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BRITISH ADVANCE CONTINUES.

LONDON, March 4. Against stubborn German resistance British troops to-day advanced their line on the Ancre in France an average of a quarter of a mile on a front of nearly five miles, says the official statement which follows: During the day our troops made further progress north of Puisieux au Mont and east of Gommecourt. Our line has been advanced for an average distance of a quarter of a mile on a front of nearly five miles. The enemy offered stubborn resistance. A local German counter attack made against our advanced positions northeast of Guedecourt last night was stopped by our artillery barrage and rifle fire. An enemy bombing attack forced our troops to evacuate a trench east of Sally Sailles this morning. An immediate counter attack was organized which regained the whole of the lost ground. The enemy rushed two of our posts last night northwest of Roze, and a few men are missing. Another strong enemy patrol which attempted to approach our lines east of Givenchy and La Bessee this morning was stopped by our airplanes during the day. One of our machines is missing.

The British troops in their forward movement in the Ancre area, France, made another advance east of Gommecourt along a two mile front for about two-thirds of a mile, according to an official communication from headquarters to-night. Nearly two hundred prisoners were captured. The text reads: "This morning we attacked and captured an enemy front support east of Bouchavesnes on a front of twelve hundred yards, taking 173 prisoners and three machine guns. During the day we repulsed with heavy enemy losses several counter-attacks. East of Gommecourt the enemy continued to yield ground. In this neighborhood we advanced along a two mile front to an average depth of twelve hundred yards. Six prisoners were taken in a successful raid last night northeast of Ablaincourt. During the last 24 hours we have captured a total of 190 prisoners, five machine guns and two trench mortars.

Some of the prettiest velour coats hang straight from a round yoke.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE IMPORTANT CITY.

LONDON, March 4. Hamadan, an important city near the Turkish border, has been captured by the Russians, says a Teheran despatch received at Petrograd and transmitted by Reuters. The message adds that they are pushing the Turkish troops who are retreating. The capture of Hamadan by the Russians may mean the Czar's troops will again attempt to advance into Mesopotamia from Persia to aid the British in their advance up the Tigris toward Bagdad. Hamadan, which is 240 miles northwest of Bagdad, has been the centre of much fighting between the Russians and the Turks. In April, 1915, it was occupied by Turkish troops, but on December 17, 1915, it was taken by the Russians, who continued their advance westward toward the Turkish frontier, later capturing Kermanshah and Khanikin on the Persian border, 100 miles northwest of Bagdad. Following the capture of Kut-el-Amara by the Turks in April 1916, the Russians were forced to retreat from the Persian border and were driven back through Kermanshah to Hamadan, which was evacuated early in August, 1916. Since then there has been much fighting in the Hamadan region. Turkish despatches in December and early in January said the Russians had been repulsed in their attacks near Hamadan, which has a population of 40,000.

WILSON POWERLESS TO ARM MERCHANT SHIPS.

WASHINGTON, March 4. President Wilson informed the country in a statement that he is without power to arm merchant ships and take other steps to meet the German submarine menace in the absence of authority from Congress, that he was mistaken when he said in his recent address he could act under broad constitutional authority. An extra session of Congress, he says, is required to clothe him with authority, but it is useless to call one while the Senate works under present rules which allows a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority from acting. The President proposes, therefore, that the special session of the Senate which he has called to meet to-morrow, will revise the rules to supply the means of action to save the country from disaster. This little group of men, he says, in this statement, representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great Government of the United States helpless.

REPREHENSIBLE FILIBUSTERS.

WASHINGTON, March 4. Twelve Senators, led by Senator Stone, the Democratic Chairman of

