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THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1917.

WEATHER—CLOUDY.

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THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS; INTERNATIONAL WAR COUNCIL IN THE U. S.

GERMAN ATTACKS ON BRITISH LINE FAIL

Assaults Were Delivered in Neighborhood of Monchy-- Le-Preux---Heavy Snow-fall Renders Observation Impossible and Impedes Fighting --- German Position Near Bullecourt Penetrated by British.

London, April 11.—The operations along the Arras-Lens line were greatly impeded by snowstorms. According to the official report from British headquarters tonight, the Germans delivered two counter-attacks against the British positions in the neighborhood of Monchy-Le-Preux, but these failed.

The text of the statement reads: "Snow has fallen heavily and continuously throughout the day, rendering observation impossible, and greatly impeding the operations of our troops."

Two Hun Attacks.

"This morning two German counter-attacks on our new positions in the direction of Monchy-Le-Preux were successfully beaten off. Prisoners taken in Monchy-Le-Preux state that they had orders to hold the village at all costs.

"Further south bodies of our troops succeeded in penetrating a German position in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, and secured a number of prisoners. At midday they were counter-attacked by large forces of the enemy and forced back to their own lines. The enemy attacking troops were effectively engaged by our artillery and suffered heavy losses.

"Our airplanes were active again yesterday, and in spite of a strong

region of Berry-Au-Bac and La Pompelle, as well as various points along the Champagne front. In Le Preux Wood we effectively shelled the enemy organizations.

"Belgian communication: North of Dixmude and in the neighborhood of Steenstrate the field and trench artillery on both sides engaged in light firing."

German Statement.

Berlin, April 11, via London.—The evening official communication issued by the war office follows: "Near Fampoux (east of Arras) English infantry attacks and several cavalry attacks near Roux failed with heavy enemy losses.

"On the southern bank of the Scarpe, near Monchy and Ranocourt, there have been engagements throughout the day which developed favorably for us.

RUSSIANS ATTACKED BY HUNS

Germans Put up Strong Fight in Volhynia but were Finally Beaten Back.

Petrograd, April 11, via London.—Attacks were made by the Germans yesterday in Volhynia near the town of Kojliche, on the Styr river and in Galicia near Sokal, the war office reports. The statement follows:

"Last night a large enemy party destroyed our patrol guard in the region of Vulkapriat, 12 miles north of Kojliche, and occupied first line trenches. The enemy was forced back again by our artillery fire. In the region of Terechikow, in the direction of Sokal, the enemy, after artillery preparation, which resulted in the destruction of our barbed wire entanglements at various points, forced his way into the trenches of our patrol guard. He was unable to maintain his hold and evacuated the trenches, after having bayoneted some of our wounded.

Roumanian Front.

"On the Roumanian front there were scouting reconnaissances and rifle firing.

"On the Caucasian front in the region of Tschikow, south of Uchovne our troops are conducting a stubborn battle with the Turks. Elsewhere on this front scouting reconnaissances and reciprocal firing occurred.

"In the region of Galatz (Roumanian) a French airplane obtained a hit on a German airplane which fell on Galatz enveloped in flames."

SPAIN HAS NEW PROBLEM TO FACE

Probable Entry Into War of South American Republics Brings up New Issue.

Madrid, April 11, via Paris.—The liberal says it understands that the ministerial crisis which has been threatened is now postponed by reason of a new problem confronting Spain as the consequence of the probable entry into the war of South American republics.

U. S. TO BUILD ONE THOUSAND WOODEN SHIPS

Increase of Overseas Tonnage Regarded as Imperative — Goethals to Have Charge.

Washington, April 11.—Major-General Geo. W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, was formally requested by President Wilson today to take charge of the building of 1,000 wooden ships for foreign commerce.

Increase of overseas tonnage is regarded as an imperative need to defeat the German submarine campaign and keep up the flow of supplies to the Entente Allies, consequently the greatest importance is attached to the plans of the shipping board for building wooden ships, which have been approved by the president and the council of national defense.

The entire resources of available shipbuilding yards are to be used for the purpose.

"The shipping board has \$50,000,000 at its disposal for the construction and purchase of vessels, and it is estimated that, beginning early in this fall, the rate of 200,000 tons a month can be turned out. In 1918 the United States had 500,000 tons of ships in the trans-Atlantic trade.

The use of German merchant ships now in American harbors will add approximately 600,000 tons to the supply of the United States. Estimates are now being made on the cost of repairing the damaged machinery of these vessels.

\$2,000 BLAZE NEAR SUSSEX

Special to The Standard.
Sussex, April 11.—Samuel Tranton, a farmer living on the Smith Creek road, about two miles from Sussex, lost two barns and most of their contents by fire tonight. The fire, which started in the hay mow of the horse barn, spread with great rapidity and soon engulfed the stage barn.

