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Allied Pressure Makes It Unlikely That Germans Can Hold Hindenburg Line

French Appear to Have Gained Higher Ground Dominating La Fere—Germans Flood the City—Enemy Falls Back Farther—British Score Fresh Advance

Increased peril to the so-called Hindenburg line of the Germans in Northern France...

That the Germans were despairing of holding La Fere, a keypoint in the new line, was indicated by last night's announcement that they had opened the sluice gates and flooded the city.

Further progress also has been made by the French farther to the southeast, on the east bank of the Ailette River, west of Laon, where the Germans, while still falling back towards their new line, are apparently offering a stiff resistance.

Last reports from the British end of the line also indicated strong German resistance, but recorded also further advances for General Haig's forces, notably in the region southeast of Arras.

TO STRIKE AGAINST RUSSIA

In part, at least, the German retirement in France may be explained by an official statement of the new Russian war ministry, in which it is announced that the Germans are concentrating great quantities of munitions, supplies and men on the northern end of the Russian front.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, who is credited with establishing the new line in the west, is classed as a believer in the theory that a decision in the war can best be gained by a campaign on the eastern front again at Russia.

FRENCH REPORT

Paris, March 24.—The French continued to push forward last night in the region south of St. Quentin, in which heavy fighting has been in progress for several days.

"East of the St. Quentin canal we enlarged our positions appreciably during the night. At some points our troops reached the west bank of the Oise north of La Fere. We also made progress on the east bank of the Ailette."

"Enemy attempts against our small posts near Berry-Au-Bac east of Rheims and near Dead Man Hill were broken up by our fire. We took prisoners. Elsewhere the night was calm."

ALSO BULGARIAN TROOPS

London, March 24.—Semi-official despatches from Serbian headquarters in the last few days have reported serious trouble among the Bulgarians.

Several regiments are reported to have deserted in a body as a result of friction over supplies and their relations with the Teutonic allies.

According to these reports it has been necessary to rearrange several units of the Bulgarian army, distributing troops of supposed loyalty to places where they could do the least harm.

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Paris, March 24.—The Allies continue to forge ahead on the centre and extreme right and made substantial progress yesterday in the direction of St. Quentin and La Fere.

German determined resistance. Notwithstanding the efforts of Germans to destroy the roads as they retired, the allies have managed to bring up a good force of all but their heaviest artillery and the guns are again busy after a long rest.

The pressure of the French from St. Quentin to the Aisne is so powerful that it begins to seem doubtful, in the opinion of French military critics, as to whether the Germans would be able to hold on to the so-called Hindenburg line.

The Teutons, apparently feeling that their chances of holding the town are not good now, that the French have got a footing on the high ground in the Jussy region, northeast of Tergnier, if General Nivelle is able to establish himself in this position his guns will command La Fere.

Further south the French are making solid progress against the five mile salient covering St. Gobain and formed by the lower Coucy forest.

Columns are working hand in hand with columns operating northeast of Soissons in the direction of Laon.

The latest reports from the front and their advance exposes the left extremity of the German line at St. Gobain to the risk of being outflanked and driven back on Laon.

It is evident that the German staff is alive to the growing danger for they are making desperate efforts to

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ABDICATION OF KAISER IS FORECASTED BY WRITER

Former German Magistrate Who Wrote "I Accuse"

ENEMIES AT HOME

Ruler Warned at Loss of Popularity—Predicted He Will Give Up Throne to Retain Sympathy of People and Save Political Future of Prussia

Paris, March 24.—The abdication of the German Emperor is forecasted by a former German magistrate, who wrote the celebrated book "I Accuse."

In an interview published in Oeuvre, he says: "The Kaiser is obsessed by the thought that he is responsible for the war, a thought which poisons his whole existence."

He feels that he is menaced by three enemies at home, without counting those abroad. First is the crown prince, the real author of the war; second is the Junker pan-Germanist—you cannot imagine the monstrous hatred of the emperor for those whom he believes to be maniacs who are driving him into an abyss; third, are the people, not the socialist party, but the people who are starving and who, he feels, are growing in number and rising little by little against those who organized the war.

"The people he fears most are the anti-militarist and Prussian Liberal Republicans, who want the Reichstag to be based on universal suffrage. That is why Wilhelm is so anxious to convince the nation that he did not want war. All his protestations are made to appease the Liberals and his fanatical and rascally subjects whose murmurings are growing stronger."

"He wants to continue popular at any price and that is why he spoke the first word of peace. His failure to initiate peace negotiations is a great disappointment. To try peace would be to betray the people and to ruin the empire that he has built up."

"The German people, which he fears most, are the Junkers and the industrialists, who are the backbone of the German Empire. He would refuse to treat for peace with them. Our German people who still believe in him would abandon him, for at any price he will sacrifice the empire and his own life to save the empire and his own life."

"What resource is left to him but a dramatic abdication in order to retain the sympathies of the German people and save the political future of Prussia. He will say: 'I sacrifice myself to make peace. Without me there are responsibilities and the complete isolation of Germany, those who look at the beginning my son at his party leader and forced me to mobilize, a measure I hesitated to take.'"

