

CABLE NEWS.

OFFICIAL.

To Governor, St. John's.

LONDON, June 23.

The Imperial War Conference has been engaged almost exclusively during the fourth, fifth and sixth meetings held June 24th, 26th and 28th in continuing discussions on various phases of the post-war economic policy begun last week. The first subject on which a resolution was passed dealt with the recent non-ferrous metal industry Act of the United Kingdom, and the question of similar legislation in Overseas Dominions. This resolution is to the effect that in pursuance of this policy freeing the Empire from dependence on German controlled organizations in respect to non-ferrous metals and ores, the Conference endorse the principle of the Non-Ferrous Metal Act of the United Kingdom, and recommend that the Governments of the Empire adopt effective measures in so far as these may be necessary, and not already taken, to carry out this policy.

The next resolution related to measures necessary to secure for the British Empire and belligerent Allies command of certain essential raw materials to enable them to repair the effects of the war as soon as possible and to safeguard their industrial requirements. The conference agreed that this course was necessary and expressed the opinion that the Governments of the British Empire should make such arrangements among themselves as will ensure that the essential raw materials produced within the Empire shall be available for the purposes named herein, and should arrange with the Allied countries to utilize for the same purposes the essential raw materials produced in those countries.

A further resolution in connection with the same question recommends that a Committee of members of the Conference should first consider the possible methods of each part of the Empire in obtaining command of the essential raw materials referred to in the previous resolution, and that the Governments represented at the Conference should in the light of the information collected by their representatives on this Committee, consult with representatives of the producers and traders concerned as to the method of obtaining of the best suited of each individual commodity.

HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK.

LONDON, July 1.

A Teuton submarine sank the British hospital ship *Llandovery Castle*, 116 miles southwest of the Fastnet on June 27, the British Admiralty announcement said today. The text of the Admiralty announcement follows: About 10.40 o'clock on June 27 one hundred and sixteen miles southwest of Fastnet the hospital ship *Llandovery Castle* was torpedoed by an enemy submarine and sank in about ten minutes. She was homeward bound from Canada and therefore there were no sick or wounded on board, but her crew consisted of 164 officers and men and she carried eighty Canadian Army medical and sixteen female nurses. Of this total 258, only one boat of 24 survivors had so far reached port. Search still is being made and there is a bare possibility that others may yet be found. It is to be noted that in this as indeed in all other instances the submarine had a perfect right to stop and search the hospital ship under Hague convention, but she preferred to torpedo her.

Subsequently the Admiralty issued the following comment on the sinking: Germany's awful debt to the world continues to grow. Another hospital ship has been torpedoed. This time 116 miles from the nearest land and her people turned adrift in boats and her people turned adrift in boats and as it happened she was a Canadian hospital ship returning from Halifax with no wounded aboard. The tale of the crime reveals a wanton

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deliberation on the part of the submarine commander and almost suggests the hope on his part he would find her full of injured and helpless men. The *Llandovery Castle* was built at Glasgow in 1914 for the Union Castle Mail S.S. Service. The ship was 500 ft. long, 68 beam and 37 deep.

ENEMY MOVED DOWN.

ROME, July 1.

Heavy attacks against Monte Di Val Bella by Austrians have been repulsed by the Italians. The enemy masses were mowed down by our artillery, according to the official report, and more than 2,000 prisoners were captured by the Italians.

IMPORTANT POSITIONS CAPTURED.

FRENCH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 30. (Via Reuter's Agency.)

The fighting of Friday centered mainly around Hill 163 and the Cutry Ravine. Hill 163 is the highest point in the region and its possession enables us to overlook the enemy's position in the rear. Cutry Ravine is a small, deep valley immediately north of Hill 163. Its value for the enemy lay in the fact that it contains deep subterranean passages, in which he was able to keep large garrisons in dangerous proximity to our lines and safe from our guns. On each side of Cutry Ravine the ground rises steeply three hundred feet. Further to the left the right slope is less sharp and the tanks were able to crawl up. The infantry climbed the cliff-like ascent on each side, passed around the head of the ravine and continued to advance to the extent of a mile from their start in the line in the valley. The operation was effected without preparation and all objectives were occupied, despite the nature of the ground, within half an hour of the opening of the barrage and before the enemy had time to organize resistance. The ground to the right of Three Poplars was actually taken by a charge of tanks, which crossed amid a hail of machine gun bullets, the infantry following. The tanks accompanied the infantry who took the Cutry Ravine and rolled along the edge of the Ravine firing upon the Germans crossing the plateau. Although exposed to a very heavy artillery fire, the tanks continued to assist the infantry through the engagement, one remaining under fire for over four hours.

