

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

BRANTFORD, CANADA, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1916

PROBS: Friday: Fair and decidedly cold.

ONE CENT

Old Y. M. C. A. For Headquarters Raidering Cruising Moewe Reported Captured Vivid Story is Given of Great Verdun Fight

VERDUN CIVILIAN TELLS HOW VERDUN WAS SHELLED; HAS CONFIDENCE IN OUTCOME

What Matter if Windows are Broken, They Can Easily be Repaired—Ger- man Losses Estimated at Nearly 130,000 Casualties.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Paris, Feb. 29.—8.55 p.m.—(Delayed)—M. Couten, president of the chamber of commerce of Verdun, has arrived in Paris and says that the order to leave the city was given to the civilian population on Friday last.

"We were heavily shelled at the time," says M. Couten, "and yet the evacuation took place without disorder, as we had been awaiting the order to leave and had got together our essential baggage. Most of us would rather have remained, feeling secure in the underground bomb-proofs, and during the hurricane of fire there were happily only a few victims, but the presence of civilians interfered with the movements of the troops. The people left in cheerful humor and without complaint, feeling certain that they would soon return."

CONFIDENCE IS ABSOLUTE.

With regard to the military operations M. Couten said:

"At the time we left we were satisfied that the emergency defensive lines already checked had been able to see all the defensive precautions which were taken and was aware of the strength of the forces accumulated in the Verdun sector and my confidence is consequently absolute in the complete early success of our arms. The importance of the German gain should not be exaggerated. I know all the points where the first phases of the battle occurred and can say that the exact advance of the Germans north of Verdun does not exceed four kilometres."

Other refugees who have been interviewed, agree in stating that, despite the terrific noise of the artillery

fire and the lurid illumination of the sky during Friday night and Saturday morning when they left, all were supremely confident in the superiority of their own army. They say that the only civilian left in Verdun on Saturday, was an employee of the City Hall. The last refugees were escorted by city firemen who, with admirable devotion, aided the tired mothers to carry their children. The only sign of worry or exasperation shown by the retreating residents of Verdun was when the customs employes inquired regarding the contents of their packages.

TOUCHING RECEPTION

The refugees were greatly touched by the reception accorded to them on their arrival at the railroad station in Paris, when a number of persons, including society women, offered to carry their baggage and help them to places of shelter. The general optimism was reflected by the remarks of one young man, who, when questioned about the occurrences in the fortress city, replied:

"When they broke our windows, but we shall return soon with glaziers."

GERMANS LOSE OVER 100,000.

The exact figures of the French losses at Verdun have been given to the committee of military affairs of the chamber of deputies by Colonel Boucabelle, chief secretary to Gen. Gallieni, minister of war. It is stated that they were not high.

The Petit Parisien says that the German losses to date in the Verdun fighting amount to between 125,000 and 130,000 and constitute about one third of the German effectives actively employed.

PARIS AND BERLIN OFFICIAL

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Paris, March 2, 2.31 p.m.—The War Office's announcement of this afternoon says that there was intermittent bombardment of the Verdun and Woivre front during the night, but that there were no developments of any importance.

FAILED TO RETAKE FORT.

Berlin, March 2, via London, 3.15 p.m.—The official German statement of to-day says that the French sacrificed men unsuccessfully in a counter attack on Fort Douaumont, one of the outlying defences of Verdun, which was captured by the Germans. The situation on the Franco-Belgian front, the communication says, is unchanged.

FORT DESTROYED.

LONDON, March 2.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Central News says that Fort Vaux, five miles to the northeast of Verdun, has been destroyed by heavy mortars, according to unconfirmed German reports, but that the Germans cannot approach the fort, as the French have brought heavy

artillery to bear on the approaches. It is added that a German battery has been destroyed by French shells and that the Germans have concentrated 90,000 men near Buzy, who are to resume the offensive with reinforcements from the Argonne. Buzy is about sixteen miles to the east of Verdun.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON



See by Bert Fisher
Illustration by Bert Fisher. "Copyrighted by Bert Fisher. The printer has traced me down. Says I may not use it."

