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GERMANS BEATEN BACK AGAIN FORCED TO ABANDON MAIN DEFENSES NEAR BAPAUME

OPPOSITION TO COTTON DUTIES LESS VIGOROUS

Asquith and Followers Unwilling to Run Risk of Forcing Election

LOYD GEORGE FIRM

Lancashire Deputation is Told That Indian Policy Cannot Be Abandoned.

London, March 13.—The belief obtained in parliamentary lobbies tonight that the government would be successful in carrying the new Indian cotton duties. This belief was not due to any compromise on the question, either from the side of the government or the Lancashire members. Premier Lloyd George has supported J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, in making a firm stand on the question.

On the other hand, the Lancashire members, after a meeting at the house of commons tonight, decided to move an amendment to the government motion for tomorrow, repudiating the imposition of the duties, unless a countervailing excise duty was imposed.

Lloyd George Firm. A member of the Lancashire deputation, seen after the conference with Lloyd George, said the premier held

THREE LIVES PROBABLY LOST IN CORDOVA MINE

Two Out of Five at Work Rescued from Burning Shaft.

Special to The Toronto World. Belleville, March 13.—Cordova mine plant in the Township of Mamora, Hastings County, was this morning visited by a disastrous fire, when No. 1 shaft house, the stamp mill, two tank houses, the tram and machine shop were destroyed with the probable loss of the lives of three men.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THE Germans again made a retirement north of the Ancre yesterday. Unable to stand the British artillery fire they abandoned their main defensive system, which ran along the forward crest of the ridge west of Bapaume, and they have thus surrendered a frontage of about three and a half miles to the British. Field Marshal Haig reported in his last night's bulletin that during yesterday the British advanced troops drove back the rear guards of the enemy in this area for a depth of a mile and occupied Grevillers Village and Loupart Wood.

The official communication from British headquarters gives as the cause of this withdrawal, the British bombardment of Monday last. The positions vacated by the enemy are on valuable high ground and the retirement in this section is towards the rolling country to the east and northeast of the Somme watershed. This is the first instance of the compelling of a retirement by artillery fire alone. It means that the British hold the dominant positions and that they have wrought the German lines into such shape as to permit of frontal and enfilading fire. Their guns form a sort of semi-circle round each wedge created in the German line by their local advances, and these can develop such an overwhelming fire that it brings results such as are just seen.

Instead of helping the Germans, their fresh retirement from the westward slopes of the Bapaume ridge merely makes the situation worse, for it sharpens further the salient formed about Arras. The British indentation of the German lines northeast and east of Gommecourt rounds off the corner so as to shape the new lines formed by the Germans as they

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK

British War Cabinet Will Confer in Private With Premiers of Dominions to Deal With Most Intimate Matters.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 13.—The Canadian Associated Press is authoritatively informed that the proceedings proper of the imperial war conference will begin next week. The meetings between the overseas statesmen who have already arrived and the members of the British war cabinet have been in the way of preliminary or sectional conferences to give the overseas statesmen the opportunity of ventilating any views that they particularly wish to bring forward.

At the conference beginning next week Walter Long, colonial secretary, will preside when Lloyd George is unable to do so. These gatherings are not the same plane as the imperial conferences of times past, inasmuch as India was not then represented. All the overseas statesmen who have been especially invited to London will attend these gatherings. English statesmen holding portfolios will attend the meetings when subjects affecting their own department are discussed.

Finally, there are meetings of the imperial war cabinet, consisting of the five principal members of the British Government, together with the premiers only of the dominions. These latter gatherings will deal with the most intimate matters concerning the war.

The imperial war conference, that is, the larger deliberative body, will decide for itself how much of its proceedings shall be made public.

ENEMY PRINCES TO LOSE TITLES

Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein and Two Dukes Branded Traitors

LORDS DEBATE ISSUE Second Reading Given Bill as Concession to Inflamed Public Opinion.

London, March 13.—The house of lords today passed the second reading of the bill to deprive enemy princes of British titles and dignities, after the government had promised to refer the bill to a special committee for further consideration. This promise was made as the outcome of differences between some of the peers who desired to shelve the bill on the ground that it was absurd to regard certain princes as traitors.

DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT HAS ANOTHER RELAPSE

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 13.—The Duchess of Connaught has had another relapse. An earlier official bulletin said: "During the first half of the night the condition of her royal highness continued grave. Since midnight there has been some quiet sleep and the ailment has been somewhat relieved. There is a slight alleviation in the anxiety of the outlook."

SEVEN PERISH IN SINKING OF FOLIO

Cunard Freighter Torpedoed Without Warning Off the Irish Coast.

AMERICAN IN PERIL Dr. Core of Nashville, Tenn., is Among Survivors of the Attack.

Washington, March 13.—Seven lives were lost and one American placed in jeopardy in the sinking without warning by a submarine of the Cunard freighter Folio off the Irish coast Sunday. Consul Frost at Queenstown cabled the state department today this report.