NEW TANK IN ACTION.

FRENCH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 30. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)

An important part was played in the battle of Friday last between the Aisne and Villers-Cotterets by new small tanks which were used for the first time and engaged in considerable force. They are about a quarter the size and weight of the ordinary battle tank and carry a crew of two men, one of whom steers and the other operates the machine guns. The new tanks are much faster than the ordinary tanks and can climb a slope which the latter could not attempt and can swing round in their tracks in a few seconds.

KRENSKY IN PARIS.

PARIS, June 29.

Alexander Krensky, the former Russian Provisional Premier, arrived in Paris from London today. Shortly after his arrival he had a long conference with M. Malakoff, the Russian Ambassador in Paris.

RIG INCREASE IN REVENUE.

LONDON, June 30.

The total revenue of the United Kingdom for the quarter ending June 30th, shows a net increase of £39,794,094, as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year.

NAVAL INCIDENT.

LONDON, June 30.

An official statement issued yesterday by the British Admiralty, says on Thursday evening four of our destroyers which were patrolling off the Belgian Coast sighted eight enemy torpedo boat destroyers. Our destroyers proceeded on an easterly course at full speed, engaging the enemy at long range. After the action had lasted a quarter of an hour the enemy was joined by three more torpedo boat destroyers, when our force fell back upon their supports. The enemy did not follow and the action was broken off. No damage was sustained by any of our vessels.

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

LONDON, June 30. British casualties reported during the month of June totalled 141,147.

This compares with the total casualties reported during May of 168,502. The losses for June were divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds officers 816, men 17,494; wounded or missing officers, 3,619, men 119,213. The losses reported during the past eight days rounding out the weekly reports for the month were as follows: Killed or died of wounds officers 132, men 4,775; wounded or missing officers 555, men 32,244.

FRENCH ACTIVITY.

PARIS, June 30.

The French executed a number of raids last night, notable west of Hainaut and south of Arras, and took prisoners south of the Oureq. French troops in the course of a local operation captured last night at ten o'clock the cross situated between Hainaut and Passy-on-Valois. Our troops realized an advance of eight hundred yards on a front of 18 miles. The French took 265 prisoners, including three officers. In the Vosges the French executed a German raiding detachment.

RUSSIANS DESTROY SHIP.

AMSTERDAM, June 30.

A Russian dreadnought named by the Bolshevik Government, *Svobodnaya*, formerly the *Empress Ekaterina 2*, was sunk by a destroyer and also several destroyers were sunk in an engagement among Russian ships in the Black Sea, according to semi-official Berlin reports. In the course of the fighting the Russian fleet changed their state of allegiance several times. The entire Russian Black Sea fleet, these reports add, now is at Sebastopol under German control and fit for war purposes.

CHAOS IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, June 30.

Emperor Charles, of Austria, has commanded Premier Von Seydler to carry on the Government, but he has failed to tell him how to do it. Messages received here indicate that the Premier has encountered difficulties ahead of him as the Poles remain adamant in their attitude in opposition to his policy. In fact the Poles have declared they will not even consider economic concession with which it is reported Von Seydler intended to placate them. The Premier has now appealed to the Poles not to obstruct the provisional budget too severely. The Czechs and South Slavs are resolved to fight any Government that yields to German demands and they flatly told Emperor Charles the other day they would refuse to vote for the provisional budget and the war credit if Von Seydler remained in office. On the other hand the Ukrainian members of the Austrian Parliament have suddenly come to the rescue of the Provisional National Party in support of Von Seydler to the extent of declaring that they will vote for both budget and war credit on condition that the Premier remain in office. They are quoted as saying they will not tolerate his dismissal at the behest of the Poles.

PEACE TREATY PASSED.

AMSTERDAM, June 30.

According to a telegram from Bucharest the Rumanian Chamber of Deputies sitting at Jassy, Friday, ratified a peace treaty with the Central Powers after a short discussion. The only deputies who opposed the peace conditions were Fransu, Cagaunescu, Codrescu, Cuzza and Averescu.

FIFTY KILLED.

SIoux CITY, Iowa, June 30.

