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PROBS— Fresh winds, mostly northwest and west; fair and cold.

THURSDAY MORNING MARCH 9 1916

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,902

FRENCH MAKE GAIN NORTHWEST OF VERDUN

Senate Reading Room
11apr16—1461

MAJORITY VOTE WILL DECIDE LIQUOR QUESTION, SAYS HEARST

Russians Capture Turkish Town of Riza, Near Trebizond

TROOPS BROKE UP PARADE OF ANTI-BOOZERS

Encouraged by Civilians, They Attacked Processionists and Destroyed Banner.

MILITARY CALLED OUT

Ugly Scene on University Avenue—Simple Vote Decides the Issue.

"I will make most rigid enquiries to ascertain if soldiers took part in the disturbance," said Gen. Logie, divisional commandant, "and if so, the offenders will be punished and severely dealt with."

Magna Charta and all it stands for was recalled to the minds of many yesterday by the monumental document and phenomonal roll of signatures which were placed at the feet of the premier of Ontario by representatives of the people from every part of the province.

"This is the largest signed petition in the history of the world," was the statement of Judge Clement, chairman of the citizens' committee of one hundred," as he concluded his thanks to the premier and the members of the cabinet for the satisfactory reception given their presentation.

Preparation for the event had been apparent on the streets for many hours previously. By noon motor cars had lined up along Bloor street, Avenue road and the streets adjacent to the starting point, corner College and Yonge, until they looked like a veritable border of cars swathed in patriotic coloring.

Snow, storm and stress were no deterrents to the thousands who turned out as spectators, nor to the other thousands who massed from the centre and south, from the east, north and west to take part in the temperance line.

From the steps of the parliament buildings downward as far as the eye could reach, University avenue presented a seemingly unbroken mass of humanity, and as the first ranks of the paraders, heralded by notes of the Highlanders' Band, led by the martial figure of Bandmaster Slater, came in sight, the wind had reached almost the force of a blizzard, and the snow blew across the faces of the waiting crowds with tantalizing fierceness.

Calculations as to the number in line vary. A feature of the gathering, which stretched out as far as the eye could view on every side, was the variety of age and social position, for manhood's prime, and old graybeards were stolidly to the fore, backed up

(Continued on Page 7, Column 4)

HOTELMEN TO TRIAL ON CONSPIRACY CHARGE

Four Were Formally Committed at Regina—Released on Bail.

REGINA, Sask., March 8.—Clayton Peterson, Charles E. Wilson and Grant Waddell of Regina, and James Dallas, Moose Jaw, all hotelmen, were today committed for trial, charged with "conspiracy to bribe," in connection with the alleged plot to bribe members of the legislature. The charge against James Mead, Moose Jaw, was dismissed. The principal evidence on behalf of the crown was given by Frank Brunner. Peterson was granted bail at $4000, and the other three accused at $2000.

GREAT DEMAND FOR MEN ON GREAT LAKES

Huge Volume of Ore, Coal and Grain to Be Transported.

CLEVELAND, March 8.—The demand for men on the great lakes is tremendous, according to a statement issued here today by lake shipping interests. More tonnage has been lined up than ever before, and it is now estimated that 55,000,000 tons of ore will be moved, the statement says. Added to this will be 30,000,000 tons of coal and about 14,000,000 bushels of grain.

BALFOUR TURNS HIS GUNS UPON COL. CHURCHILL

Latter Accused of Causing Needless Misgivings by False Charges.

CONTROVERSY BITTER

Churchill Repeats That He is Not Satisfied With Naval Situation.

LONDON, March 8, 9.15 p.m.—Bitterness marked the reply of A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, in the house of commons today to Col. Winston Spencer Churchill's attack on the naval administration, which the first lord said was unfortunate both in form and substance and likely to arouse misgivings among the people. While deprecating the controversy, Mr. Balfour declared:

"I absolutely deny Col. Churchill's charges."

He then threw the blame on Col. Churchill for depleting the ranks of skilled shipwrights by allowing them to join the army during Churchill's tenure of office, thus hindering the ship-building plans, which, however, the government had succeeded in keeping abreast with the needs.

"If the fleets at the command of this country at this moment are insufficient

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

FRENCH RETAKE CROW WOOD IN VERDUN BATTLE

Counter-Attacks Cleared Germans Out of Positions Lately Captured.

FOE RETAKES REDOUBT

Enemy Onset With Heavy Effectives Against Bethincourt Defeated.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, March 8.—Fighting today on the front from Bethincourt to the western bank of the Meuse was favorable to the French, whose counter attacks drove the Germans out of Crow wood and whose defence of Bethincourt successfully resisted a German attack in great force in men and guns. East of the Meuse the Germans again occupied the Hardaumont redoubt, which the French occupied yesterday, while the bombardment grew quite violent in the region of Douaumont.

The foregoing are the leading features in a battle which is being fought on a front of ten or twelve miles and which is expected to reach its climax by Friday. On the whole the French showed an increase of strength, and Paris opinion has no doubt of the outcome.

