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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR | BRANTFORD, CANADA, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1916 | PROBS: Wednesday: Snow or sleet. | ONE CENT

Small Naval Engagement Off Belgian Coast
The Russians Enter the Old Capital of Persia
Muscovites Drive Back Austrians in Galicia

GERMAN PEOPLE HAVE SUDDENLY AWAKENED TO KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY MAY YET LOSE THE WAR

Perhaps That Knowledge Has Been a Tragic Secret in the Breast of the Government, but the Retirement of Von Tirpitz is Indication of Naval Impotence.

Apparent Failure of the Great Drive Against Verdun Causes Terrible Disappointment in the Fatherland.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 21.—(New York Times' cable)—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Rotterdam says:

"While a note of warning against founding too great expectations on the political developments in Germany is justified, there is no reason for not attaching very high importance to them.

"To assume a possible early collapse of the enemy's resistance would be foolish. To ignore the present symptoms would be going too far in the opposite extreme.

CHANGE FOR THE WORSE

"Private information as well as the obvious trend of events proves unmistakably that within the last few weeks, a great change for the worse has come over the situation politically and economically. In the former respect a crisis has arisen of a character more serious than anything since the war began. For six months, at least, it has been developing. Now it has come with the resignation of Von Tirpitz and that event has precipitated a ferment in which all the hidden elements of discord, discontent, and anxiety within the German empire have come to the surface.

CHANCELLOR'S VICTORY.

"Von Tirpitz's resignation means, in effect, the victory of Von Bethmann-Hollweg, and for a long time the imperial chancellor has been suspected among the Chauvinists of Germany. For, from the Prussian main point of view, at least, Von-Bethmann-Hollweg is a reasonable man and the extremists fear his influence in the direction of peace terms, as opposed to that of the militarists who would undoubtedly fight to the end. For them the total defeat of Germany would be no worse than the complete loss of place, power and influence that would follow a peace other than that which they foresaw when they plunged into the war.

REACTION HAS COME

"On the best authority I learn that Von Tirpitz would have disappeared months ago, but for the fear, on account of his popularity, of a reaction among the public. His resignation was postponed, but the reaction has come all the same.

GENERAL UNREST.

"The general public knows him as the creator of the German fleet, as the man who regarded that fleet as the only instrument which could break the power of England and so end the war in Germany's favor. Hence all classes are now in a state of unrest, the extremists viewing it as the defeat of their policy and the general public as the first indication of naval impotence.

"In brief, the German people have suddenly awakened to the knowledge (before perhaps a tragic secret in the breast of the government) that after all, they may lose the war.

VERDUN DRIVE FAILS.

"Accompaning the revelation of naval weakness, as it is regarded, is now the apparent failure of the great offensive against Verdun. As yet, there is no news of any concerted outbreak of terrible disappointment following the failure of those opera-

(Continued on Page 4)

NORTHCLIFFE SAYS ENGLAND DOES NOT KNOW

Horrors of War Only Faintly Realized in Island Country.

VIVID TALES OF WOUNDED MEN

"Conscientious Objectors" (Except Quakers) He Terms "Human Rats"

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 21.—(Cable to the New York Times)—The Daily Mail publishes an article, dated Bar-le-Duc from Lord Northcliffe, written previous to his despatch from before Verdun. The article was delayed on the way to Paris and has only just reached London. Describing his journey to the battle front, Lord Northcliffe writes:

"Several little happenings in this evening's journey to Bar-le-Duc stand out in mind and must be recorded. At home in England, except for the comparatively few people who have seen the victims of the Zeppelins and of the bombardment of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough, we know nothing of the real horrors of war. France has 400 miles of them every day—wrecked towns, in which women and children have been destroyed before the eyes of their neighbors.

AN AMERICAN'S VIEW

"One little incident to-day was a conversation with a young American who combined stretcher bearing with his work of ambulance driver. Evening was falling, and the wounded were being brought into the first dressing station. One splendid young Frenchman, a beautiful boy, lay in a stretcher with the lower part of his body blown to pieces. They were wiping his lips with a sponge and he was dying.

"Another great fellow whose steel hat lay on his chest smashed to pieces, was not only wounded but demented as well, a third, an older man, judging by the gray hair, had the lower part of his face shot away.

The scene was one that would have moved even the conscientious objector, if such human rats (the Soicety of Friends I except) have any feelings.

"The thin, hard faced young western American said: 'Some of our too-proud-to-fight people ought to see what is going on here.'

"I agree with him.

"'It seems to me,' he added, 'that this sort of thing ought to be known to the world. The comfortable, elegant people at home, looking at theatrical representations or the movies ought to have some of these facts handed out to them. It is unjust that the women and children in France and Belgium should have to face this kind of horror and that we English slackers should get off with rose-water newspaper reporting.

