

FRENCH GAIN SOUTH OF AILLETTE RIVER

Important Progress Recorded, German Positions Taken

SWEDEN REMAINS NEUTRAL

Policy of New Cabinet Is Surest Means of Solving Problems

PEOPLE'S SUPPORT IS ASKED TO MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE OF NATION AND FOR PREVENTION OF COUNTRY BEING INVOLVED IN WAR

London, March 31.—Strict neutrality will be the policy of the new Swedish cabinet according to a Stockholm despatch to Reuters. The new premier, Carl Swartz, has issued the following statement:

"In conformity with the principles laid down by his majesty, in charging me with the formation of a new ministry, the first duty of the government will be to follow fully the sound policy of impartial neutrality, which his majesty and the former ministry successfully carried out. It is true that the difficulties have lately increased more and more, but the government regards such a policy as the surest means of finding a solution."

"In striving to prevent the country from being involved in the world war, while fearlessly maintaining its independence, the cabinet hopes to gain the support of the riksdag and the Swedish people. Certain questions concerning the commercial policy of the country which are very important for the feeding of our people and for the maintenance of our industries will be the subjects of special consideration for the cabinet. Negotiations to this end will be begun immediately."

The members of the new cabinet: Admiral S. A. A. Lindman, foreign minister; S. M. Stenborg, minister of justice; Col. Akerman, minister of war; Captain Hans Ericson, minister of marine; C. F. Von Sydow, minister of interior; M. Carlsson, minister of finance; M. Hanström, minister of instruction; M. Dahlberg, minister of agriculture; Hakon Ericsson and M. Falk, ministers without portfolio.

DANGER ZONE IN NORTH SEA IS EXTENDED

Area to be Enlarged by British Admiralty Tomorrow

A DEFENSIVE ACTION

London, March 31.—The British admiralty announces that, in view of the unrestricted use of mines and submarines by the Germans and the sinking of merchantmen without regard for the safety of their crews, the "area of the North Sea which is rendered dangerous to all shipping by operations against the enemy, will be extended on and after April 1."

REGULATIONS ON FOOD OF THE FRENCH

Difficulties of Revictualing Paris Pointed Out by Minister

Paris, March 31.—The difficulties of revictualing Paris were pointed out by Maurice Violette, minister of subsistence, in answering an interpellation in the chamber of deputies. M. Violette said that in normal times there were 75,000 freight cars for commercial needs, but that now it was impossible to load more than 12,000, which figure might still be considerably reduced because of military necessities.

Potato Supply. The potato, said Mr. Violette, was rare only in Paris and some departments. In other departments the supply was abundant and cheap. He declared that if it would be necessary to make only one kind of bread, whereas now there were several kinds. The fixing of maximum prices of butter, cheese and other necessities had not given the best results, and the system probably would be abolished, the minister declared.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, Mar. 31.—The depression which was in the west yesterday morning is now centered in Wisconsin, attended by showers and thunderstorms. Showers have occurred generally in the Maritime provinces and locally in Ontario. In the West the weather is cold with snow flurries.

Forecasts. Fresh to strong southeast to south winds, partly fair and mild with showers and local thunderstorms chiefly to-night. Sunday, fresh to strong west to northwest winds, a few passing showers or snow flurries, but mostly fair and cooler.

WHITLOCK SUFFERS NO INDIGNITY

American Minister to Belgium Unharmed, Berlin Declares

RELIEF SHIP IS SUNK

By Submarine in Danger Zone Off Irish Sea

COMMITTEE IS NAMED

In Reichstag to Act Upon Questions

London, March 31.—A Berlin despatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam emphatically denies reports that Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium, has suffered any violation of his privileges. The despatch says that Mr. Whitlock will be granted every privilege as a neutral diplomat until he crosses the frontier, and that all obligations in regard to the Belgian relief commission will be strictly observed. It is further stated that Mr. Whitlock was the same treatment as Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, with the difference that while von Bernstorff's telegraphic communication with Berlin was interrupted on the breach of diplomatic relations, Mr. Whitlock was permitted to receive all telegrams addressed to him even when in cipher.

In respect to the sinking of the Belgian relief steamer Storstad the report says that the vessel was not torpedoed, despite warnings received at the Cape Verde islands.

Committee Named. The reichstag, by a vote of 227 to 33, with five members absent, adopted the resolution proposed by the National Liberals appointing a committee of 23 members to examine constitutional questions, especially as to the composition of the reichstag and in relation to the government. A supplementary resolution offering to the Socialists referring to the same committee all proposals and resolutions submitted to the reichstag with reference to constitutional questions also was adopted.

A Berlin despatch received through Amsterdam's correspondent says the reichstag has adjourned until April 24.

The Assembly Hall of the Collegiate Institute was the scene of a gay and festive gathering last evening on the occasion of the annual High School Club at-home and the closing event of the club's social season.

