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GERMANS SURROUND FRENCH AT REGUEVILLE; HUNS MAKE EFFORTS TO BRIDGE MEUSE; TURKS ABANDON BLACK SEA COAST TOWNS

FRENCH MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE REGNEVILLE.

PARIS, March 8.—The French official statement says that heavy artillery fighting continued throughout the night on both banks of the Meuse. The French troops holding Regneville seven miles northwest of Verdun are two-thirds surrounded by Germans and may be forced to evacuate. South of Regneville under cover of heavy artillery fire the Germans are making repeated efforts to bridge the river. It is known that one hundred thousand more men have been added to the German forces and the climax of the Verdun offensive is expected tomorrow or Friday. In the Champagne, the French have recaptured a portion of the trenches lost on Monday.

TURKS ABANDON COAST TOWNS.

PEBROGRAD, March 8.—The Russian Black Sea fleet continues to force the Turks to abandon coast towns. The Russian land force is now close to Elpa, thirty miles east of Trebizond.

AUSTRALIANS DISFRANCHISE ALL GERMAN ELECTORS.

SYDNEY, N.S.W., March 8.—The cabinet has decided to disfranchise all German-born electors for the duration of the war.

SWEDISH PROTEST AGAINST MINE LAYING.

STOCKHOLM, March 8.—The Swedish minister at Berlin has been instructed to protest against the German government against the laying of mines within four miles of the Swedish coast.

LONDON EDITORS DISAPPROVE OF CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

LONDON, March 8.—Winston Churchill's speech in the House of Commons yesterday is the subject of many columns of comment in the London morning papers. It arouses many diverging questions and opens up old wounds. The attitude of most of the editors is that of outspoken disapproval.

TURKISH DEMONSTRATIONS AT STRAITS FALLS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 8.—An official statement issued by the Turkish war office says demonstrations of enemy war vessels against the coast and Straits of the Dardanelles assisted by aeroplanes were rendered ineffective by our artillery. Two enemy cruisers were hit. The activity of our airmen prevented an enemy reconnaissance of the Dardanelles.

SHORTAGE OF COAL IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 8.—A serious shortage of coal for domestic purposes is being experienced in some sections of England owing primarily to the demands of the war and partially to severe weather having interfered with mining. The government is making every effort to improve the situation.

ITALIAN CHAMBER AGAINST SOCIALIST PROPOSITIONS.

ROME, via Paris, March 8.—The Chamber of Deputies upheld the ministry in its refusal of the demand by socialist groups for an investigation into the conduct of the war by a vote of 251 against 25.

LEUT. CODERE WILL SERVE A LIFE TERM.

LONDON, March 8.—The sentence of death imposed upon Lieut. Georges Codere of the Canadian Expeditionary Force has been commuted to life imprisonment.

On Feb. 5, Lieut. Codere was sentenced to death at Winchester on the charge of having murdered Sergeant Oszanne of his regiment.

FOUR GERMAN VESSELS SEIZED BY PORTUGUESE.

LISBON, March 8.—Four German steamers, which has taken refuge in the port of Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa, have been seized and the Portuguese flag hoisted on them. The crews of the vessels were interned.

TWENTY DREADNOUGHTS VENTURE FROM KIEL.

ROME, March 8, via London, March 5.—(Delayed in transmission).—Twenty German dreadnoughts have left Kiel, according to information received here today.

The foregoing despatch was held up by the British censor.

Another despatch filed in London at 3.25 o'clock this morning said that a fleet of 25 German warships was observed Monday cruising in the North Sea. This message was received in London from Vlieland, North Holland. It was added that the vessels approached from the northeast and later disappeared northward.

The latest summaries say Germany has only 17 dreadnoughts altogether (as well as 20 pre-dreadnoughts), but more may have been built secretly.

WILSON POLICY CARRIES IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—President Wilson has won his long and sensational fight to compel congress to acknowledge that it stands behind him in the submarine negotiations with Germany.

To the rallying cries of "Stand by President" and "He is Lansing and Wilson or Von Bernstorff and the Kaiser," a big democratic majority and nearly half of the republicans in the house threw their support over-whelmingly against the movement to warn Americans of the armed ships of the belligerents.

The celebrated McLemore resolution, around which anti-administration forces centered their fight—was voted in other words killed—just as was the Gore resolution in the senate last week.