Seven lives lost in sinking Cunard-er Folio out of crew of 78. Folio bound New York to Avonmouth. Torpedoed without warning, five miles off Ram Head, County Waterford, in heavy fog Sunday, 7:20 a.m. Dr. Core and officers reached Bristol this morning.

A despatch from the consul earlier in the day said: "Cunard non-passenger Folio, named off Waterford, left Avonmouth on Monday morning, a communication was received from the King Edward Hotel Co. in which it was stated that the hotel was unable to pay the balance for by the terms of the lease, and unless substantial reductions in the fixed charges were obtained, the company would have to apply to the Ontario License Board to have the lease cancelled."

KING EDWARD HOTEL THREATENS TO CLOSE

Management Informs Holding Company It is Unable to Pay Rent Called for in Lease.

At a special meeting of the Toronto Hotel Co., owners of the King Edward Hotel, property, held yesterday morning, a communication was received from the King Edward Hotel Co. in which it was stated that the hotel was unable to pay the balance for by the terms of the lease, and unless substantial reductions in the fixed charges were obtained, the company would have to apply to the Ontario License Board to have the lease cancelled.

It was stated that the hotel had been running behind for months, and every meal served resulted in a loss. The prices of the rooms had lately been increased, the extra cost of material and labor had more than made up the difference. Every effort had been made by the company to meet its expenses, but without a substantial reduction in fixed charges it would be impossible for it to keep the hotel open.

The King Edward has made every effort possible to get the city to reduce the assessment, and the matter is now before the supreme court at Ottawa.

The Toronto Hotel Co. directors are holding the matter for further consideration, as they feel that it would be too bad to let the hotel close its doors, and have persistently urged the city to reduce the assessment, and hereby give some measure of relief. It is possible that the company may call a shareholders' meeting to consider the communication from the King Edward Co.

VICTORIA SUBSCRIBES WELL

VICTORIA, B.C., March 13.—More than three-quarters of a million dollars was subscribed from Victoria to the third Dominion of Canada war loan yesterday and today. The chief subscriptions were: Provincial government \$400,000 and the municipality of Victoria \$250,000.

FORCED TO ABANDON MAIN DEFENSES NEAR BAPAUME

RETIREMENT STILL PROCEEDS

LONDON, March 13.—A further retirement of the Germans on the front between 4000 and 5000 yards and to an unknown depth is reported by Reuter despatch from the British front in France. The movement was still in progress when the despatch was sent. The British have gone right thru strong German positions in Loupart Wood and seized the Village of Grevillers (west of Bapaume).

The retirement followed a continued heavy British bombardment and was made under cover of hazy weather.

CHASING HUN RAIDER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

British and Japanese Warships Pursue Converted Cruiser Which Sank Japanese Freight Steamer

Tokio, March 13.—It is officially announced that a converted German cruiser has been sighted in the Indian Ocean and that it is now being chased by Japanese and British warships. The German has sunk a Japanese freighter.

The vessel referred to probably is the Suki Maru, of 3162 gross tons, built at the Osaka Iron Works in 1916 and owned by the Tatsuna Kisen Goshi Kaisha. This steamship sailed from San Francisco on Nov. 29 for Vladivostok, where she arrived Jan. 4 and remained until Jan. 15, when she sailed for Darrieu.

A Vancouver despatch last night said a local Japanese paper, The Canadian News, had received a cable from Japan stating that a German commerce raider had destroyed the Japanese steamer Sukura Maru; 3115 tons, in the Indian Ocean.

TRAINMEN READY FOR GREAT STRIKE

Plans for Nation-Wide Move Are Ratified by Leaders.

ISSUE IS UNCHANGED Wilson Called On Again to Prevent Paralysis of Business.

Washington, March 13.—Complete plans of the four railroad brotherhoods for a nation-wide strike, to be inaugurated next Sunday evening unless the railroads grant their eight-hour day demands, were ratified here today by local union leaders from southeastern territory and by a similar conference of representatives of the southwest held at St. Louis.

The brotherhood heads will tell the railroad conference committee in New York Thursday that if an agreement is reached by an eight-hour basic day with time and a half for overtime, strike orders will be rescinded. The demands are just what they were last fall when President Wilson averted a strike after the call out by industrial congress to pass the Adamson law, which never has been put into effect, pending a decision on its constitutionality by the supreme court.

There is every indication that the president is prepared to move again if it becomes apparent that the nation, facing the gravest international crisis of its history, is about to have transportation facilities paralyzed.

BOSTON GIVEN WORD

Boston, March 13.—Orders to prepare at once for a strike of employees on New England railroads at midnight on Monday, March 19, or early Tuesday morning, were received by local leaders of the four brotherhoods of railroad employees today. Provision was added that the refusal of railroad managers to grant the demands of the brotherhoods meantime.