The hall was appropriately decorated for the occasion, and was thronged by a very large number of club members and their friends. Promenades, music and contests, together with a delightful supper, were the order of the evening, which was passed by all in thorough enjoyment.

IMPORTANT RAILWAY MATTERS AFFECTING CITY OF BRANTFORD

Will be Considered by Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners on April 12, Next; Application for St. Paul's Avenue Subway to be Made

Important matters. Word has been received from the Board of Railway Commissioners at Ottawa, that a sitting of said Board will take place in the City Hall, Hamilton, on Thursday, April 12th, at 2:45 p.m., when the following matters in which the city is interested will be considered:

Application of the corporation of the City of Brantford and the townships of Brantford and South Dumfries, Ontario, for an order for the construction of a subway under the tracks of the said company at St. Paul's Avenue in the City of Brantford, Ontario.

Application of the corporation of the City of Brantford and the Board of Park Management for an order adding as joint application herein, the said corporation and providing that all proceedings and orders made herein shall apply to be binding on the Lake Erie and Northern railway company as if the said corporation had been originally named as joint applicant in the proceedings herein with the Brantford Park Board defined in the Public Parks Act of the Board of Park Management.

HUN RAIDER REAPED HARVEST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

French Bark Reaches Rio Janeiro With Survivors of Vessels Destroyed; Raider Skulked Under Neutral Flags Until Prey Was Lured Within Range

Rio Janeiro, March 31.—The French bark Cambronne, which arrived here yesterday with 285 members of crews of vessels sunk by a German raider reports that she fell in with the raider on March 7th at latitude 21 west and longitude 7 south. After the survivors of the sunken vessel were put on board, the bark was ordered to proceed to the coast of Brazil, a voyage which took 22 days.

According to The Journal de Brazil, the raider was loaded with mines, which explains the destruction of vessels off the coast of Brazil. The commerce destroyer is reported to be armed with two guns of 105 millimetres and 16 machine guns. The vessel has three masts and is equipped with wireless. Its crew consists of 64 men under command of Count Utker.

According to the refugees, the raider left Germany on December 22, escorted by a submarine. They say that the commander declared that the German emperor and the crown prince alone knew of the expedition. No complaints have been made as to the treatment of the sailors while they were prisoners on board the raider. They give the name of the boat as the Sea Adler, and say that she was provisioned for 18 months and had a great supply of munitions and explosives. On sighting a merchantman, the raider hoisted a Norwegian flag which was replaced by the German ensign when her prey was within reach of her guns. Among the refugees are captains of the sunken vessels.

Among the ships sunk by the raider are the following: Gladys Royle, 3,268 tons; Charles Gounod, sailing, 3,100 tons; Roche Foucauld, 3,000 tons; Antoinette, 4,000 tons; Duplex, 3,000 tons; Lady Island, 4,500 tons; Rohmgoth, 5,500 tons; Hongarth and the Canadian schooner Perse, 500 tons.

The Hongarth, which was on her way from Montevideo to Plymouth with 6,500 tons of grain, disobeyed the raider's order to halt and attempted to escape. The captain finally surrendered after four members of his crew, including the chief engineer and his assistant, had been wounded by machine gun fire. The Lady Island was loaded with 4,500 tons of sugar, the Antoinette with 4,000 tons nitrates and the Charles Gounod 3,100 tons of grain.

SEVERAL INJURED IN HEAD ON COLLISION ON THE LAKE ERIE AND NORTHERN RAILWAY TO-DAY

Five of the Victims Brought to Brantford Hospital

A head-on collision took place this morning on the Lake Erie and Northern Railway one mile this side of Glenmorris, between two electric cars.

Two motormen, a conductor, and four or five passengers were hurt. Those taken to the Brantford Hospital are: J. H. Allard, Preston, fractured arm.

C. A. Wannless, Kitchener, badly cut shin.

Mr. Lockridge, City, head badly hurt.

Mrs. Brown, Glenmorris, cut and bruised.

Mr. Coleman, Preston, compound fracture of the hip.

Advance Made Near Line Northeast of Soissons; Points of Support Fall; Five Violent Hun Counter Attacks Repulsed With Heavy Losses

By Courier Leased Wire

Bulletin, Paris, March 31.—12:30 p.m.—French troops last night successfully attacked German positions, south of Ailette River and made important progress eastward, the war office to-day announces.

The French advance was scored to the east of the line running from Neuville-sur-Margival to Vragny, northeast of Soissons. A number of points of support were brilliantly captured by the French forces. In Champagne region five violent counter attacks delivered by the Germans on positions recaptured yesterday by the French west of Maisons de Champagne, were checked, the Germans sustaining heavy losses.