On the first vote, which was a parliamentary proposition to prevent opening the McLemore resolution to amendment and unlimited debate, the administration forces carried the day, 256 to 190. On that 192 Democrats, 68 Republicans and one Progressive voted to support the administration. Twenty-one Democrats, 132 Republicans and one Independent and Representative London, the lone socialist of the house, voted against it.

This was the crucial vote of the fight, the one point on which administration leaders were uncertain. With victory in hand they moved on to the next proposition, the adoption of a special rule for four hours' discussion of the McLemore resolution, and again they carried the day.

GERMANS TRY TO CUT VERDUN-CHALONS LINE.

PARIS, March 8.—The immediate object of the German attacks to the northwest of Verdun, resulting in the occupation of the French advanced posts of the small village of Forges, appears to be to take the railway between Verdun and Chalons.

From the Cote de L'Ole to the Chalons-Verdun Railway there is eight miles of territory reported easy to defend. One great difficulty for the Germans to overcome, it is pointed out, would be the heights of the Bois Dourras, a Charny, on which the French have the aid of all the defensive organizations of the fortress. The Germans now hold in that territory the interior of the loop of the Meuse.

French military critics continue to search for a reason that could impel the German effort against so difficult a position as Verdun and its adjacent defensive lines on the right and left. The Temps concludes that the events in Turkey are sufficient explanation.

"Kerem, Mush, and Bittis," is says, "mark rapid steps in the Russian advance toward the road to Bagdad. The Russians have opened in Persia, Kermanshah, the door of Mesopotamia. Salaniki will soon be reinforced by the Serbian army and become a threat more and more formidable for the Bulgarians.

It was to counteract the impressions caused by events in the east and against discontent which is echoing in the Prussian Diet and the German Parliament that decided the Germans to begin their offensive against Verdun in this season, unfavorable for operations and transport."

THE FARMER AND PROHIBITION.

What will become of the farmers when the brewers and distillers no longer buy their grain and their grapes, their apples and their cherries? One would think that nobody likes grapes and apples and cherries unless they come in the form of booze. The fact is, the farmers' ability to supply the American market with produce is rapidly decreasing.

From 1899 to 1909 the acreage in the United States used for raising cereals—corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, etc., increased only 3.5 per cent. The amount actually produced increased only 1.7 per cent, but the population of our country during this period increased 31 per cent. That is, the population increased about twelve times as fast as the increase in the amount of cereals raised. Meanwhile the value of these cereals increased 78.8 per cent. The percentage of all agricultural exports during the past forty years has decreased 30 per cent, because of the increased demand in our country for the farmers' products.

In round numbers there are 10,000,000 farmers in the United States. The value of their annual products is about \$10,000,000,000, that is, about \$1,000 for each farmer. The liquor industry purchases each year about \$100,000,000 worth of produce from the farmers. Therefore the liquor industry consumes just about 1 per cent of all the farmers' produce, or about \$10 for each farmer in the United States.

The question is, what will the "poor farmer" do with his \$10 worth of produce which the liquor industry cannot purchase when it is put out of business? He may have to feed some of it to his horses or cows or pigs, but even in this case it would not be a loss to him. It is absolutely certain that he will not be compelled to throw away this \$10 worth of material which is troubling the liquor men so grievously. The chances are that somebody else besides the liquor men will find use for it.

There are over 20,000,000 families in the United States which would purchase the stuff now sold to the liquor men. According to a study made by the Department of Labor of the United States, the average workingman's family spends annually about \$500 for food. This would make a total of at least \$10,000,000,000 per year for the 20,000,000 families.

If the 20,000,000 families were each to increase their purchasing power 1 per cent of \$5 per year it would amount to exactly \$100,000,000—the sum of the liquor men's purchases from the farmer. But let us assume that the retail figure at which the average family would be compelled to buy is twice as high as the liquor men pay. This would increase the amount necessary to be purchased to \$10 per year for each family, or about 20 cents per week. There can be no doubt that, with the increased earning power and spending ability of the average workingman's family—due to the abolition of the liquor traffic—each average family will easily wish to spend at least 20 cents more per week for cherries, peaches, apples, berries and the various forms of grain, to say nothing about flour and bread and other materials which come primarily from the farm.

There is no need to worry about the farmers. Anyway, the farmers are voting out the saloon every time they get a chance, fully realizing the force of whatever there may be in the argument of the liquor men, so far as they are concerned.—Charles Stelzle in The Railway Conductor.

