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WEATHER—FAIR.

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ALLIES AGAIN VICTORIOUS; BRITAIN MAY HAVE ELECTION

BRITISH AND FRENCH AGAIN SUCCESSFUL

Armies of Both Countries Carry Out Victorious Operations in North France and Inflict Many Casualties on Enemy.

TURKISH ARMY IN PERSIA MAKES FURTHER RETREAT, THIS TIME LEAVING POSITION NEAR BISITUN WHICH FALLS INTO POSSESSION OF RUSSIANS.

Again the French and British war offices record gains against the Germans on the line in France. Striking in the Champagne region on a front of 1,500 metres west of Maisons De Champagne, the French recaptured all the positions previously taken by the Germans. Ridge 185 and also invaded a German fortified work. One hundred prisoners were taken in the operation. In the Woivre region, near Selche-prey, a raid on German trenches was successfully carried out, while attacks by the Germans between Soissons and Rheims were repulsed.

British Successes.

The British on their part of the front in France, entered German trenches in the vicinity of Bouchavesnes, north of Peronne, and also carried out raids successfully to the south of Arras. In the latter sector the German positions were bombed and many casualties were inflicted on their occupants. Heavy artillery activity is in progress in the Aisne and Somme sectors, according to Berlin.

The German war office reports the stopping of a French attack south of Ripont, in Champagne and also the destruction of sixteen Entente airplanes and two captive balloons in attacks by the Germans. The London war office announces that nine German machines were brought down or driven down damaged, and admits that five British machines are missing.

Harrassing The Turks.

On the other fronts, except in Mesopotamia and Persia where it is assumed that both the British and Russians are still harassing the Turks, only minor operations have been reported. As yet the full details of the capture of Bagdad by the British have not been made public, although an announcement was made in the British House of Commons that there was Turkish artillery had been captured by the British or thrown into the Tigris, and that in addition large numbers of prisoners and quantities of materials of all kinds were taken.

Turks Retreat.

Again the Turks are reported by Petrograd to have made a further retreat in Persia, this time leaving a position near Bisitun, twenty miles northwest of Kermandshah, and retiring toward Hadjilabad. Bisitun was occupied by the Russians.

In the Macedonian theatre there has been an increase in the artillery activity in the Presba Lake and Cerna river sectors, probably presaging an early recommencement of hard fighting in this region.

The possibility that Germany is to have another toe army against her is indicated in an unofficial despatch from Peking, which says the Chinese Senate has approved the government's diplomatic policy, which includes the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany.

British Statement.

London, March 12.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads:

"We improved our position slightly during the night northeast of Bouchavesnes. Enemy trenches in the same neighborhood were entered by our patrols at other places and a few prisoners secured. This morning we raided German trenches south of Arras, in spite of strong resistance by the garrison; bombed dugouts and inflicted many casualties.

"The artillery activity on both sides was most marked in the Aisne area, the neighborhood of Arras, Neuville-St. Vaast and the Ypres sector.

"There was considerable activity yesterday. Much successful bombing and reconnaissance work was carried out by our airplanes. Air fighting is continuous. Nine enemy machines were brought down or driven down damaged, four of which are known to have been destroyed. Five of our machines are missing."

French Statement.

Paris, March 12.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"Between the Oise and the Aisne effective artillery fires were directed against the enemy organizations northwest of Vintry.



"He was all dressed up and no place to go."

FALL OF BAGDAD WAS GREAT VICTORY FOR BRITISH FORCES

Indian Troops with White Army of Gen. Maude Carried Out Brilliant Operations for Which No Praise Can Be Too High.

Bonar Law in House of Commons Tells Story of Wonderful Campaign Under Greatest of Climatic Conditions and in Country Where Food Had to be Carried.

Mr. Bonar Law said the fall of Bagdad came as a sequel to a series of brilliant operations carried out by British and Indian troops with dash and determination for which no praise could be too high. When General Maude, commander of the Mesopotamian army, crossed the Tigris above Kut-el-Amara, last month he impelled the safety of the Turkish army. The Turks immediately retreated, and were pursued with the utmost energy. Large numbers of prisoners and quantities of materials of all kinds were captured. Mr. Bonar Law said there was good reason to believe that two-thirds of their artillery was captured or thrown into the river.

Turks Retreated.

On March fifth British cavalry came up with the Turkish rear guard twenty-seven miles from Bagdad. After an action the Turks retreated in the night, abandoning a position they had prepared. On March 7, British cavalry found the Turks in position on the Djalal river, eight miles from the outskirts of Bagdad. The river, he said, was unfordable and constituted a formidable obstacle. General Maude therefore withdrew his cavalry and brought the infantry into action.

Stubborn Resistance.