Spirited artillery actions proceeded all day in the Woevre district, where the French batteries, posted on the Meuse Hills and behind them, have been industriously shelling the German guns which have been brought up to the front.

Little New From Foe.

The German statement told little new beyond that the Germans in their thrust along the western bank of the Meuse had taken Regneville. They also reported that Forges village, the heights of Rabon and the Cumieres woods were in their hands and mentioned that the French were counter-attacking them, coupled with the statement that these counter attacks were repulsed with "sanguinary" losses. The Germans also said that a great number of the occupants of the captured positions perished and that they took 58 officers and 2277 men prisoners. They say that they also captured ten guns and much other war material. The French, they say, were driven out of the last houses of Fresnes, in the Woevre, which was conceded by the French last night. The number of prisoners taken there, the Germans say, was increased to 11 officers and 700 men. They also assert that they captured a few machine guns. Bombs were dropped on villages west of Verdun, the Germans assert.

On Both Sides of Brook.

The positions round Forges, the

(Continued on Page 5, Column 2)

MEIGHEN IN COMMAND OF BRAMSHOTT TROOPS

Highland Regiment He Raised at Montreal is Now Fully Organized.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, March 8.—It is understood that Col. F. S. Meighen has been appointed brigadier-general in command of the Canadian troops at Bramshott, England. The Highland Regiment which he raised at Montreal is now fully organized and the commanding officer will be appointed at an early date to succeed him.

HEAVY LOSS INFLICTED ON ARABS BY BRITISH

LONDON, March 8.—A small British punitive column attacked a concentation of Arabs four miles north of Nasiriyeh on the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia, on Feb. 22, dispersing them with heavy losses, Under War Secretary Tennant announced this afternoon. The British suffered no casualties.

DINEEN'S FUR-LINED COATS.

An unusually fine assortment of men's fur and fur-lined coats are included in our fur sale for the month of March, at greatly reduced prices. There is particular value in our fur-lined coats, selected muskrat lining, with imported beaver cloth shells and Persian lamb, otter and beaver collars. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, corner Temperance street.

GOING TO KINGSTON FOR LIFE

CHARLES RESPA

The convicted Windsor dynamiter, being taken from Court Street Police Station yesterday morning. He is in charge of Inspectors Miller and Boyd of the provincial police, and Provincial Constable J. H. Smith of Walkerville.

U. S. BLUEJACKETS HAVE FIGHTS WITH GERMANS

Ill-Feeling Shown at Constantinople Leads to Preventive Measures.

LONDON, March 8.—A Reuter despatch from Athens says:

"Private advices from Constantinople report several brawls between Germans and bluejackets of the American stationaire (guardship). The latter are now only rarely permitted to land on condition that they do not enter places of amusement frequented by Germans.

"Great animosity is said to exist in Constantinople against the Germans, who, according to travelers, continue to hold their own by main force. The Turkish soldier, however, keeps on good terms with his German comrades."

GERMANY MAY EXPEL PORTUGUESE MINISTER

Action to Be Taken Unless Seized Ships Are Returned, Says Rumor.

LONDON, March 8.—Unless the German ships seized by Portugal are released, the Portuguese minister to Germany will receive his passports Saturday at noon, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co., from Zurich, which gives a report from Frankfort as the basis for the statement.

The Munich Nachrichten, the despatch adds, says that no ultimatum has yet been presented to Portugal.

BRITISH ANTI-LIQUOR POLICY TOO LENIENT?

Churches Call for More Effective Measures to Curb Traffic.

BRADFORD, Eng., March 8.—The National Free Churches Council today passed a resolution calling on the government to adopt a thorogoing policy on temperance questions and to take more effective measures to prevent the squandering of the nation's resources on drink.

ZEPPELIN WAS DAMAGED.

LONDON, March 8.—Messages received here from newspaper correspondents in Kent assert that one of the Zeppelins that took part in Sunday's raid was damaged by anti-aircraft guns.

HUN HYPOCRISY AGAIN TO FORE IN FRESH NOTE

Will Stop Piratical Methods "if Britain and Allies Regard Laws."

U.S. TO MOVE SLOWLY

"New Policy" of Central European Powers to Be Considered Carefully.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Germany today made a further explanation to the United States of the position it has taken in regard to armed merchant vessels of the entente allies.

Count Von Bernstorff handed Secretary Lansing a formal memorandum, which, after reviewing the events leading up to Germany's recent decision to treat armed merchant ships as auxiliary cruisers, contended that existing international law does not regulate the use of submarines, and indicated a willingness to conduct undersea warfare in accordance with the law prevailing at the outbreak of the war providing Great Britain and her allies would regard the same laws.

Washington Not in Hurry.

The memorandum was submitted to President Wilson shortly after its receipt. It will be considered, together with other documents from the German Government, in determining what shall be the next step of the United States in the submarine negotiations. There was every indication that the administration would be in no hurry to announce a stand as to the new policy of the central European powers or to pass finally upon Germany's latest

(Continued on Page 5, Column 3)

SPIES CANNOT OBTAIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

Strict Regulations Made by Government of U. S. Have Good Effect.