SCENE BEHIND THE RUSSIAN BATTLE LINE FACING THE TEUTONS



RUSSIAN FIELD PIECE PHOTOGRAPHED DURING A PAUSE ON THE WAY UP TO THE FRONT. THIS PICTURE, TAKEN SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE RUSSIAN BATTLE LINE, SHOWS ONE OF THE SMALLEST ARTILLERYMEN IN THE DIVISION. THE SOLDIER IS QUITE A YOUNG BOY AND IS ONE OF THE MANY IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY. NOTE THE MOTOR GOGGLES WORN BY HIM AS A PROTECTION FOR THE EYES IN CASE OF A GAS ATTACK.

WOEVRE A QUAGMIRE, HUNS CANNOT GET THROUGH DEEP MUD

French Artillery Major Who Fought at Verdun Confident That in That Dis- trict Anyway Germans are Beaten— Stroke Was a Big One, But So Was Failure.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
New York, March 2.—A special Paris cable to The New York Times under yesterday's date says:

"This afternoon's communication was read in the officers' ward of a Paris hospital, where I was visiting an artillery major brought in last night from the Verdun front. Apropos of the communication, he gave the following interview outlining the different phases of the battle and describing the fighting in which he participated.

"That looks as if they were beaten at Verdun, anyway. They may try to retake it, but even Germany's need for a striking success cannot make Verdun worth the lives of another quarter of a million of soldiers, and they must sacrifice that number more if they attempt to take the fortress from the southeast."

"To give you an idea of what the Woivre mud is like, I drove a light car a month ago to a village about a mile from the cliff east of Douaumont. The road was frightful. Before we had gone half way the car was bogged to the axles; so we walked and the car was pulled out later by a team of horses. Imagine guns and ammunition wagons in such a quagmire."

HIGH PROPORTION KILLED.

"You must take into account the moral effect of their losses. Even on a big scale for some time. Never mind what the military critics say. They forget the human equation; but you can't leave it out, even in the case of Germans. It all depends on how they hide their defeat from their own people. If they do that, they may produce another spasmodic move to smash them. Otherwise they might easily blow up within, if once their masses realized what a disaster this failure really meant."

"Don't you make any mistake about that. No one who knows the magnitude of their effort can fail to appreciate the meaning of its failure. We expected a big stroke, but when it came it utterly surprised and astonished us."

THREE CRITICAL POINTS.

"There were three critical points in the battle as I see it. The first was at the end of the opening phase, that of fighting in the outer positions from the 22nd to dawn on the 23rd, when we had to withdraw without losing cohesion or giving them a chance to rush us and break our line. There have been some fine retreats in this war from Von Kluck's at the Marne to Sarail's in Serbia, but when history is written that retreat before Verdun will rank with the best of them."

"The second crisis of the battle was their success at Douaumont. Of course, as a fort, there wasn't much left after the bombardment, but the position was immensely valuable. I have not seen the fort lately, but a few months ago it was just a series of armored tunnels. The central enclosure, where I understand the remnants of the Brandenburgers are holding out, was quite small, just containing a central turret, armed only with citrilluses or small revolver cannon and a heavy armored observation post. I would have given ten years of my life, to see our counter-attack that re-tore the position."

"It was the same corps—the iron division—we call them—the famous Troupes de Choc, who won the battle of Champagne."

CRUX OF THE STRUGGLE.

"The Douaumont struggle which was the crux of the whole battle really illustrates the French and German war methods, contrasted, at their best."

"The Germans took the position in a typically brutal, dogmatically scientific fashion, by searching artillery preparation, applied to the utmost degree, followed by massed assaults on their home with complete disregard of sacrifices. Our charge was a triumph of the human factor, a victory of legendary 'Tartar Franchise' worthy of Napoleon's Guardsmen."

Despatches from the Canary Islands late last month reported the arrival of the British steamer Westburn with a German prize crew on board, said to be from the Moewe. According to these reports the Moewe, continuing her activities after the capture of the Appan and the seven other British vessels between Jan. 16 and February 9, sank five British steamers off the coast of Brazil.

A vigorous search for the Moewe was begun by the British admiralty. The Moewe was reported to be a tramp steamer fitted with guns for preying on commerce of the Entente allies.

The German cruiser Roon was said to have escorted the Moewe when the latter captured the Appan. A report that the Roon had been captured by the British cruiser Drake off Bermuda was published last month, but subsequently was denied.

LATEST DEVICE.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
BALTIMORE, March 2.—Floating mines, equipped with periscopes, is said to be the latest device now being used by the Germans in bringing about the destruction of enemy ships, according to Captain B. J. Keely, of the British steamer Hartfield, here Sunday from London.