"Another portion of the despatch reads:

GERMAN PRISONERS.

"At one point on the road is a convoy of German prisoners on the way probably, to some railway station. We are surprised at the small number of French guards around them. They are in charge of their own sergeants, who shout to them as if they are dogs. There were 1,200 by actual count—dishevelled and muddy—some with light heads and wounds bound up, many dazed and utterly fatigued. They do not attract much attention from the French soldiers. Here and there they get a chaffing remark from a Frenchman, probably an Alsatian, who can speak German, but they seem to be much more interested in the Frenchman than the Frenchmen are in them.

"For some reason which I am un-

(Continued on Page 5)

Bulgarians Getting Ready on Roumanian Frontier

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Milan via Paris, March 21—A Bucharest despatch to The Secolo says that the Bulgarians are making extensive military preparations along the Roumanian frontier. A number of boats laden with mines have arrived at Giurgevo and it is believed that the Bulgarians intend to scatter the mines broadcast in the Danube. The Bulgarian newspapers the despatch adds are becoming daily more threatening in tone toward Roumania

Giurgevo is a Roumanian town on the Danube, forty miles southwest of Bucharest, of which it is the port.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON

TAXI-DRIVER: "But look 'ere, I can't take you all."

BLUEJACKET: "That'll be all right, matey; we can put the bags on top."—*London Opinion.*

RIOTING IN IRELAND.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

LONDON, Mar. 21.—Sinn Fein rioters fired on the police last night at Tullamore, King's County, Ireland. A police sergeant was wounded seriously and a county inspector and a district inspector received slight wounds.

GERMAN GAIN.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

BERLIN, March 21, via London, 3.35 p.m.—French positions northeast of Avocourt were captured by the Germans, who took 2,500 prisoners, the war office announced to-day.

DR. CLEGHORN DIED LAST NIGHT IN ENGLAND

Succumbed to Attack of Pneumonia—Had Distinguished Career.

Captain (Dr.) Allan Cleghorn died last night of pneumonia at Ramshott Military Hospital, England. His mother, Mrs. Cleghorn, 20 Albion St., cabled Mr. Hugh Mackenzie, General Manager of the British Bank, now in England, asking him to wire further particulars regarding her son, and today received the sad news of his death. Mr. Mackenzie is a cousin of the doctor.

Dr. Allan Cleghorn was the third son of the late Andrew Cleghorn of London, Ontario, and has had a most distinguished medical career. He graduated from Trinity College, Toronto and Edinburgh University, and then was ship's doctor on several vessels sailing to South America. He had written for many medical journals and magazines, and had been an instructor in Harvard University.

He leaves a wife and two children. His wife is the daughter of Col. Gartshore, manager of the McClary works, London.

Dr. Cleghorn was a man of most affable and likeable characteristics, and made friends of all with whom he came in contact. His passing will be a source of sincere regret to a large circle of friends. The deepest sympathy will be extended to the sorely bereaved family.

To the bereaved mother, Mrs. A. Cleghorn, Albion street, especially, the sympathy of Brantford friends will go out. Only four months ago she was called upon to mourn the loss of her eldest son.

VILLA TROOPS BEATEN.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

TORREON, Mex., March 21. — Government troops have routed a band of Villa followers at Trinidad, killing 18 men and capturing 16 saddle horses. They pursued the bandits as far as Jimulco.

RUSSIA PREPARING.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

COPENHAGEN, Mar. 21, via London.—A despatch to the Politiken from Berlin says that a great concentration of Russian troops is occurring in southern Poland. It is supposed that the Russians are preparing an attack on the line from Czartorysk to Kovel.

Japan In, Too.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 21—David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions, speaking in the House of Commons to-day, confirmed the report that Japan had been invited to take part in the Paris economic conference at which Walter Runciman, President of the British Board of Trade, will be the principal representative of Great Britain.

NAVAL FIGHT OFF THE COAST OF BELGIUM BETWEEN BRITISH AND GERMAN DESTROYERS YESTERDAY

Two of the German Vessels Hit and Four British Men Wounded—Berlin Makes a Statement That the British Fled—Shots Were Exchanged During the Running Fight.

Germans Again Make Violent Assaults on Verdun, and Gain a Slight Footing South East of Malancourt Wood.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

LONDON, March 21, 12.45. p.m.—An engagement occurred yesterday off the Belgian coast between four British and three German destroyers. Two of the German vessels were hit. Four men on the British boats were wounded. The official account of the action follows:

"Yesterday morning four British destroyers sighted three German destroyers off the Belgian coast. The German destroyers at once turned and ran for Zeebrugge, chased by our own destroyers.