For a time Mr. Tranton's residence was in great danger and was only saved from destruction by the good work of the neighbors who had assembled to help fight the fire. The loss is estimated at about \$2,000. The barns were insured for \$700.

NOTORIOUS HUN COUNT MISSING

Alvo Von Alvensleben, Sup- posed Spy and Former Vic- toria Bank Wrecker, Disap- pears.

Chicago, April 11.—The sudden disappearance from his Chicago headquarters of Count Alvo Von Alvensleben, who vigorously denied, two years ago, when refused entrance into Canada, that he was the head of the German spy system on this side of the Atlantic, was the cause of considerable speculation today. Federal officials were non-committal. The count, who was formerly a lieutenant in the imperial German army, had apartments at a downtown hotel and a business office in a neighboring building.

At the hotel it was said the count had not been seen for three weeks, and had departed suddenly without leaving any future address.

The count bobbed into publicity three years ago, when on August 29, 1914, Canadian Immigration Inspector Reed of Seattle, Washington, refused to permit him to re-enter Canada on the grounds that he was a German spy, and high in the councils of the Kaiser. Previously he had been located at Victoria, B. C., where one of his banks failed, but had left at the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Germany.

AUSTRIANS HELD BACK BY ITALIANS

Rome, April 11.—"The artillery activity, normal on the remainder of the front, was more lively west of Lake Garda and in the Lagarina Valley," says today's war office statement. "The enemy, having renewed his attack with medium calibre guns on Limone Garda, our batteries replied by shelling the enemy lines in the vicinity of Arco and Rovereto."

"On the Carso, our patrols pushed back advanced positions of the enemy at many points. In one of the more important of these we firmly established ourselves yesterday."

WAR COUNCIL TO MEET AT WASHINGTON

Entente Allies' and United States Officials to Confer.

BALFOUR WILL HEAD BRITISH DELEGATION

French Commission Will In- clude Former Premier Viv- iani.

Washington, April 11.—Assembly in Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the state department today that a British commission headed by Arthur J. Balfour, minister of foreign affairs, is expected to arrive within ten days to discuss with the government here questions connected with the conduct of the war.

Other Members.

In addition to the foreign minister the commission will include Admiral Dechair of the British navy; General Bridges of the army and the governor



ARTHUR J. BALFOUR.

of the Bank of England, attended by a number of their staff. This was as far as the announcement made by the state department goes, but it was learned authoritatively that a French commission, composed of officials and officers equally as distinguished as the British representatives, also will be in Washington about the same time. This commission will be headed by M. Viviani, at present minister of justice in the French cabinet and formerly premier.

It is not known definitely whether any of the other allied powers will send commissioners to Washington, but it is assumed that owing to the difficulties in passage and the probable delay, the interests of these governments will be confided to their resident ambassadors.

SUBMARINES OPERATING IN PACIFIC

San Francisco, April 11.—Warning that German submarines are believed to be operating in the Pacific were sent to all steamship captains at sea late today by wireless by order of Lieut. Commander E. C. Wood, of the 12th Naval District here.

The warning said: "Information has this day been received that German submarines are operating in the Pacific. Please notify all ships under your control and ask that they spread the warning broadcast."

DESTRUCTION OF AMMUNITION WORKS AT CHESTER, PA., WAS DUE TO DIABOLICAL PLOT

Total Number of Known Dead 116, Most of Whom were Girls and Young Women—Authorities Round Up Nu- merous Suspects, but Arrests Afford Little Tangible Clue to Perpetrator of Outrage.

Chester, Pa., April 11.—A statement today by a high official of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation placed the blame of yesterday's disastrous explosion, the worst in the history of the state, on a disloyal employee, who is thought to have sacrificed his life with the 116 known dead, most of whom were girls and young women.

Authorities Active.

This amazing development late today spurred on the investigations of the catastrophe already under way by a federal, state, county and local officials and officers of the company. Numerous suspects were rounded up here in Philadelphia and Villanova, Penna., and in Camden, N. J., and in each case the disposition of the prisoners was placed in the hands of agents of the department of justice at Philadelphia. The arrests, so far, however, have furnished no tangible clue to the perpetrator of the alleged plot.

Deliberate Plot.

The statement of the company's responsible representative, who declined to permit the use of his name, said the tragedy "was the result of a diabolical plot, conceived in the degenerate brain of a demon in human disguise," and that the triple explosion was due to a bomb manufactured from a shell by one of the employees. Beyond this information the official refused to disclose further details which would tend to more thoroughly make clear the exact cause of the disaster.