Meanwhile the Turks had received reinforcements from Bagdad. They offered stubborn resistance along the Djalal and in a position covering Bagdad from the southwest.

Gen. Maude threw a bridge across

the Tigris at its confluence with the Djalal. Notwithstanding the heat and dust, Mr. Bonar Law said, the British made a brilliant march of eighteen miles toward Bagdad, and found the Turks strongly posted six miles southwest of the town. The Turks were attacked at once and driven back to their second position, two miles in the rear.

On the night of March 8, the British established a footing on the north bank of the Djalal. On the ninth and tenth troops on the right bank of the Tigris, in spite of dust storms, pressed their advantage and drove back the Turks to within three miles of Bagdad. At the same time the troops on the Djalal thrust the Turks back on the city, which was entered on Sunday morning.

Praises Gen. Maude.

Gen. Maude in these operations, Mr. Bonar Law continued, has completed his victory by a pursuit of 110 miles in fifteen days, during which the Tigris was crossed three times. This pursuit was conducted in a country destitute of supplies, despite the commencement of the summer heat. Such operations could be carried out in such a country only after the most careful arrangements made for the supply of the troops thoroughly and systematically had been effected.

The fact that Gen. Maude not only has been able to feed the army, provide it with munitions and assure proper attention for the sick and wounded, but has been able to report that he is satisfied he can provide for the necessities for his army in Bagdad reflects the greatest credit on all concerned.

CHINESE SENATE VOTES TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH HUNS

Bulletin—Peking, Sunday, Mar. 11.—The senate today approved the severance of relations with Germany by a vote of 152 to 37. It is expected that the government will take action to this end tomorrow, (Monday).

Entente Urges War.

Washington, Mar. 12.—Further developments looking to a severance of relations with Germany by China were reported to the state department today by Minister Iloinsch, at Peking, with the prediction that a final rupture might be expected at any time.

There is no intimation from any source that China is prepared, as yet, to actually join in the war against

Germany, although diplomatic circles here confirm Peking despatches saying the Entente, led by Japan, is urging the Peking government to declare war and exchange her large supplies of iron and other war materials for permission to increase her customs dues and the postponement of her Boxer indemnities.

WALTER CLARK, THE PAINTER IS DEAD.

New York, March 12.—Walter Clark, American landscape painter and winner of many art medals here and abroad, died at his home in this city today. He was born in Brooklyn, March 9, 1848.

BUSINESS MEN'S CONFERENCE TO MEET FRIDAY

Meeting at Ottawa Will Consider Question of Holding National Convention to Aid Trade.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 12.—A conference of representatives of Canadian manufacturers will be held here on Friday at the invitation of Sir George Foster, and about a dozen are expected to attend. They will discuss the trade situation in Canada and what can be done to better it. They will consider the question of holding a national convention for present and after-war conditions.

Such a conference was to have been held last autumn but it failed to materialize. Manufacturers all over the country were so busy that they could not spare the time to come to Ottawa.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., STEAMER FOUNDERS; CREW SAFE

Boston, March 12.—The British steamer Pere Marquette sprang a leak and sank sixty miles east of Naussett early Sunday morning. Captain Charles Cross, her commander, reported upon arrival today aboard the fishing schooner Mary Decoat, which picked him up with the twenty-one members of his crew. The Pere Marquette, 1,722 tons owned by Andrew Murray of St. John's, Nfld., was bound for New York with a cargo of wood pulp. The men had been adrift in small boats for several hours before they were rescued by the fishermen.

VON BERNSTORFF ARRIVES IN DENMARK

Copenhagen, March 12, via London.—Count Von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador to the United States, and his party arrived at Copenhagen at 10.30 o'clock this morning from Christiansia. Count Von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the German minister to Denmark, and the German consul-general at Copenhagen, boarded the Frederik VIII, to greet Count Von Bernstorff.

SIR ROBERT AND HON. MR. HAZEN IN LONDON.

London, Mar. 12.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues returned to town tonight after four strenuous days, which started with the visitation of certain units and hospitals at the Canadian camp at Shorncliffe on an early hour on Thursday, proceeding at noon with a visit to France.

Beyond saying that it was an interesting though tiring trip, the Premier deferred a further statement until tomorrow.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAY BE DEFEATED ON QUESTION OF COTTON TARIFF FOR INDIA

Downfall of Administration in House of Commons Would Undoubtedly Mean a General Election.

Question of Authorizing New Policy in India in Placing a Protective Duty on Cotton Goods Will Come Up Tomorrow.

London, March 12.—The new Lloyd George government will meet the first difficult hurdle in the House of Commons Wednesday, when parliament will be asked to authorize a new policy in India in placing a protective duty on cotton goods. Special preparations are being made by all parties in anticipation of a critical division.