GERMANY'S HOPELESS FIGHT.

Some days ago The Post referred to an article in the Review of Reviews, written by a Frank H. Symonds, who took as his text: "Sea Power and the War." The writer views the war from the standpoint of a neutral critic and his conclusions are conclusive and impressive.

In referring to the spring campaign Mr. Symonds expects that Germany, if she still has men enough, "will make one more grand bid for a decision in the East and seek to resume a complete her march to Moscow and Petrograd." He looks for a great Anglo-French offensive in the West,

the success of which will depend upon how many men Germany is forced to take from her western line for her new offensive eastward. He does not believe the French and British will reach the German frontier this spring, or clear Belgium, though they may recapture that part of France now held by the Germans. He considers what the situation would be if Germany should be able by next autumn to better its way to Moscow or Petrograd. Assuming that such a German success is possible, saying for the sake of argument that Russia should be beaten to it in ten or twelve winter. Mr. Symonds asks if Germany would then be able to throw enough weight against the French and British lines on the western front to break them. It seems to him utterly improbable.

He marks the steady increase of the British army and what he regards as more important still, the stiffening of British national determination. He predicts that by next autumn Great Britain will have as many soldiers as Germany and that they will be physically far better men than Germany's whose best are dead or wounded already.

"The British," he says, "have waked up as never before since the war began. They have appreciated the value of their weapon of sea power, and they have now prepared to make good all that Admiral Mahan has written of the possibilities of sea power, and to repeat against Wilhelm II. the absolute success won against Napoleon."

The much-advertised drive at Beirut does not impress Mr. Symonds. This he says, is only another German dream; it is characteristic of the German genius that it battles for itself, one colossal dream after another, and the collapse of one only inspires greater faith in the next. He does not believe the Germans or Turks can take Egypt or, if they could, that the advantage gained would be worth the price. Sea power, in short, will win. It is only a matter of time.—Lindsay Post.

Wreck at Ernestown.

A small wreck occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway three miles east of Ernestown, about eighteen miles from Kingston, on Sunday morning at 3.30 o'clock, and as a result traffic was held up for one and one half hours. At this point there was a heavy freight going east when one of the trucks beneath the third car from the caboose broke down, derailing the car.

The wrecking crew from Belleville was immediately summoned. A new truck was brought along and placed under the derailed car, which was put back on the track, and the entire train proceeded to its destination. Some of the passenger trains were delayed.

It was the prompt act of the engineer in applying the brakes as soon as he felt the train jerk that prevented a more serious accident.

Another Minister Dons the Khaki.

Rev. J. R. Routledge, pastor of Colborne and Wicklow Baptist churches is another minister from Northumberland county who has donned the khaki. Mr. Routledge has signed up with the 139th. He will train with the platoon quartered at Colborne, and continue the work of his pastorate until the battalion leaves here.

Cobourg's Name.

Since Cobourg has become so agitated over the fact that their town bears a German name, we take the liberty of suggesting a few suitable names for a change. One of our citizens asked us the other day, how Cobourg would like our good name, but of course that is out of the question. Being known far and wide as a quiet, almost deceased hamlet, one of our readers suggests the name Snoozeville. Of course, that is getting away considerably from the original name "Cobourg" and as the citizens of the eastern town appear very partial to their present name, we would suggest the addition of one letter to that name and instead of "Cobourg" have it read "Coobourg" a place to pasture. Any other suggestions to help our eastern friends out of the difficulty will be gladly received.—Port Hope Guide.

The military canvas is about completed in East Belleville.

Lieut. Bombette of the 80th has been transferred to O. Co. Napoleon

BELLEVILLE NEARS THE CHAMPIONSHIP BY DEFEAT OF SARNIA 14 TO 5 LAST NIGHT

Final Game at Arena Was Fast Exhibition—Visitors Had Few Chances to Break Finer Hockey

Belleville intermediates will be the 1916 O. H. A. champions unless the greatest turnover, entirely unexpected happens, as a result of last night's tremendous victory over Sarnia at the arena. Fourteen to five was the score, which resembled somewhat that in the defeat handed out to Midland on Friday night last. Just what could happen to let Sarnia tear down this lead of nine goals at the Tunnel Town on Friday night cannot be seen or forecast. Unless all signs fail Sarnia will have great difficulty in keeping the outsiders level in the closing game of the finals. Such a victory as Belleville was in rather unique in the annals of finals, but with our scoring team nothing seems impossible. Twelve hundred people were at the arena for the last O.H.A. match of the season. This year has been rich in local exhibitions of Canada's winter sport but Belleville fans were tired of a good thing, especially when wins are scored at every game. They have never seen their intermediates defeated on home ice. This has been the greatest year in local hockey since Belleville linked up with the O.H.A. and the crowds have followed the numerous games pulled off here. Knutson was the life and soul.

