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Austrians Force Italians Abandon Positions and Capture Over 6000 Men

Austrians are vigorously on the offensive against the Italians—South of Trent Italians Abandon Their Advanced Positions and Lose 141 Officers and 6200 Men—Also Some 30 Guns are Taken by Austrians

ROME CLAIMS TWO REPULSES FOR AUSTRIANS

In France and Belgium Fighting Consists of Artillery Duels—Particularly Severe North West of Verdun—Several German Aircraft are Bagged by Allied Aviators—Turks Meet Defeat Near Diarbekr in Asiatic Turkey

LONDON, May 18.—From the Tenth Mass region, in western Trentino to Mendolite, a short distance from Head Gull, in Trieste, the Austrians are vigorously on the offensive against the Italians. In Tyrol, south of Trent, heavy infantry attacks to the east of the Adige River have forced the Italians to again abandon some of their advanced positions and resulted in the capture by the Austrians of 141 officers and 6,200 men, in addition to guns and seventeen machine guns were captured. Vienna says, south of Rovere, the Austrians stormed Zosenstorta, but Rome asserts the five attacks launched here were put down with heavy casualties, the bodies of numerous dead Austrians floating away on the swift current of the Adige River. The repulse of another Austrian attack in the Sugana Valley is also reported by Rome. Along the remainder of this front there were heavy artillery bombardments with here and there infantry attacks. Bombing operations by aviators of both sides have taken place against opposing positions.

Will Resume Post Temporarily

LONDON, May 18.—Baron Hardinge, former Viceroy of India, 1906-1910, and Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will temporarily resume the latter post in succession to Sir Arthur Nicholson, who is retiring on account of ill health. An announcement to this effect was made this evening by the Foreign Office.

Sworn in Member of Irish Executive

Asquith Will Now Take Greater Share in Executive of Ireland Than Any of His Predecessors.

LONDON, May 17.—The Dublin correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says that he understands, on good authority that Asquith is to be sworn in as a member of the Irish Executive. This is possibly the first step the correspondent adds, towards re-establishment of civil administration in Ireland.

Sworn in Member of Irish Executive

Asquith Will Now Take Greater Share in Executive of Ireland Than Any of His Predecessors.

LONDON, May 17.—Premier Asquith was sworn in as a member of the Irish Privy Council at Dublin this afternoon. This is the first time a British Premier has been a Minister of this body. It means that Asquith is likely to take a greater share in the executive Government of Ireland than any of his predecessors have done, and that he will have Birrell's part in shaping the policy pursued in the immediate future.

Collapsed For Want of a Quorum

Debate in Commons on Aerial Service Proves Uninteresting—Churchill and Others Repeat Old Charges Against Government's Inadequacy—Debate Collapses Amid Laughter

LONDON, May 18.—The debate in the Commons to-day on the British aerial service was of no interest except for a statement by Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under Secretary for War, of the appointment of a new board, of which Earl Curzon is to be president.

Col. Winston Churchill, and William Johnson Hicks among others vigorously attacked the Government, repeating the old accusations of inadequacy. Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary of the Colonies, defending the Government, told how the British air service was constantly improving, and finally the debate collapsed, amid laughter, owing to the absence of a quorum.

British Supremacy in Aerial Matters

Has Two Types of Aeroplanes Faster Than Any Possessed by Germany—Curzon President Aerial Board.

LONDON, May 17.—In the course of a debate in the Commons to-day, on the Aerial Service, Tennant, Parliamentary Under Secretary of the War Office, said that Great Britain has two types of aeroplanes faster than any possessed by Germany, and two other types as fast as the Fokker. It was far from true to say that Germany had supremacy in the air, he continued. On the contrary, Great Britain had, in a very large measure, the supremacy. In a great majority of combats her airmen were the winners. Tennant said that arrangements for giving warning of Zeppelin raids were now complete, and that there had been great improvement in regard to lights and guns.

Tennant announced that the Government had decided to constitute an Aerial Board to advise the Admiralty and War Office in regard to air services, and the designs of machines. Earl Curzon has accepted the presidency of the Board, of which Lord Sydenham will be a member. Major Baird will represent the Board in the Commons. Other members will be army and navy officers.

Hun Soldiers Beg Food from Swiss?

Say They Have Not Eaten Meat For Weeks—Food Condition in Rhine Towns Becoming Intolerable.

