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MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 19 1917 —FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,249

PROBS— Fresh winds; some light local snow, but mostly fair and cold.

Senate Reading Room
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 SENATE PO OTTAWA

BRITISH MAKE BIG GAINS

Prisoners Taken on the Ancre—773 In Mesopotamia—Front of 700 Yards Carried and Extended to Depth of 500 Yards on 1000 Yard Front; 850 Yards of Trenches Then Taken, With Other Small Areas, Then 1200 Yards, Making 3050 Yard Front, Completing Capture of Important Bend in Tigris River.

Prisoners Taken in Mesopotamia 1995 With 2500 Rifles and War Supplies

1995 TURKS ARE TAKEN IN MESOPOTAMIA FIGHT

British Force Turks Back on Tigris River, Seizing Important Tactical Points and Taking All Ground in Dahra Bend—Half-Hearted Counter-Attacks Easily Repulsed.

London, Feb. 17.—(10.10 p.m.)—Several important gains against the Turks in Mesopotamia are recorded in the official report made public tonight. In addition to forcing the Turks back on the Tigris River, the British captured 1,995 prisoners. The text of the report reads:

"Mesopotamia: The offensive against the Turks on the right bank of the Tigris was resumed Thursday. An important tactical point in front of the enemy's right was first seized. An attack on his right centre followed, resulting in the securing of our objective on a front of 700 yards. This was afterwards extended by bombing to a depth of 500 yards on a frontage of 1,000 yards. The half-hearted Turkish counter-attacks were easily repulsed.

"Some hours later an assault was launched against the enemy's left centre, securing our objective on a front of 850 yards.

"During the night the enemy were cleared out of small areas they held on the river bank. By dawn Friday, all the ground in the Dahra bend was in our hands.

"The prisoners taken numbered 89 officers, including two regimental and three battalion commanders, and 1,906 other ranks. We captured five machine guns, 2,500 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, equipment and stores.

"A further advance of 1200 yards was made Friday south of the Shumran loop. Our advanced troops now hold the southwest corner of this bend."

Two Turkish official communications received today admit retirements on the Tigris. The communication, under Thursday's date, says:

"After an enemy attack against our right wing had been repulsed, part of our positions were evacuated, according to orders.

"The second communication, undated, reads: "On the Tigris front we executed a slight backward movement to avoid unnecessary casualties."

BRITISH TAKE FOE POSITIONS DEFEAT COUNTER-ATTACKS

Allies Not to Deal With Kaiser's Present Advisers No Peace Agreement Possible Until German Government Has Undergone Material Changes.

London, Feb. 18.—Addressing a meeting in London tonight the speaker of the house of commons, the Right Hon. James William Lowther, declared that it was impossible for British statesmen to make any agreement with the German Government as now constituted. It would be necessary, before signing any peace or agreement, he said, to insist that it must be with a government different in essence and constitution from the present one.

Advance of Mile and a Half on Ancre, Taking 773 Prisoners as Well as Machine Guns and Mortars—Line is Advanced to Within Few Hundred Yards of Petit Miraumont on South Side of the River, While on North Advance of 1000 Yards is Made and Hostile Counter-Attacks Driven Off With no Casualties.

London, Feb. 18.—British troops yesterday captured German positions on a front of about a mile and a half, penetrating the German defenses to a distance of about 1000 yards and coming within close range of Petit Miraumont, which lies to the northeast of Grandcourt on the Ancre front, in France.

Another important German position was also carried along a front of about 1000 yards, according to the official report from headquarters tonight.

In all, the British took 773 prisoners in their successful advances, as well as machine guns and trench mortars.

Strong forces of Germans attacked the new British positions on the spur above Baillecourt farm this morning, but as they were advancing in three waves, with bodies of supporting troops in their rear, they came under the concentrated fire of the British artillery, and this drove them back with heavy losses. In this action the British suffered no casualties.

ALLIES TO END WAR WITHIN FEW MONTHS

Leaders Will Be Surprised if Final Victory is Not Gained During Coming Summer, Says Arthur Henderson.

London, Feb. 18.—Arthur Henderson, the leaders of the allied nations will be surprised if during the coming summer they do not strike such a blow as—with other conditions which prevail—will lead the war to a close on lines entirely satisfactory for us and our allies."

The Earl of Derby, secretary of state for war, speaking at Bolton yesterday, expressed the opinion that the critical period of the war would occur in the next few months. "I would be a false friend," he said, "if I did not warn the country that the war is going to be long continued and the struggle even more bitter than in the past. It can only be won by every one doing his utmost. The three things most vital are money, men and munitions. Money and munitions are being supplied in large quantities. Men we want and must have. The nation will have to make greater sacrifices in the way of giving its manhood to fight its battles."