Captain Keely tells of having sighted one of the new destructive agents in the English Channel. The periscope gave it the appearance of a submarine. He did not attempt to win the

Cruiser Moewe is Reported Taken by British Cruisers

Has Been Taken, It is Said, to the Island of Trinidad— Had Also Encountered French War Vessel.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
BUENOS AIRES, March 2.—Press despatches from Montevideo say that a steamer arriving from Europe intercepted near the coast of Brazil a wireless message stating that British cruisers had captured the German auxiliary cruiser Moewe.

The Moewe, it is said, was taken by the British cruisers to the Island of Trinidad.

French Encountered Raider

The American steamer Santa Barbara has arrived at Montevideo, her captain making the announcement that a French cruiser which put out from Dakar, on the West Coast of Africa, encountered a German raider, name not given, and opened fire on her. Under cover of the darkness the German ship got away. She was, however, damaged on her upper works by the French fire.

There is some doubt, however, as to the identity of the German vessel reported to have been captured. Another version of the account is that the vessel in question is the German cruiser Roon.

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Admiralty's reward of \$2,500 for ramming a submarine, but reported it to a patrol boat. According to masters of British vessels, the placing of a periscope on a mine was devised for the express purpose of inducing some of the ships of the allied nations to ram, which would have resulted in the blowing up of the ship and possibly the loss of life. It is understood that a number of the periscope mines have been cast adrift around Britain and a fleet of patrol boats are engaged in removing them from the track of navigation.

"NO COMPROMISE" SAYS WILSON TO THE CONGRESS

Direct Vote Wanted on Reso- lution Warning Ameri- cans Off Armed Ships.

HOUSE MAY COME ROUND

Matter Will Also Come Up in Senate—Stone Against President.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Washington, March 2.—President Wilson told Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs Committee early to-day that he would consent to no compromise on the armed ship issue, and desired a direct vote on a resolution warning Americans off armed ships of belligerent nations. Mr. Flood took the president's decision to the committee.

MIGHT AGREE.

Chairman Flood said on his return to the Capitol that he believed some resolution acceptable to the President would be agreed upon in the foreign affairs committee to-day. A meeting of the committee, which was to have been held this morning, was postponed until 3 o'clock this afternoon, when Chairman Flood will deliver the President's message. The President had no engagements with the leaders of House or Senate to-day, but was keeping in constant touch and prepared to see any members if necessary.

HOUSE WAS IMPRESSED.

There were some indications, according to administration officials, that the President's stand was having the desired effect on the House. They felt that the crisis committee was ready to act and that the only obstacle now was in the foreign affairs committee.

In his talk with Representative Flood to-day, the President said that he wants the armed ship agitation disposed of once and for all, so it will not come up later to embarrass the diplomatic situation.

LINING UP IN SENATE

Administration forces evidently are lining up for a vote in the Senate on the armed ship resolutions. Senator Stone, at the opening of the session to-day, proposed an adjournment, to take the Senate out of recess in which it has been working, so as to clear the parliamentary situation for a vote on Senator Gore's resolution.

Senator Stone made the suggestion after a conference with administration leaders, who decided the situation in the House was so complicated with possibility of delay, that they would not wait for a vote there, but would go ahead in the Senate, where they are confident the anti-administration resolution can be defeated. It seemed to be the plan to bring the Gore resolution up to-morrow.

IS AGREES WITH 'PRESIDENT.

President Stone from the floor of the Senate announced that he and President Wilson were not in accord on the issue.

"I desire to state the international situation as I understand it," said Senator Stone. "A sharp issue has been defined between Germany and Great Britain as to the status of armed merchantmen. Germany contends that armed merchant vessels are the equivalent of auxiliary war vessels and has announced her policy to be, that after March 1, armed merchantmen will be regarded as warships and subject to the rules of war."

"On the other hand Great Britain contends that under international law, merchantmen have the right to be armed for defensive purposes and that, under the law, the same immunity as armed ships, without regard to cargo, she has announced her intention to carry out this policy."

THE ISSUE

"That is the issue between these two governments. 'Now where does the United States come in? In this way, if both persist in these courses, neither yielding to each other nor to the importunities of neutral nations, and if Germany attacks an armed merchantman and any American citizen is injured, the question is presented to this government what our attitude would be. If no American citizens were on board we would have no cause to interfere unless we proceeded on the altruistic theory of obligations of humanity. 'To my mind this emergency is of high importance. The president, sen-

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