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The Toronto World

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How Col. Beckett of Toronto Was Killed While Collecting His Men After a Raid

GERMANS LOSE TRENCH UNDER BRITISH ONSET

Enemy Admits Receiving Set-back on Road From Bouchavesnes.

GAINS NEAR VERDUN

Foe Claims Capture of French Position on Meuse's Banks.

Berlin, March 6, via Sayville.—The German headquarters report of March 6 reads: "Western theatre: The weather being bright, fighting activity at many places on the front increased as compared with the preceding day. North of the Somme the British, after a strong fire, attacked south of Pierre-Yvaert forest. After a violent struggle one trench section on the road from Bouchavesnes to Molins (north of Peronne) remained in their hands, otherwise they were repulsed. "On the east bank of the Meuse our troops took French positions in the Carrières wood about 1,500 metres in breadth, and repulsed counter-thrusts delivered at night. Also on the south-east edge of the Forest forest an important point of terrain was captured from the French. "In addition to sanguinary losses, where were reported by our reconnoitring troops advancing beyond the lines gained, the enemy lost six officers and 572 other ranks as prisoners, 18 machine guns and 25 quick-firers. In the very numerous air engagements yesterday our enemies lost eighteen airplanes, and one was shot down from the ground. Our loss was four airplanes. "Eastern theatre and Macedonian front: Fighting activity was unimportant."

CUBA KEENLY ON ALERT FOR GERMAN INTRIGUES

Two Teutons Have Been Arrested, One on Suspicion of Being a Spy.

Havana, March 6.—Since the news reached Cuba of the German plan to embark Mexico and Japan with the United States, much interest has been taken in the stories of German intrigue in Cuba, with the object of fomenting rebellion. Before the text of the Zimmerman note was made public, little credence was placed in such stories, but the Cuban public generally is now becoming more inclined to this view. Two Germans have been arrested thus far in Cuba, one of them known to be a close friend of ex-President Gomez, one of the leaders of the revolution. The other is held on suspicion of being a spy; he is alleged to have been caught in the act of making drawings of the coast near Pinar del Rio.

SHIP PROBLEM WILL REQUIRE EXTRA SESSION

Washington Officials Believe Wilson Must Consent to Delay.

NOT LATER THAN JUNE

Armed Neutrality Bill Will Have Precedence in Deliberations.

Washington, March 7.—An extra session of congress, not later than June, now is generally conceded among officials here to be assured. Although President Wilson has not given any definite indication that he has finally abandoned his hope that an extra session might be avoided, there is an almost unanimous sentiment among senators, representatives and officials of the executive departments that one must be called. They declare that even if the international situation does not demand it, congress must come back to complete its legislative program, and fill up gaps in the government's financial scheme caused by failure of some of the more important appropriation measures. So certain are many members of congress on this point that they are speculating only on the probable date of the session. The general expectation is that the extra session will be called by the president, and that the end of May or some time in June will be selected as the time for the convening of the new congress. "The progress made by senators today toward carrying out the president's recommendation for a special session within a few weeks. It is pointed out that in his statement issued Sunday night the president conveyed the impression by implication that such a revision of senate rules would be a step preliminary to bringing congress back into session. After a recess during the important measures which had failed, the statement continued that "it would not cure the difficulty to call the sixth congress in extraordinary session" unless the parliamentary barrier to action in the senate were removed. "Should the senate limit debate and the president's legal advisers decide he has not authority to arm ships without congressional authorization, the armed neutrality bill would be brought into place among the measures to be pressed by the administration at an extra session. It might be urged even if it were held unnecessary to call the sixth congress in extraordinary session, in order to line up congress behind the president and wipe out the adverse impression which Mr. Wilson believes has resulted in some quarters from the senate's failure to act in the session just closed."

PLAN A REVOLT IN U.S. SAYS GERMAN LETTER

Private in Minnesota Infantry Sentenced for Acting as Spy.

Minneapolis, March 6.—Officers of the First Minnesota Infantry, returning to Ft. Snelling today from the Mexican border, announced that Paul L. Scharfenberg, of St. Paul, a private in company, First Minnesota Infantry, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Feb. 6, by a court-martial at Santa Ana, N.M., for furnishing military information to Germany. A letter addressed to relatives in Germany, asserting that 10,000,000 Germans in this country were ready to rise up against the government in the event of war with Germany, was intercepted by Washington officials, according to statements by the officers. Scharfenberg is a native of Germany.

TORONTO OFFICER IS KILLED IN EXTENSIVE TRENCH RAID

British Official War Statement

London, March 6.—"Last night further progress was made by our troops northwest of Iries and north of Puisieux-au-Mont," says the official report from British headquarters in France tonight. "We raided the enemy's trenches east of Bouchavesnes early this morning. Later the enemy was seen massing for a counter-attack on the trenches recently captured from him in that area and was dispersed by our fire."