Crisis is Near.

"I am as confident as anyone of the eventual result, but do not be led away into the too great optimism of thinking that the end is near.

"I believe we are going to see the critical period of the war in the next few months. We must face it with courage. I confidently predict it will be a successful six months for us, but at the same time I do not think it will be a walk-over."

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BRITISH troops in two theatres of the war have just won two encouraging successes. In northern France they advanced on both banks of the Ancre and have reached the outskirts of Miraumont. They took 773 prisoners and a number of machine guns and trench mortars. In Mesopotamia they cleared the Turks from the Dahra bend of the Tigris, northwest of Kut-el-Amara, and they made an advance south of the Shumran loop. In these brilliant actions they took 1995 prisoners.

The fighting in northwestern France opened on Saturday morning, when the British attacked the Germans on both sides of the Ancre. Their assault south of the Ancre carried the German positions opposite the Villages of Miraumont and Petit Miraumont on a front of a mile and a half and to a depth of 1000 yards, bringing their front to within a few hundred yards of Petit Miraumont. Their assault north of the Ancre carried an important German post on the slopes of a spur north of Baillecourt farm, on a front of 1000 yards. The British easily attained their first objectives and then they pressed forward to attack the rest of the higher ground just south of Miraumont. For the first time in five weeks fog came up and interfered with the artillery work. The German higher command ill-brooded the loss of the crest north of the Ancre, and on Sunday morning it sent forces out to attempt a counter-attack. These advanced in three waves with supporting troops in the rear, instead of in the old familiar wedge-shaped formation. The British barrage caught them in the open and drove them back with heavy losses. The British suffered no casualties.

In this latest action on the Ancre the British still followed the same method as they followed on the Somme last year, the crushing of the enemy by inflicting on him a chain of local and partial defeats. Each local gain of itself does not run into anything like a great victory, but the sum of

POTATO PROBLEM IN BRITAIN ACUTE

Lloyd George Announces Re-adjustment of Fixed Prices is Necessary.

Producers and Retailers at War and Public is Discontented.

London, Feb. 18.—Premier Lloyd George, in an official announcement says, has telegraphed the lord mayor of Manchester as follows:

"The war cabinet has considered the difficulties which have arisen in certain districts in connection with the operations of the price of potatoes under the order of Jan. 1. That order was issued by the food controller to insure that the price was not inflated unduly in consequence of a shortage in supplies. Recent prolonged frosts have reduced the stocks and interrupted distribution, and accordingly it has been necessary to re-adjust the interests of all parties. The departments concerned, therefore, at my request, conferred with representatives of the wholesale and retail trades and submitted proposals which were approved by the war cabinet."

Premier Lloyd George then details the proposals whereby the growers

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

FRENCH MAKE RAID IN BOIS LE PRETRE

Ally Destroys German Works on Left Bank of Moselle.

CHAMPAGNE IS QUIET

Artillery Actions Prevail Most Violently on Left Meuse Banks.

Paris, Feb. 18.—French troops last night invaded a German trench in the Bois le Pretre, on the left bank of the River Moselle, near Pont-a-Mousson, and destroyed the Teuton works and sheds. On the rest of the front in France, according to the official statement issued by the French war office this evening, there were only patrol encounters.

The text of the statement reads:

"In the course of the night there were patrol encounters at various points along the front, notably in the sectors of Troyon, southeast of Verdun, and Chamrettes, to the northeast of Bandonviller.

"In the Bois le Pretre a detachment entered one of the enemy trenches and destroyed the works and sheds there. There is nothing to report from the rest of the front."

The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"Nothing of importance occurred."

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER FORMS NEW CABINET

Coalition Ministry Known as Commonwealth War Government.

London, Feb. 18.—Reuter's Melbourne correspondent says the Australian ministry, headed by Wm. McHugh, tendered its resignation and Mr. Hughes to form another, which has now been sworn in. The new ministry is a coalition, and will be known as the commonwealth war government. Mr. Hughes will retain the post of premier and attorney-general. Joseph Hume Cook, leader of the opposition, has been given the portfolio of minister of the navy.

Stringent War Measures Being Adopted in India

London, Feb. 18.—A Reuter despatch from Delhi says that among the new war measures adopted by the Indian Government are the severe curtailment of railway services and the organization of India's industrial and natural resources, with a view to increasing the output of munitions. In addition, an order has been issued forbidding women and children to sail for England except for the most urgent reasons.