Sarnia's defeat was due to their inferiority to Belleville. The Tunnel Town boys are speedy, fine stick-handlers and looked as if they would be good combiners if they had not been back checked too heavily. Individually they are very clever ice artists and hard workers. Their goal keeper was a marvel. For he had to hold back a series of aggressive attacks, many times without adequate support of his defense. Sarnia in abandoning on goal found difficulty in getting close enough to be effective as the Quinte watch dogs on defense went out to meet them and spoiled much close work.

Belleville's back checking was strenuous to the extreme. The whole forward line worked to a man with heroic endeavor to give no opportunity to the visiting seven to break away. Few opportunities were afforded the Sarnians for runs as compared with the opportunities Belleville took. The reason being that the home team would not let the strangers out.

The defense was peerless and were admirable in their support of the forwards. The goal keepers were at times inclined to rush at an assailant and this accounted for some goals. Conley made some of the most brilliant saves. Several times the net was left open by reason of Conley rushing to the attack. The reason Sarnia could not score in these moments was that Conley's attack was so aggressive and the defense so persistent that rarely did the westerners have a chance to shoot dead on goal. Pat, stick or Conley's body, all the same, served to knock off the flies from Belleville net.

The first period saw the home team not work in combination as usual. Sarnia threw its whole strength into the game on the start and the opinion of the crowd at the close was that with Sarnia leading three to two the local boys had met their match. The Sarnians were very aggressive. Checked back and skated well. Belleville made a number of miss passes in combination play. Two alleged goals were not allowed Belleville because the goal referee claimed that the rubber had not entered the net. From the face off the puck stayed in center ice for some minutes, forwards being well matched to all appearances. Finkle, Whelan and Mitchell in turn scored the puck and fired long shots without effect. Sarnia net guardians played several sensational turns in warding off the rubber. Bill Symons then rushed down the ice twice. Granary skidged and slick handled his way forward to the right of Belleville net but not scoring, the puck roamed to Sarnia net territory. Dore missed a beauty shot on Conley. Symons rushed down. "Big Jim" Granary the left defenceman was punished to penalty.

Whitby rushed, his work being duplicated by Symons, Mitchell and Whelan.

Sarnia's comeback under a terrible handicap in the third. The lead of 7 goals by Belleville seemed to depress them somewhat. Still they readjusted the line, throwing Granary into rover's place and Hillman to defence. Conley stopped with his body a number of shots. W. Symons warmed up and with one arm steered off the rushing forwards. Sarnia goal keeper was put off for falling to his knees. To stop W. Symons singled down the ice. Sarnia made some poor shooting. After seven minutes' play, Whelan doing the work. Thirty seconds later Finkle scored the fourteenth goal for Belleville. Sarnia strengthened a little. Conley was kept busy a few minutes. Finkle scored the fifth and last goal for Sarnia, as Conley ran out at him. Mitchell ran up and batted against the goal without result. The game was over Belleville 14, Sarnia 5.

Goal: Sarnia
Conley Left Defence
Whelan Right Defence
Whitby Rover
Finkle Centre
Whelan Right Wing
S. Symons Left Wing
Mitchell Referee—O. Bernhardt, of Bradford

shot. "Silent Bob" Finch, the fast skating left wing of Sarnia rushed and scored the opening goal. A scrapping between players sent them to penalty. Sarnia's lead was not long maintained for Sammy Symons rushed, passed to Mitchell. Whelan caught the tap and scored after about six minutes' play. Sam again got through right and passed to Whelan, who could not score as the goal keeper came out and shot away the puck. S. Symons came up again, but over-shot the puck. Finkle raised shots on Dwyer without avail. The two disputed shots occurred at this point. W. Symons and Mitchell together attacked Sarnia net but the puck flew up. Finkle tried to score but the goal picked off. Whitby and W. Symons combined but failed. Finkle was penalized. The second goal for Belleville was scored by W. Symons' rush. He worked with Mitchell. First the post was struck but then W. Symons knocked the puck in after 15 minutes' play. Sarnia missed the open net, but Dore scored a few seconds later, followed by B. Finch. Sarnia 3, Belleville 3.