Lieut.-Col. Beckett Dies in German Lines—Lieut.-Col. Kemball of Vancouver Falls in Fighting—Canadians Heavily Damage Foe Positions.

London, March 6.—The following communique was issued today by the Canadian war records office: "The main event of the week on the Canadian corps front was a raid of a German line on a narrow extended scale than usual. In fact, the 'raid' was really a 'minor operation,' covering as it did a frontage of nearly 200 yards and penetrating the enemy lines to a depth of 100 yards in one place. The whole affair was carried out with great gallantry and the 'raid' cost prisoners amounting to one officer and 44 other ranks, besides great damage to the enemy's defences, dugouts and trenches, not to mention the heavy casualties. The troops engaged encountered stiff opposition before reaching their objectives. 'No Man's Land' at this particular point was encrusted with holes, the ground being torn to pieces by months of continuous fighting. The ground rises gently from our right brigade front to the enemy lines. Over such a terrain the troops on the right advanced despite a heavy rifle and machine gun fire. The enemy front line was reached and crossed, his dugouts were destroyed and such Germans as were left were killed. Two Officers Killed. "The heaviest fighting occurred when the support line was reached. Here Lieut.-Col. Kemball, C.B., was killed. He was in the thickest of the fighting, leading his men into the disputed trench. Lieut.-Col. Beckett was a man till their objective was all but reached, but he was killed while collecting his men, scattered by crossing the mass of shell holes and craters. Their objective was reached. After one and a half hours in the enemy lines, during which time great damage was done and valuable information gained, our troops retired. During the retirement the enemy suffered heavily from our artillery fire, which closed in on the enemy trenches as they left the German trenches. In addition to this important operation no less than five smaller raids were carried out with slight success. Enter Foe Trenches. "At 3 a.m. on the 27th of February a party entered the enemy trenches. The net result of the expedition was three prisoners, the establishing of important identifications, at least ten Germans seen dead in their trenches and 11 occupied dugouts bombed. Our casualties were light. On the following day at 6 o'clock a.m. the battalion on the left of that which was responsible for the above enterprise carried out a raid. Two hundred yards of trench were bombed, four dugouts, in which were Germans who refused to come out, were blown up, and the enemy trenches were found to be badly knocked about by our shell fire. Our casualties again were only two men slightly wounded. Early in the week of Feb. 26 the enemy made one or more attempts to imitate the dashes which are carried out almost daily at one point or another on the Canadian front. Since the last effort they have been content to act wholly on the defensive for apparently they are now convinced that raiding the Canadian lines does not pay. On the night in question a party of 15 Germans rushed one of our Lewis gun posts. The night was extremely dark and the enemy raiders could not see our patrols. Of the two men on duty with the gun one rushed to the dugout nearby to warn the rest of the post. The German was too close for the gunner to train his gun on them and they were able to overpower the gunner and grab his gun. This success was evidently the limit of their ambition, for, without attempting anything further, they ran off with the gun. They were pursued across No Man's Land by the gun crew, who threw bombs at them with such success that the Huns dropped the gun and fled. Meanwhile a sergeant and corporal on duty in the trench nearby ordered a 'stand to.' The corporal went along the trench to the right and the sergeant to the left. The corporal met three Germans and was ordered to halt in his hand he held a pistol used for firing star shells. This he promptly discharged in the face of the leading German, and he fired his rifle. He was wounded in the jaw himself. At the same time the party fled, leaving a sack of bombs in the trench. Brigade Retaliates. "On March 3, the brigade whose front was raided by the enemy early in the week, retaliated with a raid which was distinctly more successful than the spurious attempt of the Germans. A small party crossed the enemy's lines, bombed half a dozen dugouts and returned within half an hour with ten prisoners. From the above brief chronicle of events it may be seen that the week has been one of continued activity. As the weather improves, so the activity increases. The enemy is given no rest, the artillery fire continually destroys his dugouts and trenches and harasses his communications, while almost nightly his trenches are entered at many points on the line."

PROPERTY IS MENACED BY CUBAN INSURGENTS

Royal Bank Asks Protection of Mills in Which It is Interested.

Santiago, Cuba, March 6.—The Royal Bank of Canada has asked for protection for the American sugar mills at Santa Ana, in which it claims an interest to the amount of more than \$1,000,000. It is reported that the forces under Col. Fabio Menocal, the president's brother, are marching from Sagunto towards the district where four mills are located, and are said to have destroyed the property of Gen. Gonzales Flavell, of the revolutionary army, as well as other properties. President Menocal, it is understood here, is openly opposed to the action taken by the American naval officers at Santiago in arranging an agreement with the revolutionary leaders.

U.S. AND AUSTRIA MAY NOT BREAK

Door is Open for Further Negotiations, Washington Believes.