On Sunday afternoon the Oscar Ruff building, a three-story structure which was being remodelled, collapsed, falling on the rear of a grocery store and a meat market. It is reported 50 people were in these buildings many of whom are believed to have been buried.

SOLEMN SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S.

ROME, June 30.

At a midnight mass for the peace and re-establishment of justice, church and fraternity throughout the world, Pope Benedict raised his voice in prayer in St. Peter's this morning. He was accompanied only by Bishop Bonaventura Cerrutti, his Secretary. The congregation for extraordinary ecclesiastical affairs went to the Cathedral at 10 last night to take part in the ceremonies. There were about 1,000 present.

GERMAN GUNNERS DUTY.

LONDON, June 30.

German gunners showed great activity this morning against the new British positions east of Nieppe Forest on the Flanders front, the war office announced today. Hostile artillery also bombarded British positions in the Albert sector. A German attack on a British post near Merris today was repulsed after sharp fighting.

LOSSES PUT AT 12,000.

BASEL, Switzerland, June 29.

Admission that about 12,000 men in prisoners were lost by the Austro-Hungarian forces in their recent retreat on the Piave front was made by Dr. Alexander Wexlerle, the Hungarian Premier, in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies, according to a Budapest despatch today. Dr. Herkerler said this covered the entire loss in prisoners, the troops to this number thus taken having been left to cover the retirement over the Piave. Dr. Herkerler apparently treating the question of the Austro-Hungarian losses in the recent fighting on the Italian front said he would not attempt to disguise the fact that the casualties were heavy, totalling about 100,000; but he declared a large percentage was due to sickness. He denied, however, that there has been a single case of death due to lack of food.

THE STORM BREAKING.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, June 30. (By the Associated Press.)—Intense enemy artillery fire last night and this morning rocked the British line with its detonations and the tension which has existed along this front appears to have increased; but the German offensive still remains merely in the boiling up stage. One thing seems certain when the enemy does strike he will hit hard. It is predicted that there will be more terrific fighting than has yet developed this year. At any moment the storm may break and the Allied troops are awaiting it with grim determination and confidence.

To date 8,152 casualties have been sustained by the American expeditionary forces.

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CHAPTER XV.

THE FRENCH MAID'S CUNNING.

"It is a lie!" panted Floris.

"So!" Softerly, mademoiselle. Proof is what I offered, and it is what I will give. Suppose, when you are starting, you find that madame refuses to go? That she decides to remain at home? She has the headache, say? She will stay in the house, eh?"

Floris rose up and stared at the black eyes with a wild fascination.

"Will that convince mademoiselle? Yes, or no?"

"No! a thousand times no!" exclaimed Floris.

Josine shrugged her shoulders.

"Ah, well, but you are difficult to convince! Mademoiselle is so young and so innocent that she cannot believe that others not so young and so innocent can be so wicked! Well, now, what?"

"She lowered her voice and crept nearer to Floris, "what if I take mademoiselle to the conservatory, and she see and hear madame and Lord Norman— Ah!"

Floris shuddered.

"Not till then would I believe you," she said, trying to speak unadvisedly.

"Good!" ejaculated Josine. "And then, when mademoiselle sees with her own eyes and hears with her own ears, what about it then?"

She paused and leaned over Floris.

"If I show this to mademoiselle, if I convince her that what I have told her at so much cost to myself is true, will mademoiselle promise me to utter no word, to tell no one, but to leave Ballyfoe at once? If not, I will do nothing. If not, I am ruined. Madame has me in the hollow of her hand, and she must not know that I have betrayed her. If I show mademoiselle that I have not lied, if I prove to her that I have told her the truth, will she leave Ballyfoe at once?"

"Yes," said Floris, putting the hair from her brow. "I consent. It is wrong. I know it, I feel it, but—I cannot help it. I am like a reed in your hands. May Heaven forgive you, Josine, if you are deceiving me. And yet, and yet, would to Heaven that you

may be deceiving me. Yes, if—if what you say is true, I will promise to leave Ballyfoe at once. I will speak to no one; I will not betray you, my poor girl."

A gleam of satisfaction lit up the black eyes.

"I have mademoiselle's promise that she will not disclose what I have said to a living soul!" said Josine.

Floris shook her head with a gesture of scorn, and pointed to the door.

"You have my promise. I—I shall not break it. Go!"

