

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XIV., No. 142. PAGES ONE TO EIGHT. ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1918. SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT.

German Guns Roar Along Front of Fifty Miles; May Mean The Preliminary of Big Offensive; The Huns Are Defeated In a Brush At Sea

Firing so Intense That Thunder Of Great Artillery Is Heard In Dover

Windows There Shaken by The Concussion as Batteries Are Worked

Speculation As to Intention of Enemy; Kaiser Quoted as Saying That The Decisive Moment In The War Is At Hand—Attack on French Fails

London, Mar. 21.—"We are at the decisive moment of the war, and one of the greatest moments in German history," said Emperor William in a telegram to the Rheinische Provincial Council, according to a Central News despatch from Amsterdam.

London, Mar. 21.—The Germans soon before dawn this morning began a heavy bombardment over a wide section of the British front. This is announced officially. The statement follows:

"A heavy bombardment was opened by the enemy a little before dawn this morning against our whole front from the neighborhood of Venduill, south of St. Quentin, to the River Scarpe.

"A successful raid was carried out by us last night in the neighborhood of St. Quentin. Thirteen prisoners and three machine guns were brought back by our troops. Prisoners also were taken in patrol encounters southward of Messines, and in another successful raid carried out by us south of Houthulst Forest.

"A raid undertaken by the enemy in the neighborhood of Arras yesterday was repulsed."

SOUND OF GUNS HEARD AT DOVER.

London, Mar. 21.—The artillery action on the western front could be distinctly heard at Dover and other towns on the east coast of England. The doors and windows of the houses at Dover, for instance, were continuously shaken by the firing which was the heaviest that has been heard in this district from such a distance, began at three o'clock this morning and lasted at brief intervals until seven a. m.

At Ramsgate, besides the sound of the cannoning bright flashes were seen at sea, while the vibrations of the explosions shook the windows and dislodged tiles from the roofs.

ALONG FRONT OF 50 MILES

From Venduill north to the River Scarpe is a distance of nearly fifty miles, and the beginning by the German artillery of a heavy bombardment along this wide front may mean that preparation for the much advertised German offensive in the west has been begun. The preparatory work was about due to begin today if the advance announcements were to be taken at their face value, judging from the news of a day or two ago that a party of neutral correspondents had been invited by the German high command to start for the west front on Wednesday "to witness the offensive."

It is also impossible to say whether the present burst of artillery fire on this front means that it is along the line indicated or only somewhere within its limits that the heavy German blow, if one indeed is to be struck, will be directed. There is the consideration that the bombardment in this particular area may be a feint to cover a strong stroke in an altogether different sector. The most natural conclusion, however, is that the drive is to be made at some point in the area now under fire.

This area embraces most of the territory outside of Flanders, over which the British have been fighting, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with the French, for the last two years.

FRENCH POSITIONS ARE ATTACKED.

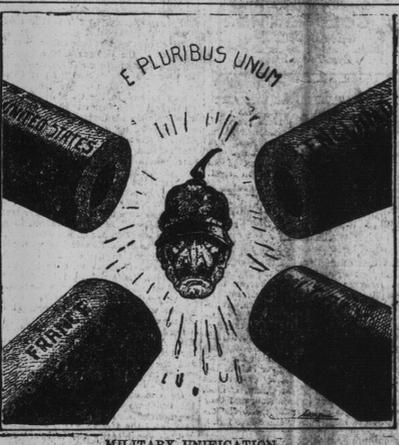
Paris, Mar. 20.—A strong attack was made today by the Germans against French positions in the Woerpe. The war office announces that after spirited fighting the enemy was driven back. The artillery struggle proved rather violent on the right bank of the Meuse and in the forest of Parroy.

"In the Woerpe," says the statement, "in the region of Bruke Wood, the Germans today made a strong attack on our positions. After a spirited engagement our troops ejected enemy detachments which had succeeded in gaining a footing in some of our advanced positions."

"According to fuller information which is now at hand, the attack which the enemy made in the region of Souain yesterday morning was carried out by two battalions of shock troops, which suffered heavy losses and met with a complete check."

"Bad weather yesterday impeded aerial operations. Information now at hand shows that the six German airplanes and one captive balloon reported as having been damaged on the preceding day in reality were destroyed by our pilots."

"Our bombing squadrons yesterday and the day before operating as freely by day as by night, threw down 18,000 kilograms (39,600 pounds) of projectiles on military establishments, aviation grounds and railway stations in the enemy zone. Several explosions and two



Votes for Women Subject for Legislators Today

Likely No Session at Fredericton This Evening; Technical Education Committee Continues Its Work

(Special to Times.)

Fredericton, Mar. 21.—Woman suffrage will occupy the attention of the legislature during the afternoon session today. Notice of a motion to the effect that, in the opinion of the house, the provincial franchise should be extended to women, was given last week by Hon. J. A. Murray, leader of the opposition. The motion was to have come up yesterday but was held over to allow the house to get along with the highways bill.

