

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

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TWO CENTS

FRENCH TOOK PRISONERS AND TWO MACHINE GUNS ON TWO FRONTS

CZERNIN AIMED TO DETACH UNITED STATES FROM ALLIES

Heavy Artillery Fighting on Front North of Montdidier

FRENCH TOOK PRISONERS AND TWO MACHINE GUNS IN RAIDS ON TWO FRONTS

Little Activity Reported From British Battle Area With Exception of Artillery Fire—French Civilians Sent Into Slavery in Russia.

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, April 4.—Heavy artillery fighting occurred last night on the front north of Montdidier, the war office announces. In raids in Champagne and on the Verdun front the French took prisoners, and also captured two machine guns. The statement follows:

"The artillery fighting became very violent during the night in the region north of Montdidier.

"Northwest of Rheims, in the Champagne and on the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) French troops penetrated German trenches at several points, bringing back thirty prisoners and two machine guns. German raids east of Rheims, in Avocourt Wood and north of St. Die were without success. There is nothing to report elsewhere.

BRITISH OFFICIAL

London, April 4.—There was little activity in the battle area last night, with the exception of hostile artillery fire at various points, the war office announced today. A few prisoners were taken by British parties.

The text of the statement reads:

"During the night a German machine gun post in the neighborhood of Hebuterne was rushed by our troops and the machine gun captured. A few prisoners were brought in on other parts of the battle front.

"Beyond hostile artillery activity at different points on the battle front and also in the Menin road and Passchendaele sectors there is nothing further to report."

CIVILIANS DEPORTED

Paris, April 4.—One thousand French civilians from the occupied districts of northern France have been sent to Russia by the Germans and are being forced to perform hard labor, according to information obtained by Baron Cochin, a former cabinet member. These civilians 400 of whom are women, are among those whom Germany offered to exchange for Alsations who have escaped to France. They were sent to Russia after the rejection of proposal, which Germany attempted to place before the French Government through the Holy See and Baron Cochin.

Germany's peace drive through Picardy enters upon its third week with both forces preparing for the resumption of heavy fighting. The weather has interfered somewhat, but the Germans have not renewed their heavy attacks and the fighting front has remained virtually unchanged since Monday.

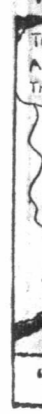
North of the Somme the British have improved their positions in small attacks while on the important sector south of the river, there has been no infantry action. In the region north of Montdidier, which has been the scene of much heavy fighting, the artillery bombardment has been violent, but the enemy has made no attempt to attack.

AWAIT NEXT MOVE.

While there is little doubt that the Germans must attack again and will have to sustain greater losses in further efforts against the Allied line much interest centres in the plans of General Foch. The attacks by the British between Albert and Arras and by the French between Montdidier and Noyon apparently were for the purpose of improving local positions. Silence is being maintained by both sides as to the next act in the titanic.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, April 4.—The low weather which was over the middle states yesterday has passed to the Atlantic and the western high now covers the northwestern states and Great Lakes. The weather is fine throughout the Dominion. Moderate winds. Fine to-day and on Friday becoming milder.



RUSSIA TO PUT NATION UNDER ARMS

First Step Will Be Formation of Organized Army of 1,500,000

HIGH CLASS SOLDIERS

Will be Inferior Neither to German Forces Nor to Japanese

GERMANS AT HANGO

Transports Bring Troops to the Southern Coast of Finland

(By The Associated Press.) Moscow, Tuesday, April 2.—Russia will form an army of 1,500,000 men not inferior in power and equipment to the Germans and Japanese. M. Podvoisky, assistant secretary of war, declared today at a conference in Moscow of the various military department heads, that he would be the first step in arming the whole Russian nation. He said the army organization was impossible without the old officers and outlined a measure to enlist the services of all generals and publish their names, giving to citizens the right to state objections to anyone. M. Podvoisky reported progress in enlistments for the Red Army, which was satisfactory in some places. Since the beginning of the army organization two weeks ago eleven thousand have enlisted in Moscow and been properly equipped. Nishnigord, Voronezh, Tul, Kaluga, Kostroma, Tchernigov, Kharkov and many other cities report considerable numbers of recruits, many of whom are trained. The great handicap, he said, was lack of instructors.

Transports at Hango.

(By The Associated Press.) Petrograd, Wednesday, April 3.—Thirty German transports with troops have arrived at Hango, on the southern coast of Finland, south of Helsinki.

The Bolshevik commissary for Finnish affairs reports that M. D'Estree, the Belgian minister to Russia, was wounded by White Guards or Government troops, while attempting to pass into the rebel lines.

