hurried to the capital to discuss with Republican leaders to lay before them a bill for conscription of merchantmen to be introduced before the senate tomorrow.

Washington, Mar. 7.—Some administration officials today were urging on President Wilson their view that he may legally arm merchant ships now without awaiting express authority, which Congress might give if called in special session. They argued that the law passed in 1915 forbidding a merchantman to fire on a public armed vessel of a nation in amity with the United States would not apply to the present situation.

The president heard these views with keen interest, and indicated that he is seeking some legal authority to act promptly, but would prefer congressional approval.

An extra session of congress seemed strongly today. Members of congress generally do not look for extra sessions to be called to meet later than June as a result of hints said to have been thrown out by officials close to President Wilson.

Feeling in Japan

Tokio, Feb. 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—The diplomatic rupture between the United States and Germany was welcomed with enthusiasm throughout Japan. The press voted columns to the North Sea in co-operation with the break and to the observations of diplomats and publicists in the situation.

The Jiji said: "The strength and useful effect of the American navy will be very far-reaching, especially in sweeping the German submarines from the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the North Sea. In co-operation with the entente navies."

The Yoronan called the departure of the United States the great evolution of the European war and an epoch-making event.

Too much liberalism and leniency had been shown Germany by the United States, said the Asahi. If President Wilson did not take a decisive step and declare war on Germany and force her to abandon her aggressive ambition, he would not be able to realize his coveted lasting peace of the world.

Admiral Kato, minister of the navy, in an interview, said that if the American navy took offensive against the Germans it would surely be effective in sweeping the German navy from the international sea routes and stop the menace to the world's shipping interests.

Marquis Okuma declared that the determination of the United States was a natural course of the events of the past and now that America had openly pledged her hostile attitude, it was necessary to say that Germany would eventually be compelled to lay aside her arms and yield, abandoning her ambitious and aggressive designs. This was a cause of great congratulation for the sake of the world and the peace and happiness of humanity.

PROBABLY SAME KOLB

Was Active in Mexico Three Years Ago and Had To Join Constitutional Army

Mexico City, Mar. 6.—Inquiry today concerning F. Kolb, whose arrest in Hoboken, N.J., followed the finding of bombs and explosives in his room, revealed the fact that a man of that name arrived in Vera Cruz in 1914, when the constitutional army, headed by General Carranza, made its headquarters there.

According to General Juan Merigo, who commanded an artillery corps of the constitutional army, Kolb bore a passport signed by Carranza in South America. General Merigo says the man said he was a machine gun operator and tried to join his corps, but permission for him to do so was refused. Later the man came to Mexico City and tried again to join the army, but without success. General Merigo says he believes Kolb then went north, probably to the Tampico oil fields.

ANOTHER BLOW FOR BEL. IUM

Almost Complete Stoppage of Industry Within Few Days

Amsterdam, Mar. 7, via London.—The Telegram says there will be an almost complete stoppage of industry in Belgium within a few days. The German authorities asserting that this is necessary owing to the lack of coal and transport facilities. Practically the entire population of Belgium will be thus unemployed, with such few exceptions as receive special permission from the civil authorities to continue their businesses.

Phelps and Phermand

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis—Pressure is now highest over the Atlantic state with a well defined depression is centered in Iowa. Fair weather prevails in all portions of the Dominion.

Ottawa Valley—Fair and turning milder; some snow or rain on Thursday.

Milder.

Maritime—Moderate west to south winds, fair today and on Thursday; milder Thursday.

New England forecasts—Increasing cloudiness and warmer tonight, Thursday rain or snow and warmer; moderate to fresh southeast to south winds.

BRITISH ARE CLOSING IN ON Ctesiphon

Only Thirty Miles Now From Bagdad, the City of the Arabian Nights

London, March 7.—British cavalry had advanced within nine miles of Ctesiphon, on the Tigris front, on Monday afternoon.

"On that afternoon British cavalry were engaged with the Turkish rear guard of 1,500 men, nine miles southeast of Ctesiphon, Mesopotamia."

Owing to the fact that the war material abandoned by the enemy is strewn over eighty miles of the country, it is not yet possible to give an accurate and full list of our captures.

The collection of booty and the salvage of guns, etc., which were thrown into the river is being proceeded with and up to the present thirty-eight guns, including those on captured river craft, have been collected, exclusive of machine guns and trench mortars.

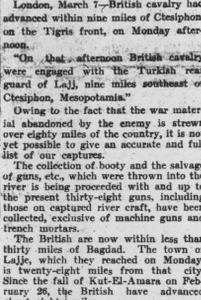
The British are now within less than thirty miles of Bagdad. The town of Lajla, which they reached on Monday, is twenty-eight miles from that city. Since the fall of Kut-el-Amara on February 28, the British have advanced about eighty miles.

On account of the nature of the ground between Kut-el-Amara and Ctesiphon, which is but poorly adapted to defensive purposes, it has been predicted by military writers that the Turks would make no serious attempt to halt their retreat until Ctesiphon was reached, and that a decisive engagement probably would occur at that point.

London, March 7.—An official report from Egypt says the Turks have abandoned a strong position in the neighborhood of Sheikh Nuran, west of Shellal.

Shellal is in upper Egypt, on the Nile, about 400 miles south of Cairo. There have been no recent reports of fighting in this region. In various parts of the country uprisings have occurred during the war, usually on the part of tribesmen led by Turkish officers. So far as the reports have shown, little headway has been made by these forces.

NOVA SCOTIAN WHO CAPTURED 62 HUNS GETS V. C. AT BUCKINGHAM



The tall figure on the left with the Canadian badge is Private John Chipman Kerr, V. C., Canadian infantry.

Here is the text of the official award: "For most conspicuous bravery during a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man, and, knowing the bombs were running short, he ran along the parapets under heavy gun fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, where he opened fire on them at point-blank range and inflicted heavy loss. The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners were taken and 200 yards of enemy trench captured. Before carrying out this very plucky act one of the few Canadians who have won the highest decoration in this war. The others, who are accompanied by relatives, are: Corp. Edwards, V. C.; Corp. Veale, V. C. and Pte. Lewis, V. C. The exploit that won the Victoria Cross for Kerr was one of the most notable of the war. Pte. Kerr's next of kin is Mrs. Robert Kerr, Fox River, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

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ROCHESTER MAN SLAIN BY ROBBERS

Rochester, N. Y., March 7.—Westley J. Webster, aged thirty-two, who conducted a night lunch car at North and Achilles streets, was shot to death early this morning by two men, who robbed the cash register.

Webster chased the men from the car with a large knife and was shot as he was returning to his duties. He died on the way to a hospital.

DEATH OF CHILD

In the death of their infant son, Ronald Murray McManus, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McManus of No. 2 City road have the sympathy of a large number of friends.