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POLAND TO STAND BY RUSSIA

Proclamation of Provisional Government is Enthusiastically Received

FREEDOM OF POLAND

Creates Most Favorable Impression Throughout Country

ACTION NOW NEEDED

To Keep Poland Away From Central Powers

Petrograd, March 30, via London, March 31.—The proclamation of the provisional government in regard to the freedom of Poland, has been received with general enthusiasm by Polish leaders throughout the country. Expressions of opinion obtained from S. J. Garousetch, a member of the Duma, and I. A. Shebako, another prominent Polish leader, are typical. M. Garousetch said: "The appeal made by our temporary government has made an enormous impression. We Poles were quite sure that the first really national government would take the stand. A fine new prospect now opens up for Poland, which is on the eve of resurrection. I believe that in Poland itself, at present occupied by German troops, the declaration of the temporary government will make the same impression. Those who formerly stood for union with the Central Empire, will now feel that the ground has slipped from beneath their feet. Henceforth Poland will have the opportunity of developing freely and marching hand-in-hand with the new Russian nation, with whom it is spiritually akin."

M. Shebako said: "The temporary government is taking the action which should have been taken by the former regime. With the publication of the declaration the picture of Poland's future is quite changed. Undoubtedly there will be some Poles who will try to show that the government has not offered anything definite, and Poland's future will depend upon the decision reached by the constitutional authority."

"Russia's only task at present in regard to the Polish question is to take prompt measures to prevent Poland entering into the circle of the Central Empire. Every effort should be made now to attach Poland as firmly as possible to Russia and the Slavonic people."

PEOPLE FREED FROM YOKE OF AUTOCRACY

Manifesto Issued to Russian Peasantry by Republican Union

FILL LIFELONG NEED

Of Land Under a Suitable Form of Government

SWITZERLAND BARS

Congratulations to Revolutionary Party

London, March 31.—The Republican Union of the peasant members of the Russian duma has issued a manifesto to the peasantry, according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd saying that their lifelong need of land is to be satisfied under a form of government suitable for toilers. The manifesto says: "Hitherto we have been taught in the churches and schools that our rulers were appointed of God. For hundreds of years we have been pining under their heavy autocratic yoke. We have now cast down the idols and freed ourselves from the old superstitions. We are our own masters and have to shape our destinies with our own hands. Let us be ruled not by the grace of God but by the common weal."

No Resolution. Berne, Switzerland, March 30.—Via Paris, March 31.—The Swiss national council has rejected a motion made by the Socialists to send congratulations of good wishes to the new Russian government. The vote was 77 to 24.

DEBATE TO IMPRESS RUSSIA

Revolt of German Socialists Against Budget Was a Sham

MEANT TO INFLUENCE

Opinion of Socialists and Pacifists of Russian Empire

INVESTIGATION HELD

Dispels Charges Against Jas. W. Gerard

London, March 31.—Special news despatches from Holland, reviewing reports in and comments by German newspapers on Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech and the debate in the Reichstag, emphasize the prominence given to reform agitation, but arrive at different conclusions as to its significance. The correspondent of The Times says:

Stage Play. "The revolt signaled by the Socialists voting against the budget, is a sham. The whole debate was pre-arranged and artificial, and evidently like the most important sections of the chancellor's speech, intended to influence the Russian pacifists and Socialists."

Important Factor. The correspondent of the Daily Chronicle on the other hand, says the reform movement is championed by the whole progressive press as an important factor which is going to play a great part during the remainder of the war, and adds: "The reactionaries will undoubtedly put up a fight, and there are hints that General von Ludendorff may be used as their champion against von Bethmann-Hollweg, who is accused of vacillation."

Charges False. Amsterdam, via London, March 31.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann replying in the Reichstag to an inquiry in regard to the allegations against United States Ambassador Gerard, said that an investigation had proven them incorrect, according to the Berlin Vossische Zeitung. Herr Zimmermann mentioned in particular, a charge that Mr. Gerard had issued American passports to Englishmen. The Vossische Zeitung does not specify the other allegations.

FOREIGN MINISTER IS PRO GERMAN

Strong Teuton Sympathizers Prominent in Swedish Cabinet

WAS PRIME MINISTER

For Period of Five Years, 1911 to 1916

WITH GERMAN ARMY

As Observer For Long Period During War

Stockholm, via London, March 31.—Admiral S. A. A. Lindman, Sweden's new foreign minister, was prime minister from 1906 to 1911. Colonel Akerman, the new minister of war, is considered one of Sweden's ablest military officers and has been Swedish observer with the German army for a long period, since the outbreak of the war. He is well known as a strong pro-German.

M. Dahlberg, the new minister of agriculture, has a reputation as one of Sweden's strong men, but the other members of the cabinet are but little known.

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Governor Brown of the gaol, passed away at the hospital at noon to-day.

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Cartoon from the New Orleans Times