the Foreign Relations' Committee, were denounced by President Wilson's spokesman as the most reprehensible filibusters in the history of any civilized nation. The overwhelming majority of Congress up to the last minute to-day was denied the power of authorizing the President to arm merchant ships to meet the German submarine menace by their unyielding attitude through twenty-six hours continuous session. La Follette and his small group of supporters refused a majority of their colleagues an opportunity to vote on the Armed Neutrality Bill, and have decided with the expiry of the 64th Congress at noon, to fix the responsibility before the country. Seventy-six Senators, thirty Republicans and forty-six Democrats signed a manifesto to that they favored the passage of the measure. This declaration referred to the fact that the House on Thursday night had passed a similar bill by a vote of 403 to 13. The closing moments of the session were tense and impressive. Ten minutes before the end, Senator Hitchcock made his last appeal for unanimous consent. La Follette objected. The Nebraska Senator's closing remarks dealing with President Wilson's address to Congress asking for authority, said: "It is unfortunate and deplorable that twelve men in the Senate of the United States have it in their power to defeat the will of 75 or 80 members by one of the most reprehensible filibusters ever recorded in the history of any civilized country." Just as Senator Hitchcock uttered these words the hour of noon struck and the 64th Congress was ended. President Wilson issued a statement to-night declaring that through the action of a few Senators, it proved impossible to have passed legislation dealing with the present critical international situation and other bills of vast importance to the nation. He said he believed at the special session of the Senate, already called for to-morrow, the rules should be amended so that action could be taken. He did not disclose his policy as to arming merchant ships.

TURKISH LOSSES.

LONDON, March 4. The Admiralty announces that in the Mesopotamia operations three British gunboats passed the Turkish army retreating westward of Shurrin, on Feb. 26, and inflicted heavy losses on them, capturing or destroying four Turkish steamers and many barges filled with ammunition.

CHINA'S TROUBLE.

PEKING, March 4. The cabinet to-day decided that China should join the United States in breaking off relations with Germany.

many. This decision was submitted to the President who refused to approve the cabinet's action, saying such power rested entirely with him. Premier Tuan Chi Jui immediately resigned and left for Tien Tsin, accompanied by several other members of the cabinet. The resignation of the entire cabinet is expected. Parliament is virtually unanimous in support of the opinion of the cabinet, and leaders of all political parties are adversely criticising the President's position. The Vice-President of the Republic supports the action of the cabinet.

PROPHECYING.

PARIS, March 4. Professor Paul Painleve, Minister of Public Instruction, speaking to-day at Sorbonne on the question of when the war will end, said the decisive phase of the struggle would begin this spring. By decisive, however, he said that Germany was preparing for a summer effort.

INDEPENDENCE OF FLANDERS.

LONDON, March 4. The aid of Germany in establishing the independence of Flanders was promised by Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, to a deputation representing the activist Flemish party, which visited him, according to a despatch from Berlin received at Amsterdam and transmitted by Reuters. The independence of Flanders would be on the basis of Flemish language and civilization. The Imperial Chancellor is said to have told the deputation that the movement had the approval of the German Emperor.

CONGRESS ENDS.

WASHINGTON, March 4. The Sixty-fourth Congress ends to-morrow with the control of the next House still in dispute as a result of the death of Representative Cox of New York. The Republicans appear to have the lead. They now have 215 votes assured, it is conceded, while three newly elected Democrats are seriously ill. No successor to Mr. Conroy will be elected before next November, it is believed. Five members of the incoming Congress are classed as "Independents," hence it is a special session of Congress is called before next November it would appear that the Republicans would have the advantage. As a majority of the membership of the House, 218 members, are necessary for the election of a Speaker, however, the Democrats are not without hope.

THE GERMAN SUB. CAMPAIGN.

LONDON, March 3. Germany failed by slightly more than a fifty per cent margin to make

good her threat to sink 1,000,000 tons of merchant shipping during the first month of unrestricted warfare, according to reliable figures. Her submarines, the figures show, only succeeded in sending to bottom during the month of February in round numbers, 490,000 tons. This figure only exceeds by 140,000 tons, it is now declared, what the British authorities expected would be sunk during that month if ordinary submarine warfare had been continued. It compares with 246,656 tons sunk during December, and 322,067 during January.

WILL WAIT ON CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 3. President Wilson has no intention of taking action that would bring war with Germany unless Congress is summoned in extra session. This was communicated to the Senate leaders to-day by representatives of the President, who takes the position that if no extraordinary crisis arises it will not be necessary to call an extra session before late in the spring, and then only to pass an appropriation bill which may fall at the present session.

WILL NOT PUBLISH LIST.

PARIS, March 3. The Admiralty has decided not to publish the daily number of torpedoed vessels. The announcement says that this publication has caused "grave inconvenience" and that a weekly statement will be issued instead, giving the number of vessels of different classes which have been sunk.

CURTAILING OF TRAINS.