It is known, however, that federal agents are tonight concentrating their efforts at running the case to the explanation of the explosion from this angle. It is pointed out by those familiar with the explosives manufactured at the plant that it would have been possible for a workman to carry on a plot in the midst of unsuspecting employees, particularly the women engaged in the packing of time fuses in

CANADIAN VICTORY COMPLETE

To Young Texan Belongs the Honor of First Carrying the Stars and Stripes Into Battle in Europe.

(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent
in France.)

Canadian Headquarters, April 11.—The victory of the Canadians in the battle for Vimy Ridge is much greater than the first reports indicated. The only point which remains obscure this (Tuesday) morning is the position on Hill 145, for the retention of which the enemy fought with the utmost determination on Monday afternoon.

Of First Importance.

The hill is an earthier fortress of the first importance with many galleries far underground and concrete machine gun emplacements. The hill is isolated on the three sides from the German lines and is being assailed by the concentrated fire of the artillery as well as our eager infantry. The surrender is not in doubt.

Much war material was left behind by the firing line, including an, as yet unlocated, number of prisoners and heavy guns. The yield of prisoners is much larger than the first reports indicated. Already 3,240 men, including sixty officers, have been recorded and many more are to come. The final total may reach 4,000 prisoners to the Canadian troops alone.

Texan Holds Honor.

To a young Texan, who went to Ontario to enlist, and who is now lying wounded in the hospital, belongs the honor of first carrying the American flag into battle in the European war. Lieut. James H. Thompson, of the 10th Canadian Infantry, was the first to carry the Stars and Stripes on his bayonet and fell thus.

HUNS WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE

Monchy-Le-Preux One of Key Positions Between Scarpe and Senece Rivers.

GERMANS OBLIGED TO EVACUATE MONCHY.

Success Considered of Great Importance as British Got High Ground.

London, April 11.—Reuter's correspondent at army headquarters in France describes Monchy-Le-Preux as one of the key positions between the Scarpe and the Senece rivers, which the Germans had strongly organized. The town had as its approaches four sunken roads, which were full of snipers and machine gun teams. As a frontal attack would have been costly, it was resolved to turn the position, and this operation was executed without the Germans observing the extent or direction of the turning movement.

In Artillery Formation.

The attack was pushed in artillery formation along the north bank of the Scarpe, which river was crossed in the neighborhood of Roux. Then as the advance deployed southwards the Monchy garrison began a stubborn resistance. Fighting was continued until after dark Tuesday, but during the night the main body of the Germans evacuated Monchy, and when in the morning the attack was renewed it was continued successfully down to Labergere and across the main Arras-Cambrai road to Guemappes, where it is reported, has also been captured.

Of Great Importance.

This success is considered of great importance as it gives the British domination of the high ground. The correspondent says that Wednesday was devoted largely to consolidating the gains and moving the artillery forward, although there was considerable fighting between Croisilles and St. Quentin. Prisoners he adds, are continually arriving, apparently hunger induced many to surrender.

It is believed that the severe winter weather has affected the German morale. They are reported as still fighting hard, but as lacking the spirit displayed in the Somme battle.

ITALIAN SHIPPING STATEMENT GOOD.

Rome, via London, April 11.—For the week ending April 8, merchant vessels entering Italian ports numbered 494, of a gross tonnage of 470,560. Sailings from Italian ports 447 merchantmen, of a tonnage of 496,692, according to an official statement issued today.

Italian steamers under 3,000 tons sunk numbered five; sailing vessels under 300 tons sunk, ten. One steamer escaped from a submarine.

FIRE AT WOODSTOCK.

Woodstock, April 11.—The residence of John Atherton, Connell street, was badly damaged by fire this morning, and the inmates had a narrow escape from suffocation, reaching neighbors' houses in scant clothing. The fire started in the barn, which was burnt and spread rapidly to the house, burned the oil and back part of the house. The estimated damage is \$4,000, with \$900 insurance on the house and \$700 on the furniture.

\$400,000 FIRE IN BELLEVILLE, ONT.

Belleville, Ont., April 11.—Fire broke out this morning in the evaporating plant and head office of Graham Company, Limited, and before it was under control, eight hours later, the entire structure had been destroyed, entailing a loss of between \$350,000 and \$400,000. There was over \$200,000 worth of food products in the store and evaporator, all of which was lost. The buildings were worth over \$100,000.

TO REPATRIATE THOSE AMERICANS WHO ENLISTED.

Washington, April 11.—Senator Owen introduced a bill today to authorize the secretary of state to repatriate such Americans who have enlisted in the allied armies and in consequence lost their American citizenship.

The San Fulgencio was of 1,558 tons gross. She was built in 1901.