The reply of J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, to a deputation representing all sections of the Lancashire cotton industry today seemed to imply that the government intended to stand fast by its decision, in which case there would be a straight fight between the protectionists and free traders in parliament, and at the moment it is impossible to foresee the result, the ordinary party cleavages being disturbed by the war.

Chamberlain's Appeal.

Mr. Chamberlain appealed to the Lancashire deputation, saying that India's financial assistance to the war is needed, and that the members ought in a spirit of patriotism, waive their objections to the cotton duties, which were required to enable India to meet the interest on the war loan. Admittedly his wish to see the matter revised at the termination of the war, the secretary said:

"I should not be candid if I left you under any misapprehension regarding the attitude of myself and the government. To reverse our decision would be a calamity for England."

May Lead to Election.

Mr. Chamberlain's reply seems to leave no loophole for retreat, on the part of the government, and should the free traders, with the members, and the whole body of Nationalists, be able to muster sufficient members, it is not impossible that the division might result in the defeat of the government, leading to a general election.

CUBAN REBELS EVACUATE SANTIAGO

New York, March 12.—The Cuban consulate here announced the receipt of official confirmation of the complete evacuation of Santiago De Cuba by the rebel forces. The advice, it was said, amplified earlier news of severe engagements in the vicinity of Santiago, between the rebels and Cuban regulars under Colonel Matias Belancourt.

LESS POTATOES WERE PLANTED IN CANADA

Ottawa, March 12.—According to figures compiled by the bureau of census and statistics, the area sown to potatoes in 1916 was 449,000 acres or 30,000 acres less than in the preceding year.

Last year's average yield per acre was 136.21 bushels, as compared with 130.85 in 1915.

The total yield of 1916 was 61,229,000 bushels and of 1915, 62,605,000 bushels. During last year exports were valued at \$1,424,519 and for 1915 their value was \$506,302.

TALK OF RAILROAD STRIKE GENERAL

Washington, March 12.—Talk of a railroad strike was general among local labor union officials from the southeast gathered here tonight, but national officers of the four big brotherhoods declined to confirm or deny that definite plans actually were under consideration. The local leaders came for a conference tomorrow preliminary to the meeting of brotherhood and railway officials to be held in New York Thursday.

THREE CANADIAN COLONELS FOR FRANCE.

London, Mar. 12.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Colonels Frank Reid, Pellatt and Cowan, are all proceeding to the base in France to assume new duties. Col. Fotheringham has just arrived from France.

MAY BE GREAT R. R. STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES

New York, Mar. 12.—Persistent reports were current in railroad circles today that a country-wide strike would result if a satisfactory agreement is not reached at the conference on the question of the eight-hour working day to be held here Thursday between the railroad managers and representatives of the four brotherhoods of trainmen. It was learned that reports were sent to the railroad presidents by agents of the managers stating that plans had been laid by the brotherhoods to begin such a strike Saturday night in the event their demands are not met at the conference.

Mr. Chamberlain's appeal to the Lancashire deputation, saying that India's financial assistance to the war is needed, and that the members ought in a spirit of patriotism, waive their objections to the cotton duties, which were required to enable India to meet the interest on the war loan. Admittedly his wish to see the matter revised at the termination of the war, the secretary said:

"I should not be candid if I left you under any misapprehension regarding the attitude of myself and the government. To reverse our decision would be a calamity for England."

ROYALTY ATTENDS ZEPPELIN'S FUNERAL.

Rotterdam, March 12, via London.—The funeral of Count Zeppelin was held this afternoon at Stuttgart. Many years ago the late inventor erected his own vault in the Franconian cemetery. Zeppelin declined the offer which was made by the king of Wurtemberg to give the body a tomb in the royal cemetery.

King William II. was present at the ceremony, which was very brief owing to the illness of the countess. The service consisted merely of a sermon by the Bishop of Stuttgart and of prayers. Gen. Von Voepner, commander-in-chief of the German air forces, attended the funeral by command of Emperor William, and 1,000 workmen from Zeppelin plants at Friedrichshafen came by special train for the services.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S SON IS MARRIED.

New York, March 12.—Lord George Wellesley, great grandson of the first Duke of Wellington, was married here today to Lady Louise Hester Pamela Wellesley, 23 years of age, widow of his brother, Lord Richard Wellesley, and daughter of Sir Maurice Fitzgerald.

Lord George said the wedding was celebrated here because of the English law against a widow marrying her deceased husband's brother.

SUN LIFE TO TAKE \$10,000,000 OF LOAN.

Montreal, Mar. 12.—Ten million dollars of the new federal war loan is being taken up by the Sun Life Assurance Company of this city.