AWAIT "OVERT ACT"

U.S. Not Inclined to Force Issue on Submarine Question.

Washington, March 6.—Austria's reply to the American request for a clearer definition of her attitude in the submarine situation was stated officially here today to leave the door open for further negotiations, delaying temporarily at least the break which has been regarded as inevitable since the severance of relations between the United States and Germany. Although in substance the long communication upholds and defends the unrestricted warfare waged by Germany, it is couched in most friendly terms, and points out that "Austrian submarines solely are operating in the Adriatic and Mediterranean, and therefore an encroachment on American interests hardly is to be feared." There will be a reply to this note unless and unless an overt act precipitates earnestly desire to avoid, the United States probably will not be inclined to force the issue for the present.

Liberals of New Brunswick Open Conference at St. John

St. John, N.B., March 6.—A large number of the elected and defeated candidates of the Liberal opposition party in New Brunswick are expected to hold a business meeting today, but as many of the candidates were held up on snowbound branch railways adjournment was made until tomorrow.

Assistant Deputy Minister Is Suspended by Crothers

Ottawa, March 6.—Gerald H. Brown, assistant deputy minister of labor since 1910, has been suspended by Hon. T. W. Crothers. Mr. Crothers today declined to make a statement of the reasons for Mr. Brown's dismissal. Brown was appointed assistant deputy minister of labor on the recommendation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King was at that time the minister in charge of the department. Mr. Brown was formerly Ottawa correspondent for several Liberal newspapers.

COACHES OVERTURN SCORE ARE INJURED

Two Toronto Men Hurt When C. P. R. Express is Derailed Near Trenton.

WONDERFUL ESCAPE

Four Cars Turn Turtle Over a Twenty-Five Foot Embankment.

Four persons, two from Toronto, were badly hurt, and about twenty passengers sustained slight cuts and bruises, yesterday afternoon, when the last four coaches of the C.P.R. east-bound express, leaving Toronto at noon, were derailed near Trenton, about one hundred miles east of Toronto, and turned turtle over a 25-foot embankment, rolling into a gravel pit. The two injured persons, whose names are the only ones so far known, are: Fred Donaldson, 208 Fairview avenue, master mechanic of the C.P.R. West Toronto station; fractured shoulder and arm. Mr. Kirk of Toronto, whose initials are not known; leg broken. Donaldson and Kirk, with four others who were suffering from scalp wounds and cuts about the face, were removed to the Belleville hospital, where medical treatment was rendered. The other coaches of the train did not leave the track. The cause of the accident had not been determined, so far as known, by C.P.R. officials last night, it was supposed that a broken rail was responsible. The last car of the train was a parlor car. The side of the embankment over which the four coaches dropped is precipitous, and the fact that none of the passengers was killed or sustained serious injury is considered remarkable. Soon after word had been received of the wreck a crew was sent to repair the damage. Eastbound trains following the express were not long delayed because of the wreck.

CONSPIRACY PLAN MEETS APPROVAL

Reichstag Committee by Unanimous Vote Endorses Zimmermann's Tactics.

PUBLICITY REGRETTED

Foreign Secretary Unable to Explain How Note Became Known.

Berlin, March 6, via Tuckerton, March 6.—The expected criticism of the government's ill-starred German-Mexican project failed to materialize in today's session of the reichstag budget committee. After an executive sitting of six hours the committee unequivocally endorsed the action of the foreign office by unanimous vote. The government's efforts to negotiate an alliance in the eventuality of war with the United States was approved as being within the legitimate scope of military precautions. The committee expressed regrets at the misfortune which resulted in the interception of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann's note. Responsibility for its loss cannot be fixed until former Ambassador von Bernstorff arrives from the United States. ZIMMERMANN'S ADMISSION. "London, March 6.—A Reuter despatch from Amsterdam says that Foreign Secretary Zimmermann in a statement before the reichstag said: "We were looking out for all of us, in the event of these being the prospect of war with America. It was a natural and justified precaution. I am not sorry that its publication in America, it also became known in Japan. "For these instructions a secure way was chosen, which at present is at Germany's disposal. How the Americans came into possession of the text, which went to America in special secret code, we do not know. That these instructions should have fallen into American hands is a misfortune, but that does not alter the fact that the step was necessary for our patriotic interests. "Least of all, are they in America justified in being angry about our action, the step made a particularly deep impression because it is regarded as what is justifiable defensive action in the event of war."

Club for Overseas Officers Opened by Duke of Connaught

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 6.—The Royal Automobile Club at Pall Mall was opened today by the Duke of Connaught as a club for overseas officers. The royal highness shook hands with close upon 500 guests, including many Canadians. Sir George and Lady Perley attended. The duke addressed the company in his triple capacity as president of the Empire League Club, Royal Automobile Club and Royal Overseas Officers' Club. Officers of the overseas forces are decidedly lucky in having such moderation provided for them, the club being one of the wonders of London in vastness and completeness.