A Berlin official statement received in Amsterdam Wednesday, announced that German troops had landed at Hango to give help in Finland. The Germans will assist.

(Continued from page one)

CZERNIN'S SPEECH WAS CALCULATED TO DRAW U.S. AWAY FROM THE ALLIES

Austrian Foreign Minister Spoke Particularly to American President, in London View—Italy Pledges Resistance to the Last.

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, April 4.—Count Czernin, in spite of the marked change toward the bellicose in his latest speech, still speaks in softer accents than ever have come from Berlin. The morning newspapers say in their comment on the Austro-Hungarian minister's address to the Vienna municipal council.

"The Daily Mail" characterizes the speech as "Austrian bluff" and says that Count Czernin's assertion that the blockade of Germany is broken in the East, will not fill the hungry stomachs of Germans and Austrians. It adds that the issue must be decided by iron and blood in the battle that is now being pitched. The Daily Telegraph thinks that coming at the moment it does, the speech will command but a small share of the attention which it would have received three weeks ago. It says that it is addressed particularly to the United States, and that it will doubtless soon receive notice from Eastern statesmen and the United States. The speech, the Morning Post says, may be regarded as the customary peace offensive ensuing upon the temporary defeat of the war offensive of the Central Powers. It declares that it is addressed particularly to the President of the United States and seems to be designed to impress President Wilson with the idea that the recent attack was forced upon the Central Powers by the refusal of the Allies to discuss terms of peace. The Post concludes: "Count Czernin apparently is making another attempt to detach the United States from the Allies, possibly with a view of saving Bulgaria and Turkey from a declaration of war by America. Judging by reports received of the Austrian minister's overtures we cannot but regard them as rather clumsily conceived."

The Austrian foreign minister, says The Daily News, discriminated between the specific character of his own imperial master and of another imperial master, "and in so doing has touched the real root of this devastating struggle." The paper urges Count Czernin to detach the United States from the Allies, possibly with a view of saving Bulgaria and Turkey from a declaration of war by America. Judging by reports received of the Austrian minister's overtures we cannot but regard them as rather clumsily conceived.

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(Continued from page one)

DEEDS OF HEROISM DONE BY RED CROSS WORKERS AT FRONT

Women Workers Were Last Civilians to Leave Villequier, Just Before French Troops; Reports of Bravery in Face of Danger Come in as Excitement of First Few Days of German Offensive Dies Down.

(By Courier Leased Wire.) Paris, April 4.—As the excitement incident to the first few days of the German offensive dies down, reports come in of the bravery in face of danger of various workers in the Red Cross.

Women workers of the Red Cross who were aiding civilians in reconstruction and relief work at Villequier, near the River Somme, left their posts just two hours before the German arrived in the town. With their automobiles they aided in removing the civilians and picking up many wounded along the roads. The women were the last civilians to leave the town just preceding the French troops.

Another Red Cross unit stationed in a hospital just back of the lines was ordered to evacuate in two hours. They left at two o'clock in the morning and were chased for miles by a German aviator before reaching a point of safety.

DRAFT GOES EAST FROM C.O.R. HERE

This afternoon a draft of men about forty in all, of the 2nd Depot Battalion, and C.O.R., left on the 1:30 train for "points east" under the command of Lieut. George Sweet. The draft paraded at 4 o'clock and at 1:30 proceeded to the G. T. R. depot, where speeches from the officers and music by the regimental brass band was attentively listened to. One is also being sent East from the Osawa company of the regiment.

(troops and first aid stations for sick and wounded) and wounded stragglers. The town was under continuous shells. The unit then took over complete charge of the operation ward in the hospital, the nurses working in 12-hour shifts in attending to a dozen wounded soldiers who were injured too seriously to be carried farther back. The women also acted as stretcher-bearers throughout the operation. The men had not had anything to eat for many hours, sleeping on their horses or along the roadside under all kinds of weather conditions, including a heavy rain.

Heavy artillery near the hospital fired over it and German aviators flew over it at night, attempting to locate the battery and the hospital was in constant danger. Sleep was impossible for three days.

(Continued on page two)

KIEV RADA OFFERS TO MAKE PEACE

Proposal Made to Bolshevik Government by Head Body of Ukraine

NEGOTIATIONS NEAR

Rada is willing to Make Concessions and Modify Demands

(By The Associated Press.)

Moscow, Tuesday, April 2.—Peace has been proposed to the Bolshevik Government by the Ukrainian Rada of Kiev, the non-Bolshevik organization, according to rumors current here. Although not confirming the report, a member of the Russian Government points out that the chances for peace are greater since Germany's reply regarding territory in the Ukraine offers ground for negotiations and an understanding on the territorial question.