LONDON, March 8.—The stringent regulations put into effect by the American Government to prevent the issue o' fraudulent passports has been so effective that the use of American passports by spies in England has practically ceased. At the present moment not a single person held in England for espionage is the possessor of an American passport.

Not only has it become extremely difficult for an American without legitimate business to secure a passport, but such close track is kept of those already issued that spies are unlikely to take the risk of attempting to enter England with a forged American passport.

GERMAN PRISONERS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 8.—Under Secretary of War Tennant stated in parliament today that there are at present 13,821 German military prisoners in England. The aliens interned total 32,181.

RIZA OCCUPIED IN CZAR'S DRIVE ON TREBIZOND

Town, Thirty-Five Miles East of Black Sea Port, Captured by Russians.

CRUISERS SHELL CITY

Muscovite Warcraft Continue Active Operations and the Turks Readily Surrender.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, March 8.—The Town of Riza, on the Black Sea, 35 miles east of Trebizond, has been captured by the Russian troops, who landed at Alina the other day and pushed onwards after the retreating Turks, who fled towards Trebizond, abandoning several guns. The Russians are closely pressing the retreating Turks, taking stragglers prisoner, and it is confidently believed here that Trebizond will be attacked before the end of the week.

The activity of Russian torpedo boats in the Black Sea against coast towns east of Trebizond, is continuing with success. According to recent despatches from Sebastopol, the Turkish coast defences are crumbling up before the intensity of the Russian bombardment.

Turks Surrender.

There is apparently a growing disposition on the part of the Turks along the Anatolian shore to surrender without fighting. In many cases, according to reports received here, the Turkish population sent out emissaries in boats to the Russian fleet, offering submission to Russia. Russian cruisers continue to bombard Trebizond.

Rumors of Turkey's willingness to enter into peace negotiations with Russia are increasingly current here, but there is no official confirmation that Turkey has, up to the present, made actual overtures to the Russian Government.

In Persia the Russians are also pushing onwards in all directions at a rapid rate, their latest achievement being the occupation of Senneh, a town about 35 miles north of Kermanshah.

MANY GERMAN MINES ALONG ENGLISH COAST

Sub Busy Between Mouth of the Thames and Galloper Lightship.

LONDON, March 8.—The blockade of England by mines, reported as threatened by Germany, is already in existence along the trade route to Holland, according to naval circles here. German submarines are reported to have been busy recently laying anchored mines between the mouth of the Thames and the Galloper Lightship. It is in this neighborhood that many disasters have occurred during the last month.

Passenger ships, until recently, have been quite successful in dodging floating mines by making their voyages in daylight, but no method is known of guarding against submerged anchored mines.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THE fury of the German onset against the French positions in the lines west of the Meuse and northwest of Verdun about spent itself yesterday when strong foe attacks, carried out with a large striking force, were repulsed before Bethincourt, and Crow Wood was retaken by the French. The enemy had penetrated this wood two days ago, and he was evidently engaged with the defenders of the positions lying south of it, when, the momentum of his advance having shown signs of dying out, the French seized the opportunity for the throwing in of their reserves, who overwhelmed the exhausted and decimated German lines. On the front extending from the eastern bank of the Meuse, the Germans again succeeded in getting possession of the small Hardaumont redoubt, which they took, and from which they were driven a few days ago. The occupation of this defensive work is merely an incident in the ebb and flow of the battle. The Germans last night were reported to be heavily shelling Douaumont again, probably in preparation for another attempted assault on this strong position.

The third battle of Verdun, which has been raging on the western bank of the Meuse, appears to be nearing, if it has not already passed, its climax, for the regaining of Crow Wood by the French counter-attack signifies that the Tricolor is again stronger in the fighting line at this position of the front. The counter-attack in a defensive scheme of tactics usually takes place at the last stage of an engagement. But the Germans may bring up fresh troops to this front to bid again for success, so it would be over-rash to regard the fighting here as already

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2).

GERMAN FLEET VENTURED OUT BUT SCUTTLED BACK TO BASE

At Least Fifty Warships With Submarines, Trawlers and Zeppelins Were Seen in North Sea Off Northern Coast of Holland.

LONDON, March 8.—A German fleet, consisting of at least fifty big warships, followed by a large, gray painted armed trawler fleet, two big Zeppelins, and numerous submarines, was sighted Monday afternoon in the North Sea off Terschelling Island, North Holland, according to the report of a steam trawler which has arrived at Ymuiden, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent. The fleet was proceeding westward.

The correspondent adds that Monday morning five large cruisers of unknown nationality passed Ymuiden at full speed.

FLEET RETURNED TO BASE.

LONDON, Thursday, March 9.—The German fleet returned to its base this morning, says Reuter's Ymuiden correspondent, telegraphing Wednesday.

"A Dutch trawler which was searched by one of the warships," the correspondent adds, "reports that many of the vessels had a peculiar appearance. Those carrying several funnels had a sternmost funnel painted yellow or covered with yellow cloth, while the other funnels were gray."