"Shots were exchanged. During this short running fight two enemy boats were observed to have been hit. Our casualties were four men wounded."

Berlin, March 21, via London—The German admiralty account of the battle between British destroyers and German torpedo boats off the Belgian coast follows:

"On March 20 off the coast of Flanders a fight which was successful for us took place between three German torpedo boats and a division of five British destroyers. The enemy broke off the engagement after he had received several direct hits and he steamed out of sight at full speed. We suffered only unimportant damage."

BIG ATTACKS AGAIN.

Paris, March 21, noon—German forces again made violent attacks in the Verdun sector, west of the Meuse last night. The war office announced today that the Germans had gained no success except that they obtained a slight footing southeast of Malancourt wood. East of the Meuse the night was calm.

STILL DRIVING.

London, March 21—The Germans before Verdun are making a strong drive at the French left flank, well toward the border of the neighboring Argonne region and have gained ground south of Malancourt, some ten

(Continued on page 4)

PTE. GEO. SKINNER, 19TH BATT., DEAD FROM WOUNDS

Sad Announcement Appears in To-day's Casualty List.

FRANK JOLLY IS WOUNDED

Brantford Man Who Enlisted With 4th Artillery Brigade.

To-day's casualty list contained the very sad announcement of the death from wounds of Pte. Geo L. Skinner of the 19th Battalion. The late Pte. Skinner lived, before enlisting, with his sister Mrs. Newitt, on Graham Avenue, Farringdon. His sister lives

PTE. SKINNER.

now on Oxford street, and her husband enlisted recently with the 215th battalion.

Pte. Skinner worked for some years in Brantford before joining the forces. He was an Englishman. He was a single man when he left here, but was married in England before going to the front. He had served with the Dufferin Rifles.

GUNNER JOLLY

To-day's list contained the following:

"Wounded, Frank Jolly, Scotland, 4th Artillery Brigade"

This refers to Gunner Frank Jolly, a Scotchman who, prior to enlistment lived at 26 1-2 West street. He worked for the city in the Streets Department. His wife has returned to Scotland, so he leaves no relatives here.

When last heard of Jolly, along with two Brantford men, Wm. Bremner and Thomas Curry, were working the same gun in the 4th Artillery Brigade.

Prohibition For Quebec?

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Montreal, March 21—A request will be made to Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, to take a referendum on provincial prohibition. This was decided this morning at the meeting of the Dominion Alliance in annual session here at Calvary Congregational church. The anti-Alcoholic League, the French-Canadian Temperance organization in Quebec, has promised to co-operate with the Alliance in its representations to the provincial premier and in the campaign which will be waged should the request be granted.

Verdun the Turning Point; Huns Now on the Defensive

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, March 21 (Cable to the New York Times)—"The offensive before Verdun is crumbling. The check is an immense disaster to Germany. It is the Gettysburg of the great war. Henceforth Germany will be on the defensive. Verdun marks the turning point."

So a high official of the War Office expressed the latest inside opinion of the great battle. Confidence here is now becoming a firm belief that France has won a victory which is likely to shorten the war considerably. The press attaches significance to the processively lowered morale of the German prisoners. The first prisoners did not conceal their expectation that the fortress would be captured. The latest admit they have lost all hope.

Ispahan, the Old Capital of Persia, Taken by Russians

Russian Forces Further to the South Than Had Been Thought—Also They Are Meeting With Success in Galicia.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 21.—A Reuter despatch from Teheran says that Russian forces entered Ispahan, the old capital of Persia on March 19.

Ispahan is one of the important cities of Persia, with a population of some 80,000. It is 218 miles southeast of Teheran.

The foregoing despatch indicates a Russian movement further to the south than has been reported hitherto. Russian forces, after the capture of Hamadan, advanced southwest towards Kermanshah, in the direction of the Turkish frontier. The army now reported at Ispahan, evidently is striking southward from the main Russian forces in the direction of the Persian Gulf.

IN GALICIA

The Russians have won an important success in southeastern Galicia, where Vienna admits that the Austrian bridgehead at Uscieczko, on the Dniester, about 40 miles northwest of Czernowitz, has been evacuated under the Russian pressure. The Austrian forces there was trapped, but cut its way through Uscieczko, which the Russians held, and joined other Austrian forces near Vale Czczyky, further south of the Dniester.

ITALIANS ATTACKING

The Italians have resumed heavy attacks at the Tolmino bridgehead, Vienna reporting the repulse of assaults against Mrzlivrh and Krn, with losses to the Italians of machine guns and a number of men taken prisoner. The Austrians themselves captured a position at Romson and made additional captures there. At the Gorizia bridgehead, where there has been intense artillery fire, the Austrians ejected the Italians from a trench.