CHAPTER XVII.

THE PROOF.

IT was a merry party at breakfast next morning; the trip to the cascades was a well-known and favorite one, and the young men who had been left behind were delighted at the opportunity which the absence of such great guns as Lord Bruce, and some of the others who had formed the hunting lads.

Floris, as she entered the room in her dark brown habit, was surrounded instantly by an eager circle, each man of which was anxious to get a word from her.

But Floris could do little more than smile this morning; her heart seemed heavy as lead, strive though she did to get rid of the dread and suspicion that tortured her.

Presently, in the midst of the chatter and laughter which always seemed at its merriest as breakfast-time, the tall, graceful figure of Lady Blanche glided into the room.

At sight of her Floris' heart gave a great leap of relief and satisfaction, for Lady Blanche was in her riding habit, and was evidently going to the cascades, therefore Josine was either mad or had, for some purpose of her own, lied!

With a good deal of boisterousness the young men sallied out of the breakfast-room to the stables to see after the horses, as they said, but in reality to get a chance to smoke the morning cigar.

Floris and Lady Betty went upstairs to put their hats and gloves on, and Josine was nowhere to be found.

At that moment Josine was in Lady Blanche's room, standing with demure eyes and clasped hands before her ladyship.

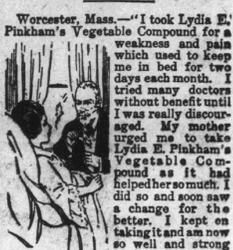
"All is prepared, miladi," she said, in a low voice. "It was a great trouble, and at one time I thought I

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stood watching them both.

"Mademoiselle will be better to be quiet and alone," she said, softly.

"Do you think so, dear? Well, if you would rather I went—"

"I would much rather," faltered Floris.

"Let me get you a draught before I go, then," said Lady Betty, anxiously; and she went and mixed a draught from her medicine chest. "There, dear, take that, and now lie down and get some sleep. Josine, get Miss Carlisle's dressing-gown, and cover her up well. I am so sorry, dear. I shall not enjoy myself one bit; I shall be thinking of you all the day."

"Do not think of me," said Floris, with a sigh, as she sank on the bed. Then with a sudden impulse, she put up her arms and twined them around Lady Betty's neck.

"Good-by," she murmured.

Floris was so usually so undemonstrative, that Lady Betty was touched by the simple caress.

"Good-by, my dear," she said, kissing her. "Mind, you are to sleep for quite two hours, and you are not to go into the sun. I shall expect to see you quite yourself when I come back."

And, with a strange reluctance that she remembered afterward, she left her.

Josine stood looking down at Floris' pale face in silence for a moment, then she bent down and whispered:

"Keep a good heart, mademoiselle. Ah, but no man in the world is worth a headache, after all!"

Floris looked at her with a mixture of repugnance and fascination.

"Mademoiselle will remain here until I come for her," said Josine, significantly. "And let mademoiselle console herself that it is better to be undecieved than fooled to the top of one's bent!"

And with this piece of worldly wisdom and comfort she went out.

Reaching her own room, she locked the door, and took the telegram from her pocket. For some minutes she looked at the mean and miserable envelope which the post office authorities deem a sufficient covering for so important a missive as a telegram, bending it this way and that in the endeavor to decipher some words of the contents.

But the pink paper was folded inward, and with a gesture of impatience, she went downstairs and got a jug of hot water.

(To be Continued.)

"Floris! Blanche has sent to say that she is not going! She has some letters to write!"

Floris turned deathly pale, and caught the edge of the table.

Josine smiled triumphantly, then went into Lady Betty's room, with her cat-like step.

"Miss Carlisle has a headache, miladi! A bad headache! I do not think, if miladi will pardon me, that mademoiselle ought to go for so long a ride in the hot sun!"

Lady Betty came into Floris' room at once.

"What is the matter, dear? Why, how pale you look!"—with anxious concern—"Are you ill?"

Floris could scarcely speak for a moment.

"I—I have a bad headache," she said, and truthfully enough. "I do not think I will go."

"No, don't," said Lady Betty. "I thought you didn't look well this morning. No, you shall stay at home, and I'll stay and sit by you."

"No, no!" said Floris. "Please do not—there is no occasion. I would rather you did not!" with a feverish flush. "I shall get some sleep, perhaps—I will not stay unless you go!"

Lady Betty hesitated, and Josine

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