GERMANS CLAIM GAINS ON NARAYUKA RIVER

Berlin, March 13.—(Via Saville).—German troops advancing against the Russian lines on the Narayuka River in Galicia took more than 250 prisoners, army headquarters announced in tonight's supplementary report. The statement reads: "There has been lively fighting activity on the Ancre, south of the Avre, and in the Champagne. On the eastern front in an advance on the Narayuka we took more than 250 prisoners."

British Troops Gain Three-and-half Mile Front and Drive Back German Rear Guard to Depth of a Mile, Occupying Grevillers and Loupart Wood—Hostile Raids Repulsed.

London, March 13.—The official report from British headquarters in France announces the abandonment by the Germans of their main defensive system west of Bapaume on a front of three and one-half miles. The British troops drove back the German rear guard to a depth of a mile and occupied Grevillers and Loupart Wood.

The text of the report reads: "In consequence of our bombardment of his positions yesterday, the enemy abandoned his main defensive system along the forward crest of the ridge west of Bapaume on a front of three and one-half miles."

"During the day our advancing troops have driven back the enemy's rear guard in this area for a depth of a mile and have occupied the Village of Grevillers and Loupart Wood."

"We have also made further progress east and northeast of Gommecourt on a front of about a mile. Hostile raids were repulsed during the night in the neighborhood of Neuville St. Vaast, Souchez and Armentieres. In each case the enemy failed to reach our trenches. Another hostile raiding party succeeded in reaching our trenches southwest of Neuve Chapelle. A few of our men are missing."

"Our artillery carried out an effective bombardment of the enemy's positions in the Somme and east of Neuville St. Vaast." Correspondents with the British headquarters in France, telegraphing Tuesday evening concerning the occupation by the British of Loupart Wood and Grevillers, describe the positions abandoned by the Germans as having seemed capable of defense until the garrison was driven out by an attack. It would seem, however, that the capture of Irlis rendered the positions untenable and that the terrible concentrations of the British gunfire apparently caused the Germans to decide to withdraw before their troops were annihilated.

GERMANS ARE HARD PRESSED

All the despatches speak of important activities that are continuing. The British advanced troops are said to be hard upon the heels of the Germans and more than keeping pace with their retreat. The writers evidently are expecting the speedy occupation by the British of the important Town of Bapaume, altho they stop short of actually predicting it with certainty.

"With luck we shall be there soon," says one correspondent. "Bapaume is now seriously directly threatened," says another. The mist which obscured the country earlier in the day cleared during the evening. The weather became altogether finer and there was an increase in the activity of the British troops. One of the correspondents with the forces in operation said:

"We are on the eve of important movements, and the enemy is not likely to escape the pressure of them without severe damage, even if he escapes something like disaster."

Another correspondent wires that there should be important news available Wednesday.

British Chase Turks Away Beyond Bagdad

General Maude Sends Gunboats Up Tigris to Continue Pursuit—Rich Booty Falls to Captors of City.

London, March 13.—Lieut.-Gen. F. S. Maude, telegraphing late Sunday night, gives the following details leading up to and subsequent to the capture of Bagdad early Sunday. The text of Gen. Maude's account follows: "Saturday evening we maintained close touch with the enemy on both banks of the Tigris south of Bagdad. In the morning we occupied the railway station, the city being entered shortly afterwards. Our cavalry pushed forward in pursuit and after slight resistance occupied Kasimkin, capturing over 100 prisoners and four damaged aeroplanes.

"Our gunboats now took up the pursuit." "During this recent fighting sergales and blinding dust storms, the lack of water away from the river and the vigorous pursuit made the operations arduous. "Since February 23," says the official statement, "the Turks had been busy destroying and removing every-

SIXTY MILLIONS IN SHIPBUILDING ORDERS

Canadian Yards Likely to Receive Many More Contracts Soon.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, March 13.—Sixty million dollars worth of shipbuilding is now under contract in Canadian yards, according to information obtained from official sources. This includes shipbuilding contracts for twenty-five million dollars placed by the imperial munitions board on behalf of the British Government, more than one million dollars worth of construction in various points throughout the country, and certain other vessels, of which, for obvious reasons, details cannot be made public. There is also reason to expect that before many weeks have passed contracts for a great deal of extra tonnage will be let.

FORT WILLIAM'S SHARE

Fort William, March 13.—The city council tonight decided to apply for \$100,000 of the new Canadian war loan, making \$750,000 sinking funds invested in war loan issues.

BRITISH MAILS. The next British and foreign mail (via England) will be closed at the general post office as follows: Regular mail, ordinary letter matter only, at 9 p.m. Friday, the 16th inst. Supplementary, ordinary letter matter only, at 9 p.m. Saturday, the 17th. Registered mail at 6 a.m. Saturday, March 17th. Parcel post mail at 9 p.m. Wednesday, the 14th (advance mail).