WAR NOTES

The French minister of commerce today issued a decree prohibiting all imports except such as authorized specifically by the government upon application.

The University of Manitoba has cabled congratulations to the Russian Duma.

American relief workers in Belgium and American Minister Brand Whitlock have been formally withdrawn from Belgium. A joint neutral commission will act.

FOR THE 62ND The detachment of the 62nd Regiment, doing home guard duty at West St. John, acquire a few more recruits. Those wishing to enlist in this branch of the service should apply at the recruiting station in Prince William street and get particulars.

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

Synopsis—The depression which was in Wisconsin yesterday is now over the St. Lawrence valley. Pressure is also low in the western provinces. Rain has fallen from Ontario to New Brunswick, and by heavy thunderstorms and very strong winds.

Ottawa Valley—Fresh to strong south west winds, fair and mild today and on Sunday.

Fair and Mild Maritime—Strong winds to moderate gales, south to west, showers today. Sunday, fair and mild.

New England—Fair and colder to night. Sunday, fair, fresh to strong west winds.

GENERAL MAUDE RACES AGAINST THESE FLOODS



Spring floods on the Tigris are more feared by the British army above Bagdad than is the fleeing Turkish army. This picture shows how the river spreads over the plains and up to the last-door of an Arab chief.

TOLD CZAR THE TRUTH; GRAND DUKE BANISHED

Letter To Emperor Is Published In London

THE CZARINA'S INFLUENCE

Says She Was Surrounded by Evil Minded Intimates—Ruler's First Impulses True But He Wavered Under Influence—Alexieff May Command Armies

London, March 24.—"The Grand Duke Nicholas Michaelovitch," says a Times despatch from Petrograd, "was banished to his estates in December for telling Emperor Nicholas the truth concerning the situation and for denouncing the Rasputin scandal. The grand duke relates how he was moved much more during the conversation than the emperor, and when, fearing he had gone too far, he said to the emperor 'now call your Cossacks; have me killed and buried in your garden.' The emperor merely smiled and thanked him."

A few days later the emperor wrote the grand duke a note ordering and imploring him to retire to his country seat. Before retiring to the country the grand duke wrote a letter to the emperor.

The text of the letter is printed by the Times. Following are some extracts from it:—

"You have proclaimed frequently your will to continue the war to a victorious end. Are you sure the present condition of the country permits this? Are you acquainted with affairs within the empire, particularly in Siberia, Turkestan and the Caucasus? Do you hear the whole truth?"

"Your manner of choosing ministers was known in close circles and things could muddle along, but when they became a matter of public knowledge and all classes talked about them, it was senseless attempt to continue to govern Russia in this fashion. You often told me you could put faith in nobody and that you were being deceived. If this is so, it applies particularly to your wife who loves you, yet who led you into error. Being surrounded by evil minded intimates, surrounded by the product of skillful machinations, not of truth, if you are powerless to liberate her from these influences, then, at all events, beware of the intrigues who are using your wife as their instrument. Your first impulses are always remarkably true, but as soon as other influences supervene, you begin to waver."

After appealing to the emperor to remove the interference of the "dark forces" and assuring him that he would thereby regain the confidence of the people, "which you have forfeited," the grand duke's letter continues:—

"I have long hesitated to tell you the whole truth, but decided to do so after being convinced by your mother and sisters that it must be done. You are on the eve of new trouble, on the eve of a new year for you."

The appointment of General M. Y. Alexieff as commander-in-chief of the Russian armies is forecasted by the Times correspondent in Petrograd, who adds that he probably will work in connection with a committee on national defense.

EPWORTH LEAGUE

The Senior Epworth League of Portland Methodist Church held an enjoyable social in their hall in Portland street last evening. A missionary contest was recently held between two sides composed of members, and the losers were called upon to furnish a treat for the winners; so last evening they arranged to hold a "birthday social."

A unique feature of this event was a plan by which a levy was made on each member one cent being charged for each year of the individual's life. In this way a good sum was realized for the missionary fund of the church. During the evening a pleasing programme was carried out as follows: Solo, John Armour; reading, May Pike; violin solo, Miss Hilda Wood; reading, Stanley Irvine. Games were then enjoyed and refreshments served.

Want Russia To Be A Republic

London, March 24.—The central committee and the parliamentary representatives of the constitutional democratic party at Petrograd voted today in favor of a republican form of government for Russia, according to a Petrograd despatch.

Professor Paul Miliakoff, the foreign minister in the new government, is leader of this party.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. PREPARES FOR THE SPRING ACTIVITIES

Street Cleaning Propaganda in Favorable Stage—New Street Superintendent Gives General Satisfaction—Saving Effected by Disposal of Carriage Horse of Department

The first tabulated account, showing the expenditures in the public works department, to be issued this year, is at present being prepared by Commissioner Fisher and his lieutenants. The necessity of such sheets is not pressing during the first two months of the year, but the department is able to see how the expenditure is absorbing the appropriation for any one department.