GENEVA, May 17.—German soldiers along the Swiss-Alsatian frontier, chiefly elderly men of the Landstrum, have begun to ask for food from the Swiss soldiers. The Germans say they have not eaten meat for weeks. Five German soldiers, in uniform, although fired on, escaped across the Swiss frontier at Rodersdorf near Basel, yesterday. They were interned at Berne.

The Neue Stuttgarter Zeitung says that the food situation in the Rhine towns is becoming intolerable. The newspaper advises the Government to take drastic measures to change the mode of living of the people. It suggests that cooking in private families be prohibited, and that the population be ordered to eat at common restaurants, where meat would be served once daily, at noon only, and vegetables in the evening. Eighteen German cattle dealers arrived at Basel yesterday, hoping to buy cattle, which are becoming scarce.

Asquith Leaves Dublin for Cork

DUBLIN, May 18.—Asquith left here this morning for Cork. He is expected to hold several conferences with the Nationalist leaders in the south of Ireland, after which he will return to Dublin.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, May 17.—A British official this evening admits the loss of a small monitor, as the result of fire by Turkish batteries. The monitor was reported as having been set on fire, and sunk, in a Turkish official statement on Tuesday. The British Admiralty denied the statement, but says that later advices confirm the Turkish report.

The British statement says:—"A delayed telegram received from Vice-Admiral De Robeck, states that on the night of May 13-14 one of our small monitors, M-30, commanded by Lieut.-Commander Lockyer, was struck by the enemy's artillery, taking fire, and was subsequently destroyed. Two men were killed and two wounded."

LONDON, May 18.—A British official on the campaign in France and Belgium says:

"There has been considerable artillery and trench mortar actions to-day Anconville, Carbarot Rouge, Souchez, Calonne, Quinchy, Hohenzollern Redoubt and Ypres. There has been intermittent shelling at other points along the front. Last night raiding parties of the Seaforth Highlanders entered the German trenches north of Roclicourt. Five Germans were killed in their trenches. Three dugouts, full of Germans were bombed, one being blown up. Our casualties were slight. The whole of the raiding parties got back to our trenches. Fighting continued among the Germans and mines were blown up on the 15th on Vimy ridge. "Yesterday fine weather favored aerial activity, and 27 combats in the air took place. An Albatross was attacked, driven down, and wrecked near Lille.

Another was driven down north of Vitry in a damaged condition, and a third was attacked by one of our scouts and seen to turn upside down near the ground. One of our reconnaissance machines failed to return, and was seen to land under control in hostile territory. One of our scout aeroplanes also is missing. A great deal of successful aerial photographic work was accomplished."

FRENCH

PARIS, May 17.—German troops made an attack with grenades last night on French positions in the vicinity of Deadman's Hill. The effort failed. An official report of to-day says that on the east of the Meuse along the Verdun front, there was continuous cannonading on both sides, particularly at Haudromont Wood and Vaux Pond. French aeroplanes made several raids during the night. Bombs were thrown on the German camp at Danvillers and on the railway station at Metz Frescati and Briulles.

PARIS, via St. Pierre, May 17.—Artillery duels on different parts of the front, especially in Champagne

Hun Attacks Repulsed with Heavy Losses

PARIS, May 18.—Several attacks were made by German troops on the front last night in an effort to capture the redoubt at Avocourt. The official statement of to-day says the Germans were repulsed each time and that they lost heavily. French troops, after severe fighting, captured a German fort on the north-east slope of Hill 304. The German trenches north of Hill 287 were raided by French forces, which killed or captured the occupants of these positions. On the Verdun front east of the Meuse, artillery on both sides were active during the night. Two French aeroplanes dropped 80 more shells on the railway station at Metz on the night of May 16th.

Naval Encounter off Belgian Coast

LONDON, May 17, (official).—An encounter took place yesterday evening off the Belgian coast between a force composed of British destroyers and monitors, and some German destroyers. After a short engagement the enemy withdrew to their ports. Our force sustained no damage.

AMSTERDAM, May 17.—According to the German version of the sea fight off the Belgian coast, yesterday afternoon, a British cruiser was hit by a bomb from a German aeroplane.

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and Mesnil district. In Argonne, at Fille Morte, a mining struggle to our advantage. On the left bank of the Meuse bombardment of our first lines. The enemy attempted to progress by means of grenades at Mort Homme, but completely fails. On the right bank of the Meuse, great artillery activity in the district between Haudromont West and Vaux Pond. Northwest of Thiaumont farm we repulsed a grenade attack against our advance posts.