It seems that the Rada is willing to make concessions and to modify its original demands which included part of the government of Kurak and Voronezh. The peace question is complicated by the existence of a Bolshevik Ukrainian Rada which at present is at Tazanog, it having fled from Kiev. The foreign minister of this government arrived recently in Moscow in connection with the impending negotiations.

BOLSHEVIK FORCES IN DANGER

London, April 4.—Since the occupation by the Germans of Kharkov, 70 miles southwest of Kiev, the position of the Bolshevik detachments opposing them has become more serious. Reuters' Moscow correspondent cables. The Germans are conducting an offensive against Kharkov from Poltava and Voronezh, employing large detachments which already have occupied Gloutlagry, 40 miles from Kharkov. The correspondent also says the Germans have seized at Poltava 54 tons of grain, which they are exporting to Germany.

RESIGNATION OF W.F. O'CONNOR IS TENDERED

High Cost of Living Commissioner for Canada has Quit Office.

HOLDS OTHER POSTS

(By Courier Leased Wire.)

Ottawa, April 4.—W. F. O'Connor has resigned as cost of living commissioner to the minister of labor. When questioned this morning by a representative of the Canadian Press, Limited, Mr. O'Connor declined to state any reason for his resignation. Mr. O'Connor added that the resignation was entirely voluntary on his part.

Mr. O'Connor still holds his position as counsel to the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor-General. But whether he intends to retain it is not known.

The cause of Mr. O'Connor's resignation is causing much speculation here and it is fully expected that the matter will be brought up in parliament. It is probable, it is said, that other resignations in the cost of living branch will follow.

As the cost of living commissioner, Mr. O'Connor's name has been much before the public. A report by Mr. O'Connor on the operations and profits of cold storage companies led to the appointment of the Henderson Commission, and subsequent passage of an order-in-council halting the profits of such companies. A later special report on egg holdings aroused much comment throughout the Dominion.

(Continued on page two)

REVOLUTION IN SOUTH COSTA RICA

Natives of Panama Led by Joerg Volio, in Attacks on Towns

(By Courier Leased Wire.) Nangua, Nicaragua, April 3.—A revolution has broken out in southern Costa Rica. Joerg Volio has invaded Costa Rican territory from Panama and a force under him is attacking Villa Concepcion Perez, a town on the frontier. The Costa Rican Government believes that many of the invaders are natives of Panama.

TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN QUEBEC

Debate in Commons on This Subject Looked for This Afternoon

COL. CURRIE ACTIVE

(By Courier Leased Wire.)

Ottawa, April 4.—Unless all the signs fall there will be a debate in the Commons this afternoon on the Quebec situation and incidentally the Military Service Act. While the majority of the members on both sides of the House are disposed to think that a discussion in parliament at the session is desirable, it is understood that Col. J. A. Currie, North Shore, is determined to move the adjournment of the House "to discuss a matter of urgent public importance."

It is practically certain that Col. Currie will secure the support of twenty members of the House, which is necessary to give him the right to speak to his motion.

Should he secure the necessary support it will be open to other members of the House to follow and the motion to adjourn the House to take advantage of the opportunity presented to state their views.

That a considerable group of Ontario members will do so is certain and several representatives of weaker constituencies will also be heard from. In the event of a full dress debate Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier will speak.

There is some curiosity as to whether the motion to adjourn the House will receive any support from the opposition.

Members from Quebec, it is understood, would prefer to have the debate occur at a later date. It is said that they are awaiting certain statements from Quebec which may not be available this afternoon.

In regard to the enforcement of the Military Service Act it is understood that the government supporters are disposed to be well satisfied with the statement made in caucus yesterday by Sir Robert Borden.

The statement included figures indicating that when applications for exemptions are disposed of, the number of men secured under the Military Service Act will be very much larger than shown in the last official statement issued by the government.

CITY TONIGHT TO HONOR ITS RETURNED MEN

All in Readiness for Banquet To Great War Veterans

The general committee in charge of the banquet to the returned soldiers of the city, met this morning and revised the plans already formulated, so that the program will be carried out tonight as outlined. Mayor MacBride has communicated with the Military Hospitals Commission, and expects a number of decorated men undergoing treatment at Toronto home for the occasion. Officers are being requested to provide automobiles for those who cannot walk.

The parade will start from the headquarters of the Great War Veterans on Dalhousie St. at 4:30, and the supper will be served an hour later, in the Masonic Hall.

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