Yesterday carts were out moving mud and slush from the streets, where it had collected. The street cleaning situation will likely be straightened out during the course of the next few days.

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A new time book is being prepared by the public works department. It will be entered the time spent on the streets by the individual workmen and the amount of each day's work per man.

Two new horses recently secured by the public works department are giving good satisfaction, although some sickness has developed. Two of the old horses will be sold at public auction next week while the driving horse of the department will also be disposed of. The plan by which a driving horse for the public works department is acquired is a considerable money. At least \$150 should be realized on the complete rig and the cost of maintaining this horse is estimated by Commissioner Fisher to have been about seventy-five cents per day.

MUST BE REMOVED. Frank Garson was before Police Magistrate Ritchie this morning for an alleged incumbrance of Dorchester street extension. Detective Briggs said that there were two large boilers in the street and in case of fire it would be difficult for the department apparatus to get into this part of the street. The defendant said that he had purchased the boilers from a man residing in the street and had permission to leave them in front of the property. The court decided that they should not be left on city property, especially when there was an incumbrance. A fine of \$10 was struck. The Dorchester street extension is commonly called a "blind" street.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA IN FAVOR OF SYSTEM

Government of Nova Scotia in Accord With Plan as Presented by Miss E. St. John Wileman for Organization of National Labor Bureau Presided Over by Non Partisan Commission

That Nova Scotia has taken up enthusiastically the scheme of a national labor bureau to be presided over by a non-partisan commission, is the statement made by Miss E. St. John Wileman, who is promoting the idea and who arrived in the city yesterday.

She informed a Times reporter she had interested the Halifax city council in the matter and at a meeting of that body on Tuesday night the whole proposition was enthusiastically endorsed. The Halifax board of trade has also taken a keen interest in the matter and will in all probability endorse the memorial to the government presented by Miss Wileman during her tour.

Premier George E. Murray, of Nova Scotia, has intimated to Miss Wileman that he will communicate with Sir Robert Borden, on the return of the premier from the old country, and will express the entire approbation of his government and the members of the opposition in the Nova Scotia legislature.

The Vice-Chancellor of Nova Scotia, has evinced a deep interest in the undertaking while R. T. Joy, a prominent labor man of the Nova Scotia capital, is quoted as saying that the proposed (Continued on page 2, seventh column.) served.

RUSSIA IS FIRMER THAN EVER IN THE DETERMINATION TO SEE THE WAR TO FINISH

Powerful Statement Made By Foreign Minister Milukoff—Great Nation "No Longer Deadweight in Coalition of Allies."

London, March 24.—Foreign Minister Milukoff has outlined the attitude of the new Russian government in foreign affairs to Petrograd and Moscow newspapers. A Reuter's despatch from Petrograd quotes the foreign minister as saying:—

"We shall remain faithful to all past alliances similar to that which our allies, which will be still further strengthened and become still more cordial and sincere. The change in regime will not cause the distrust our allies had a right to feel toward the late government, but Russia's duty to continue to struggle brilliantly both for her own liberty and that of all Europe."

"By the change in regime we definitely won the sympathy of neutrals, especially Sweden, while Finland, thanks to the restoration of her constitution, has become our sincere friend."

"Our allies came into touch with the new regime without an instant's delay, understanding that the old regime was a serious hindrance to that organization for a final triumph."

"Today Russia is no longer a deadweight in the coalition of allies. She is a productive force. Henceforth all forms of a separate peace must vanish once for all. It would be anti-national for Russia to come to an understanding with reactionary Germany."

NINETEEN DEATHS. Nineteen deaths were reported to the Board of Health this week, as follows: Apoplexy, four; phthisis, two; pneumonia, two; nephritis, uremia, accidents, gangrene, convulsions, endocarditis, chronic nephritis, uraemic convulsions, arterio sclerosis, uterine insufficiency and carcinoma of neck, each one.

KAISER HEARS TRUTH RIGHT AT HOME

Socialist Deputy in Reichstag Says Emperor And Chancellor Responsible For War

London, March 24.—The German Emperor and Chancellor Von Bethmann were denounced in the Reichstag by a socialist deputy, Kunert, as the originators of the war, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam. This occurred on Thursday during a debate on the public health estimates.

Vice-Chancellor Helfferich, referring to Herr Kunert's remarks, declared that a German who spoke in the same breath of Russian and German conditions insulted his fatherland.

The socialist deputy retorted amid socialist applause: "Because I compared German reactionaries with Russian revolutionaries you said I insulted the fatherland. I should be proud if such progress were made in our country as has been made in the Russian empire."

TURKISH PEOPLE UNEASY; GOVERNMENT ALARMED

Athens, March 23.—Information has reached here that the mass levy ordered by the Turkish government has proved unpopular with the people so far that the government has not ventured to enforce it fully.

Resentment is rife among the people. The Young Turks are trying to prevent the spread of the facts about the Russian revolution, referring to it as disorders and riots against the war. The attitude of the people is beginning to be feared by the government.