The motion does not call for action but merely for an expression of opinion on the subject. It is difficult to estimate in advance how the house will line up on the question but it is evident that it will not be on party lines, as equal suffrage has friends and enemies on both sides of the house.

The proceedings may be shortened a bit this afternoon to give opportunity for the sale of a grandfather's clock, the work of a returned soldier, which is to be disposed of for the benefit of the Daughters of the Empire. F. L. Pott will act as auctioneer.

No evening session is anticipated as many of the members wish to attend a reception in honor of Bishop Richardson.

The law committee, of which the attorney general is chairman, held its first meeting this morning and transacted routine business. The standing rules committee also met as usual.

Technical Education. Another meeting of the committee on technical education was held this morning. Fred Magee, M. P. P., presiding. J. L. Squire of St. John discussed the matter with the members. He assured them of the support of organized labor in their efforts to promote industrial education and expressed his approval of the plans outlined by the committee so far. The committee will meet again this evening and it is expected that a report will be ready for presentation to the house some time next week.

FEAR AMAZON LOST

Royal Mail Steamship Reported to Have Been Torpedoed

Buenos Aires, Mar. 21.—A report that the Royal Mail steamship Amazon has been sunk is current here. A despatch from Rio Janeiro says the office of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company there has been notified of the torpedoing of the Amazon near Gibraltar, and that the fate of the passengers is unknown. The Amazon was due to arrive on this side of the Atlantic from Liverpool early in April.

The Amazon is a vessel of 10,087 tons gross. She was built in Belfast.

DEMANDS ON ROUMANIA ARE INCREASED BY THE GERMANS

Want All Munitions That Are in The Country

MAILED FIST PEACE

That is as Socialist Describes it in Reichstag—American Ambassador Says if Russians Submit Country Will Be But German Province

Moscow, Mar. 21.—Germany has increased her demand upon Roumania and now asks that Roumania surrender to the Central Powers all of her own war munitions as well as those left in Roumania by allied troops.

Petrograd, Mar. 20.—Kreihendebog, Minister of War, in Southern Russia, are being evacuated by government forces. A Russian commission has been sent to investigate reports of attacks on German troops.

Armenian colonies in Turkestan and the Trans-Caspian districts have declared a general mobilization. The soviet council of the Republic of the Don has levied a contribution of 5,000,000 rubles on local capitalists.

All the Entente ministers remain in Jassy, but will leave Russia until they have received reports from Roumania regarding the war munitions to Germany.

WILL STAY IN PUT OUT. Moscow, Tuesday, Mar. 19.—American Ambassador Francis announced today that he would not leave Russia until he had been asked to do so by force, when asked whether the American embassy would remain in view of the ratification of the German peace treaty by the congress of soviet.

in German Loan. Petrograd, Mar. 19.—(By the Associated Press)—Russia's total war expenditures are now 50,999,575,000 rubles.

Russian troops in the Pskov sector have refused to surrender. A German ultimatum having been presented to them as a result of an attack on German troops.

It is reported that the Ukrainian government is negotiating a loan from German banks.

In consequence of the disorganization of transport, an aerial postal service between Petrograd, Moscow and the Crimea and between Petrograd and Sweden is planned for the near future.

London, Mar. 21.—An Amsterdam despatch to Reuters' Limited says that Hugo Hesse, leader of the Socialist minority in the Reichstag, declared in the house that the independent Socialists, in Russia, would refuse to vote the emergency estimates.

More "Better-than-Thou" Talk. Amsterdam, Mar. 21.—Debate was resumed in the German Reichstag yesterday on the peace treaty. Dr. Gustav Stresemann, National Liberal, eulogized the policy of peace which he said the Emperor had always pursued. He declared that while Great Britain oppressed neutral countries and Germany spared them, Germany's circle of friends was not increased. He regretted the renunciation of a Russian war indemnity.

Dr. Stresemann interpreted the chancellor's words, in which he put the responsibility for the coming battles on the enemy, as meaning that the enemy would also put the responsibility for the change on the German policy regarding territorial questions and war indemnities. This was loudly applauded by the right and the National Liberals.

Count Von Westarp, Conservative, said:—"We demand that the peace treaty be no war indemnity and we have obtained only small economic advantages. This procedure should not be followed in the coming peace treaties. A heavy war indemnity ought to be imposed on Roumania."

A LARGE GAIN. St. John bank clearings for the week ended March 21, were \$2,157,896; corresponding period last year, \$1,774,058; for 1918, \$1,586,700.