PARIS, March 3. All express trains throughout France with the exception of postal and long distance trains, are ordered discontinued. This decree is one of the steps taken to facilitate transport connected with national defence and commercial traffic.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYED.

LONDON, March 3. A new Zeppelin on its speed trials at Ghent, caught fire on Monday and was completely destroyed, according to reports from Berlin received by the Exchange Tel. Co., by way of Copenhagen. The despatch says that the crew of the Zeppelin perished with their airship, and that two Belgians who witnessed the disaster were arrested and taken to Germany.

THE GERMAN PRESS MUZZLED.

LONDON, March 3. The German press has been ordered not to publish a word regarding the American-Mexican relations until further notice, according to an

Amsterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. It says that only a few circles are aware of the intrigue and that it is considered possible the result of the affair will be the resignation of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann and the ending of Count Von Bernstorff's career as a diplomat.

JAPAN'S LOYALTY.

TOKIO, March 4. An additional statement issued by the Japanese Foreign Office refers to the frequent attempts of Germany to sow seeds of distrust between Japan and Britain and cause an estrangement of Japan and the United States, and adds the Government is confident the peoples and governments of the Entente will continue to have confidence in Japan's loyalty and its determination to extend all possible aid and share the difficulties and hardships until the struggle against Germany and German cruelties ends.

KISSES THE BIBLE.

WASHINGTON, March 4. When President Wilson kissed the Bible after taking the oath of office to-day, his lips touched the passage, "The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."

THE KAISER AND ZIMMERMANN.

LONDON, March 4. The German Foreign Secretary, Dr. Zimmermann, had a long audience with the Emperor yesterday, according to a Berlin despatch by way of Amsterdam. Generally it is supposed the audience concerned the Mexican question. This was followed by a conference between the Imperial Chancellor and Zimmermann at which several foreign office officials were present at the Chancellor's residence.

WILSON SIGNS BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 4. President Wilson signed the Post Office Appropriation Bill containing the first "bone dry" prohibition legislation ever enacted by a federal government. In fact it is the first direct legislation by the Government prohibiting the liquor traffic. At least 14 States have prohibition laws, but do not prohibit the importation of certain quantities for personal use. These will be made "bone dry" by the new law, which prohibits the importation of liquor into any States that prohibits its manufacture and sale. State legislation recently passed and about to become effective, will in the next few weeks increase the number of "bone dry" States to at least twenty-two. The same law prohibits the delivery in malls of any publication which will bring liquor advertising into States which by their own laws

prohibits such advertisements within their borders.

SWEDISH GOVT. DEFEATED.

STOCKHOLM, March 4. The Government was defeated yesterday in joint ballot of the two chambers of the Rikstag on the request for the appropriation of 30,000,000 crowns to be used in preserving Sweden's neutrality. What, if any, will be the political result of the balancing cannot be predicted, but the rejection of the Government Bill, even though half expected, is nevertheless a great blow.

AMERICAN LABOR TO MEET.

WASHINGTON, March 4. Spokesmen of more than three million American wage-earners have been called to meet in conference on March 21st to determine and announce the part labor shall claim in the formulation of the policies of preparedness and the defence of the country and the nation. The call made public to-day was issued by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, under authority of the Federation's Executive Council. There will be a preliminary meeting of the executive council next Friday to arrange for the conference, which promises to be the most notable gathering American labor representatives ever held.

HUN SUB. DESTROYED.

BERLIN, March 4. Nine armed Russian steamers were captured by a German submarine which recently was sunk near Hammerfest, according to a Christiania despatch to the Neue Zurich Zeitung, as quoted by the Overseas News Agency. These vessels are said to have been purchased in South America by Russia. It was reported from Christiania on Jan. 28th, that twenty-four men from a German submarine, which had founded off the Norwegian coast, had been landed near Hammerfest.

TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE.

WASHINGTON, March 4. President Wilson took the oath of office on Saturday. There was no ceremony.

LECTURE ON MESOPOTAMIA.

Mr. W. H. Jones lectured before a large gathering at the Grenfell Hall, King George the Fifth Institute last night. The subject on which he addressed the audience for a considerable time was "Mesopotamia." In a most interesting manner he portrayed the many important events which have taken place recently in the East, a theatre which is daily becoming more important.

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