Spanish King's Intervention Has Saved Belgian Woman

Madrid, via Paris, March 6.—The newspaper here announce that King Alfonso has received a despatch from Mlle. Doutheigne, a Belgian woman, who had been condemned to death and whose case King Alfonso was particularly interested, had been freed.

MAY BE SOUP POISONER.

Chicago, March 6.—The authorities of Hoboken, N.J., were asked by Chief of Police Schuetter to compare a description of Jean Cronos with Hans Schwartz, who is held there in connection with an alleged bomb plot. Cronos, a year ago, poisoned the soup served at a banquet given in honor of Archbishop Mundelein at the University Club of this city. He fled the city and thus far has eluded pursuit.

ORDUNA REACHES LIVERPOOL.

New York, March 6.—The Cunard liner Orduna, which left here February 21 for Liverpool has arrived safely, according to cable advices received here today by officials of the line. The Orduna had 110 passengers.

DUKE AT BRANDON.

Winnipeg, March 6.—The Duke of Devonshire, accompanied by Lady Maud Cavendish, today formally opened the winter fair at Brandon. The Duchess remained in Winnipeg, as the result of indisposition.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THE British army is continuing its pressure against the Germans on the Ancre and it has made further progress at points northwest of Iries and north of Puisieux-au-Mont. Field Marshal Haig gives no further particulars of this operation. In his bulletin from the front last night he also reports the making of a successful raid against the German trenches east of Bouchavesnes early yesterday morning and the discovery and dispersing of the enemy while massing for a counter-attack against his lost trenches in this region.

Latest unofficial news from the British front apparently shows that the British high command does not plan the making of any radical departure from its method of defeating the Germans, begun last year on the Somme. A despatch from London says that the operations during the spring and summer, it is hoped, will prove decisive. It follows that in order to make them decisive inside of five or six months, the allies plan to carry them out on a gigantic scale. Their gunners have now a lavish supply of shells, but while the Germans are husbanding and counting their shells at the present time, they, it is known, are accumulating reserves of explosives for the terrific fighting ahead. Germany also greatly increased her shell production in the past winter, and her gunners are still efficient. The enemy artillery has not shared in the deterioration of his infantry since last autumn, and his army chiefs therefore will mainly depend on their big guns to save them from full defeat.

Also, as noted at various times in these columns in the past two months, and not merely one week ago, the British have extended their front considerably, and they are sending more reinforcements of men and artillery to the Somme, it is improbable that they will extend their lines much further, for they have twice the distance to go to reach their objective—Berlin—as the French have, and they therefore require a concentration about double the number of men per mile of front that the

CHARGES HUN SAULERS WITH SINKING STEAMERS

Florence, S. C., March 6.—Captain Johann R. Klattenhoff and eight officers and men of the German steamer Lebenfels were indicted by a federal district court grand jury here today on charges of having deliberately sunk the war bound Hansa Line freighter in Charleston harbor, Feb. 1. The indictment charges that the sinking of the steamer endangered navigation. The cases will be called for trial tomorrow. Captain Klattenhoff and the officers and crew are at liberty on bonds of \$3000 each.

"No License" Forces Make Fresh Gains in Vermont

Rutland, Vt., March 7.—No license forces made a gain of six towns on the face of incomplete returns received here tonight from the city and town elections throughout the state. There was no change in the standing of the cities on the license question.

TIED UP EASTERN LINES.

Quebec, March 6.—The tie-up of the different railways on the south shore, due to a tremendous snowstorm, which began yesterday, practically eased up on all lines before 11 o'clock. Old roaders state that the snow piled higher than they had seen it for many years.

FRENCH FIGHT FOE ON MEUSE'S BANK

Infantry Action Results in Repulse of Germans From Wood.

ARTILLERY IN DUEL

Violent Bombardments Proceed From Les Chambrettes to Bezouvaux.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Paris, March 6.—After the failure of the Germans to drive the French from a recaptured trench north of Courieres Wood, a violent artillery action proceeded last night and today on the front of Verdun, eastern bank of the Meuse. The duel of the big guns extended along the entire front of Les Chambrettes-Bezouvaux. No infantry action developed today. It reporting the action of yesterday afternoon the French say that the Germans attempted to eject them from the new trench, but that all attacks broke down under their fire and counter-attack. The Germans tonight claim that they took a trench north of Courieres Wood with over 600 prisoners. The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "Between the Aise and Avre our fire shattered German organizations northwest of Moulins-Sous-Toutvent and demolished casemates and shelters of the Aubroches. There was no infantry action. The cannoneau was intermittent on the rest of the front."

Belgian communication: "Our artillery successfully bombed German organizations in the region of Hetsas. A spirited struggle with bombs occurred in the direction of Steenstraete."



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