The next twenty minutes saw a struggle. Sarnia could not score. Mitchell and Finkle appeared in an unsupported show of bravado. They tried a great shot. Mitchell skated on the right and aimed. The puck broke through to the defence Sam Symons commenced to roll the score snowball, scoring after three minutes of play. A center combination added another count. A minute later Sammp passed to Whelan who scored as the net guard ran out. W. Symons missed on goal. Whelan scored the 8th Belleville goal a short time later, on a break through. Sarnia was tied up in her own defence quarters, so aggressive were the local forwards. The western boys broke away after a time and combined but failed. Sam Symons seized a chance and scored in the open net after ten minutes' play. Four minutes later Finkle landed a shell into the nets. Bill Symons rushed and just missed scoring as he was skating too fast. Bill broke away and out around the Sarnians into the net and scored. The Sarnians got down to the rival ice a few times but broke on offences. The tenth goal and last of the second season was scored by Whelan. Dwyer lay in the net but could not keep out the puck. The game lagged a minute or so and the bell rang, Belleville 10; Sarnia 3.

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S. Symons Left Wing
Mitchell Referee—O. Bernhardt, of Bradford

Three weeks ago one of the walls of Castner Alkali Co.'s plant was wrecked by an explosion, and the police subsequently found several sticks of dynamite with fuses attached in other parts of the building. Both firms make bleaching powders. At that time it was said that the electrochemical companies were making a high explosive from by-products which was being sold in Europe, but this was subsequently denied by officials of the Castner Co.

The playing was a little loose at the first period but Bernhardt became more strict and the game went on without difficulty. The gate was \$530. Belleville leaves tomorrow for Sarnia to play on Friday night. They are confident of victory and on their return they will be welcomed as champions.

Cyril McBride Was Accidentally Wounded

Cyril McBride, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. McBride, Oshesnee street was accidentally wounded in France in a peculiar manner on Feb. 17th. Word yesterday reached his parents from Ottawa that he was at No. 2 Clearing Station suffering from a gunshot wound about the eye. This morning a letter was received from Cyril himself, stating the manner of his wounding. He was quartered upstairs in a convent and was writing at a table, when the rifle of the guard downstairs was discharged. The bullet penetrated the floor and struck Mr. McBride in the fleshy part of the brow over the right eye. Fortunately at the moment of the firing, his attention was arrested by some one entering the room and he had turned his head to see who it was, otherwise he would have received the shot in the back of the head. The guard was put under arrest. Cyril's eye is not injured. He states that he is well. He enlisted in June last in the Army Service Corps and arrived in France in January.

Robley Mills Outfit in Runaway

Last evening a horse attached to a car was stopped in the city by a runaway and taken to aivery. The runaway was started by Mr. E. J. Smith of Robley Mills. The horse was thrown out of the car while driving along the road. The horse had become unmanageable when the sleigh got into a ditch-hole. No damage was done.

PLANT AT FALLS BLOWN UP.

At Least Five Lives are Lost.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., March 8.—The Castner Electrolytic Alkali Co.'s large work situated on Buffalo Ave. and 24th street at Niagara Falls, N.Y., were completely blown up about 10.30 last night. The explosion completely demolished the plant, killing five men and injuring more than a dozen others so far as known. There were some seven or eight distinct explosions following closely one after the other. The plant manufactured caustic soda and material for high explosives, employing a number of men working day and night shifts. A general fire alarm was given calling out the entire city fire and police departments. An attempt was made some six weeks ago to blow up the same plant with dynamite, a part of which only went off, causing slight damage to a part of the building, but the work last evening was successful. It is feared twelve or more lives may be lost.

The greatest excitement prevails at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and is expected the state militia will be ordered out. The noise of the explosions was heard on the Canadian side and guards were rushed to the various bridges and other points to forestall any possible pro-German demonstration, the rumor having spread that the plant was blown up by pro-German agents. Three weeks ago one of the walls of Castner Alkali Co.'s plant was wrecked by an explosion, and the police subsequently found several sticks of dynamite with fuses attached in other parts of the building. Both firms make bleaching powders. At that time it was said that the electrochemical companies were making a high explosive from by-products which was being sold in Europe, but this was subsequently denied by officials of the Castner Co.