Allies Sink Two Destroyers and Two Torpedo Boats

Enemy Bombarding Dunkirk and British and French Ships Come Along; One British Destroyer Damaged is Extent of Allies' Loss

London, Mar. 21.—Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats have been sunk by a force of five British and French destroyers. The admiralty so announced. One British destroyer was damaged. The engagement occurred off Dunkirk this morning. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties. The announcement follows:

"Vice Admiral Dore reports that an action occurred off Dunkirk between four and five o'clock this morning. Two British and three French destroyers were engaged with a force of German destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk for ten minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats are believed to have been sunk. Survivors have been picked up from two enemy torpedo boats."

"No allied vessels were sunk. One British destroyer was damaged but reached harbor. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties."

WHOLESALE MURDER

Fearful Condition in Russia Reported—Five Hundred Massacred in One Night

Petrograd, Mar. 21.—(Toronto Mail and Empire Cable)—Wholesale murder is now the normal feature of Russian life. In the small town of Glukhovo, in the government of Chernigoff, 500 members of the local middle class were massacred in a single night. Details of the latest massacres in Simefopol and Sebastopol are revealing beyond description. In Sebastopol, for instance, the sailors decided to execute a general massacre in two streets inhabited by the most well-to-do in the town. After the massacre the bodies were thrown into the sea. The widow of one of the murdered men asked a diver to go down and bring up the body of her husband.

The bodies of the murdered men had been thrown into the sea with stones tied to their feet and hands, and there was a strong standing updraft, swaying under the water.

DEATH OF SOLDIER

Pte. Angus John McVicar, Wounded in War, Dies in Sydney Hospital

Many friends in the city will regret to hear of the sudden death of Pte. Angus John McVicar, which occurred on March 9 at Moxham Hospital, Sidney, C. B. Private McVicar, who returned to Canada early in July 1916, was a member of the original 25th Nova Scotia Battalion. He received the wound that caused his death, at Canal, where the 25th and 26th were holding trenches.

Besides a brother, Corporal Daniel McVicar of the engineers, Halifax, he is survived by relatives throughout Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, including an aunt, Mrs. McDonald, with whom he made his home. Private McVicar spent a year and a half in the Parks Convalescent Home and Army Hospital in St. John.

WOULD JOIN PART OF ONTARIO TO MANITOBA

Port Arthur, Ont., Mar. 21.—J. D. Fraser, manager of the Atkinson Iron Company, addressed a meeting of the board of trade yesterday on joining up with Manitoba, and was enthusiastically applauded for expressing the opinion that Thunder Bay district would be better off as the eastern part of the province.

CANADIAN OFFICER BEREAVED

Brantford, Ont., Mar. 21.—Captain Fred Grob, with the 128th at Witley Camp, England, recently was allowed leave of absence to come home to be with his wife, who was dying. In Canada he was detailed to command a party of returned men, taking them to London. Yesterday afternoon as he passed through Brantford on his way west, his wife was alive but slowly sinking. Just one hour before he could hand over the party and return to his home here, his wife passed away. He is a son of Franklin Grob, general manager of the Massey Harris Company here.

BELLEVILLE SUFFERS FROM SERIOUS FLOOD

Belleville, Ont., Mar. 21.—Thousands of dollars damages was caused yesterday afternoon by a spring flood. A jam of ice in the Moira river, two miles north of the city, broke away, and set in motion a large field of ice in the lower part of the river. About 200 houses on the west side were flooded four or five feet deep and many buildings on the east side demolished.

SOME MEN OF FIRST CONTINGENT ARE ON SHIPS AT HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., Mar. 21.—A big liner which arrived in port yesterday with a large number of officers and men of the Canadian forces, returned wounded, on furlough or for special duty, is still anchored in the stream. It is expected that she will dock tomorrow morning. Included in the party are 109 "original firsts." These men have furlough until June 4. There are no New Brunswickers in the latter list.

TEMPERANCE TEMPLARS EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Hamilton, Ont., Mar. 21.—The dominion council, Royal Templars of Temperance, this morning passed resolutions of gratitude to Sir Robert Borden, Sir Lomer Gouin of Quebec and Premier Hearst of Ontario, for their efforts in creating total prohibition. Legislation will be sought to prohibit the sale of liquor to persons under sixteen years, and abolishment of the wet canteen is also urged. An educational campaign to combat the social evils is also demanded.

Fisheries Conference

Washington, Mar. 21.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield will represent the United States at a Canadian-American fisheries conference to be held in Seattle, Wash., on April 24. The conference was called to discuss a proposed agreement to remove all restrictions the two governments now impose on fishing in each others waters.

Banking Hours May Be Half Past Nine To Half Past Two

Montreal, Mar. 21.—Beginning on June 1 the banking hours in Canada will probably be made half past nine to half past two, instead of ten to three o'clock, as at present, the proposed change being based on the shortage of man power in the banks and the necessity of doing something to facilitate the clearing up of the day's routine.

However, an amendment to the bank act will be necessary before the change can be made, as the act fixes the hours at which the banks must remain open for the public convenience.