During the night of the 16th to 17th thirteen of our bombing aeroplanes dropped twenty-four shells on bivouacs in the Domvillers and Ville de Vauthaumont district, eleven on the Briulles and Clerly stations, fourteen on Nantillois and Romagne cantonnements, and twenty-one on Apremont and Grand Pre stations. Several fires are recorded. On the same night, another of our air squadrons dropped twenty shells on Ars and Metz stations, forty on Frescutty sheds, forty on Arnaville stations, thirty on the railroad and stations between Metz and Thionville. One of our aviators brought down a German aeroplane north of Vic-sur-Aisne. The two wings of the German plane parted during the fall.

The Papers Teem With Suggestions for Settlement of Irish Problem

Was Deliberately Engineered as Snub To Billing

LONDON, May 18.—An adjournment in the Commons yesterday occurred during a speech by Noel Pemberton Billing, recently elected member of the House on an improved air service reform. According to one of the morning papers the adjournment was deliberately engineered as a snub to the young aviator, who was formerly connected with the Royal Air Service.

The Daily News' lobby correspondent in this connection says:

"In order to show less than a quorum some 50 members filed out of the Chamber, the members remaining cheered and laughed, while the count was going on, for they had designed the affair as a deliberate snub to Pemberton Billing, who generally is regarded as having made himself ridiculous by his failure to substantiate before an inquiry committee his charges against the air service."

Safety of Americans in Ireland

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Senator Kern, of Indiana, introduced a resolution to-day directing the Secretary of State to make inquiry as to the safety and well-being of American citizens in Ireland residing in the districts affected by the recent revolution, and to take steps that will safeguard their lives and property. At the request of Senator Stone the resolution was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Thinks Batavier Struck a Mine

Samuel Comstock, American, on Ship Tells of His Narrow Escape—Ship Was Blown to Pieces

LONDON, May 17.—Samuel Howard Comstock, of Santa Monica, California, who was on the Batavier V, gave the following account of his experience:—"I was in the saloon talking, when a terrific explosion occurred. My hat was smashed against the ceiling of the saloon. I think the vessel must have been blown up by a mine explosion, apparently directly under-deck, beneath the ship's hull. The hatch was blown off and much cargo hurled into the air. Within three minutes the ship's decks were awash. I had a life belt, but being a good swimmer, gave it to my fellow American, Mancini, who could not swim. I kicked off my shoes, dived, and swam to a boat, which had been launched. I assisted the stewardess and an injured officer of the ship into a boat. I was so busy I did not see what happened to Ma. cin. The ship sank in 20 minutes. We were picked up by a trawler patrol and arrived at Yarmouth.

Comstock has made a report at the American Embassy, expressing his opinion that the Batavier V, sank as the result of striking a mine. The Embassy will forward his statement to the State Department at Washington. Through Consular officials the Embassy is obtaining affidavits from the ship's officers.

Big Majority

LONDON, May 17.—The coalition government has won a sweeping victory in an election to-day. W. F. Hicks Beach, a Unionist, who was supported by the Liberals, was elected from Tevesbury, by a majority of 5689 over William Boocoy, Independent.

German Torpedo Boat Sunk by German Mine

COPENHAGEN, May 18.—A German torpedo-boat was sunk by a German mine off Falsterbo, Sweden, according to the Berlingske Tidende's Malmo correspondent. All but one man of the crew were saved.

Nothing Will be Known as Result of Asquith's Visit to Dublin Until End of the Week—Premier Still Consulting With Various Authorities in Order to Obtain All Possible Views on the Situation

VACANCIES WILL NOT BE FILLED AT PRESENT

Papers Have Many Suggestions for a Possible Settlement of Irish Crisis—Favor the Granting of an Executive Government to the South and West of Ireland, Leaving Ulster Under the Imperial Government

LONDON, May 18.—Until Premier Asquith's return to London at the end of the week, nothing definite is likely to be known as the result of his activities in Ireland. He is still consulting with various authorities with the view to obtaining all possible views. It is expected he will visit Cork to-morrow, where he will become acquainted with the Nationalist views. In the meantime no step towards filling the vacancies in the Irish administration is being taken. It is supposed the main reason for the Premier's being sworn in as a member of the Irish Privy Council is that he may become the responsible Minister in Parliament for Irish affairs temporarily. The Nationalist members attach the greatest significance to this step because it will give the Premier an actual voice in shaping the administration of Ireland.

The papers teem with suggestions for a possible settlement of the Irish problem. They favor for the most part the idea of granting an executive government to the south and west of Ireland, leaving Ulster under the Imperial Government. They point out that should this experiment show successful results in the south and west under a Dublin Parliament, Ulster might eventually be included to come in under that Parliament.

Must Change the System of Government

Asquith is Convinced That Present Form of Government in Ireland Must Cease—Does Not Know Yet What Form His Proposal Will Take

DUBLIN, May 18.—Premier Asquith has reached the conclusion from impressions gathered during his Irish visit that the old form of government in Ireland has had its day. The Associated Press learns from sources in closest touch with Premier Asquith's conversations that the conferences have convinced him that the future Government must be conducted on an entirely different system. The Prime Minister has taken care to learn the ideas and views of many persons other than those in purely official circles, and these persons offered greatly varied suggestions. None of these, it is believed, could be adopted in its entirety, but might be welded together in the form of a proposal to lay before the Cabinet. The Premier himself does not know what form his proposal will eventually take, in fact it will probably be fully developed only at the Cabinet meeting. His Belfast visit gave a good hint to the Premier that the Ulsterites would not accept a direct proposal implying Home Rule, but it is believed they might be induced to enter into a concerted plan which could possibly be arranged to meet their most serious objections.

Asquith will visit Cork to-morrow to gather further opinions. He has, however, not arranged to see politicians, and most of those with whom he will confer are of the literary and educational classes.

LONDON, May 18.—Sir Roger Casement and Bailey were committed for trial for high treason to-day.

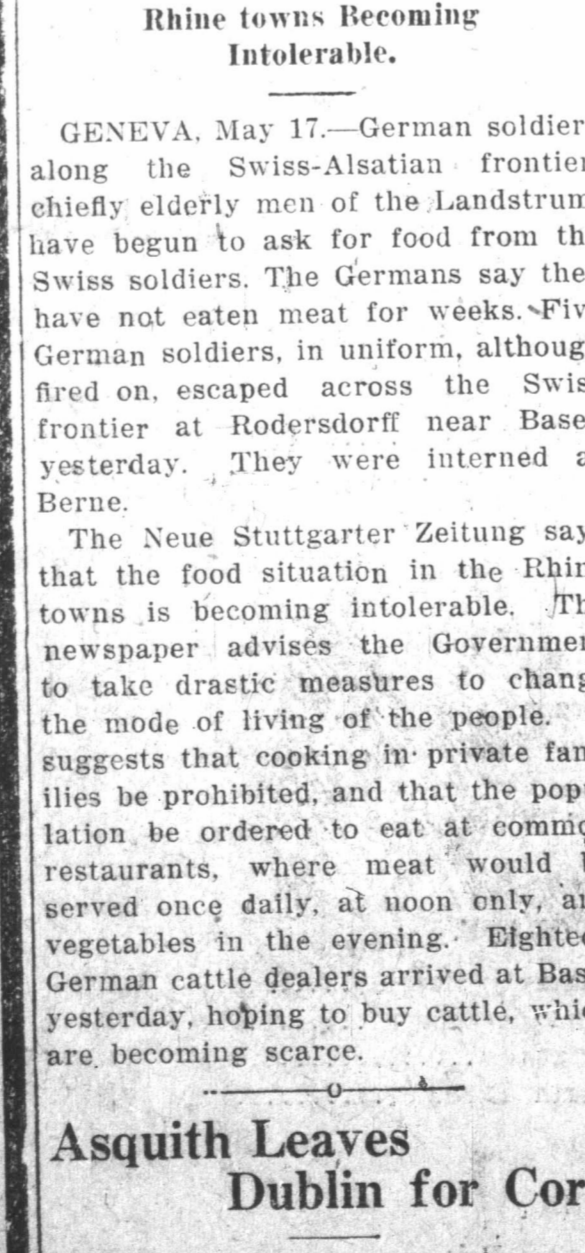
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KIND-HEARTED LADY: "Never mind, my brave man; keep smiling." THOMAS: "Keep smiling be blowed! It's all through smiling at Bill Higging's girl that I got this little lot."—London Mail.