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The Toronto World

BRITISH WIN VICTORY OVER TURKS NEAR KUT-EL-AMARA
Germans Start Fresh General Offensive Against Russians at Riga
NEW CHARGES OF WAR GRAFT ARE EXPECTED AT OTTAWA

BRITISH DEFEAT TURKS IN FIGHT ON TIGRIS RIVER

Important Victory Won at Umm-el-Henna, Near Kut-el-Amara.

GIVE SWIFT PURSUIT
General Lake Reports Success Won in Mesopotamia at Dawn.

LONDON, April 5.—A victory for the British over the Turks on the Tigris, below Kut-el-Amara, has been reported by Gen. Lake in the command of the British forces there. The Turkish entrenched position at Umm-el-Henna was attacked and carried at 5 o'clock this morning by the Tigris corps. Gen. Lake telegraphed, and the operations are proceeding satisfactorily.

The capture of Umm-el-Henna, which is on the Tigris about 20 miles downstream from Kut-el-Amara, is the most important news from this theatre in some time and is regarded here as giving promise of the early relief of Gen. Townshend's force, which has been besieged in Kut-el-Amara since the first week in December. Umm-el-Henna is a strong position at an important bend of the river and it is said to be the last serious barrier to the relief of Gen. Townshend, and the two or three less strong positions are still to be overcome before Kut-el-Amara is reached.

Next to the Dardanelles expedition the operations in Mesopotamia have been a subject on which the government has been more criticized than any other, not only on account of the breakdown in the hospital arrangements, but on the question of responsibility for the advance, with insufficient forces, toward Bagdad. As in the case of the Dardanelles, the critics accused the ministers at home of insisting on the expedition against the advice of the military authorities in India, and on the spot. The accusation, however, met with an unequalled contradiction by Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, in the house of commons yesterday. Mr. Chamberlain declared that the advance on Bagdad was undertaken on the advice of the commander-in-chief in Mesopotamia.

HUGHES LEFT LONDON
Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, April 5.—General Hughes, accompanied by Capt. Bassett, left London today, and will be away for some time.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

MESOPOTAMIA, as a theatre of minor but interesting action, again comes to the front with the victory which the British won at dawn yesterday over the Turks, by forcing their entrenchments at Umm-el-Henna, on the Tigris, 22 miles to the east of Kut-el-Amara, where General Townshend is still besieged with his 10,000 men. General Lake reports also that the subsequent operations are proceeding satisfactorily. This success is taken as heralding the early relief of General Townshend. Turkish entrenchments, it is said, are being constructed in a very elaborate manner. One line which the British recently carried was 17 trenches deep, so the feat at Umm-el-Henna is of considerable military merit.

Despite official secrecy, Petrograd has learned that the Russian forces on the Caucasus front have swiftly progressed beyond Erzerum, and in Persia, and that the Turks are offering but occasional resistance to them. A big battle is believed to be about developing with the Turkish main forces in Mesopotamia, which have concentrated in the Hanikin Pass. These consist of the Bagdad divisions and reinforcements sent southward after the fall of Bitlis and Mush. As the Russians will therefore be confronted by an organized army, it is believed that their advance will be slowed up till this force is disposed of, a business that will take some time. In the meantime the British will probably attempt to push on and capture Bagdad from the south by the aid of reinforcements sent from Egypt.

Another lull has occurred in the efforts of the Germans against particular points in the lines of the French in the Verdun sector, to which their assault has degenerated, and the only reminder in the French official communique last night that there had been a struggle, was an intermittent bombardment in the Douaumont-Vaux sector. West of the Meuse the day was calm. In the Argonne the French batteries continued their concentrated fire on the lines and communications of the Germans, particularly on those in the region of Mont Faucon and the Malancourt wood.

The British sprang two mines near Hulluch and damaged a hostile gallery and wrecked posts of the enemy established in the old craters.

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

GERMANS MADE NO ASSAULTS IN VERDUN SECTOR

Infantry Remained Under Cover All Day Without Venturing Forth.

ALLIED GUNS TO FRONT
Much Damage Done in Flanders by British and French.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, April 5.—With no fighting with infantry east or west of the Meuse River in the sector of Verdun, the day was calm, except for an intermittent cannonade in the Douaumont-Vaux section. West of Verdun in the Argonne French artillery proceeded with the shelling of the German lines and communications in the region of Mont Faucon and the Malancourt wood.

The chief interest shifted from the Verdun lines to the Flanders lines, where the French shelled German trenches in front of Stenstraat with good results, and the British bombarded the German defences at Bois Grenier and north of the Ypres-St. Julien road. Heavy artillery was used with excellent results in the last named bombardment and it did much damage to German trenches and caused numerous explosions. The British also sprang mines near Hulluch and destroyed German galleries and destroyed German posts in old craters.

Fighting, with the French gaining ground to the north of the Callette wood above Douaumont in the course of several engagements last night. Twenty-two mines were thrown into the River Meuse by the Germans and these floated down and were all exploded by the French without doing any damage. The night passed quietly on the west of the Meuse. Air fighting in the Verdun region yesterday resulted in the French bringing down three German machines in their lines without losing any of their own. A French aerial squadron threw in the night 14 bombs on the railway station at Nantillois, and five others on the German barracks at Damvillers.

The French official theory for the renewal of the Verdun battle by the Germans is that they have abandoned hope of taking the sector, they were making more attacks to assure their own people and to prevent the taking of an offensive by the French somewhere else. The Italian general-in-chief, Cadorna, always of Verdun lines, is convinced that they can never be forced by the enemy.

FRAGMENTS OF TORPEDO GOING TO WASHINGTON

U. S. Embassy at London Convinced Projectile is of German Origin.

LONDON, April 5.—Fragments, supposedly of a torpedo that were found on the cross-channel steamer Sussex, have been forwarded to Washington by Ambassador Page. On a high authority it is stated that the fragments were considered by the American embassy to be undoubtedly of German origin.

SEIZURE OF SECURITIES PROTESTED BY HOLLAND

Belligerents Not Entitled to Confiscate Them, Foreign Minister Holds.

LONDON, April 5.—A special to the Exchange Telegraph, from Amsterdam, says that, according to diplomatic correspondence published by the Dutch foreign office, bearing on the protests against seizure of mail by Great Britain, the foreign minister contends that beyond all doubt the term "correspondence postale," used in The Hague convention, covers stocks or other valuable deeds. Therefore, he further contends, belligerents are not entitled to confiscate them. The minister asks restitution of all documents of this nature that have been seized.

ENEMY WAGES RUTHLESS WAR WALL OF HUNS

Von Bethmann-Hollweg Tries to Make Germany Appear Persecuted Nation.

BERLIN, April 5.—Retiteration of the assertion that Germany's aim is not conquest but the development of a firmly united nation, strong enough to resist aggression, featured the speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg in the reichstag today. He declared that it was futile to talk of peace while the entente powers insisted on complete destruction of Prussia's military power and said the "silence of all imputations was that Germanic contentment."

The chancellor outlined what Germany wished that Europe should be in the future. "This new Europe," he said, "in many respects cannot resemble the past. The blood which has been shed will never be repaid, and the wealth which has been destroyed can only slowly be replaced. But however slowly it is replaced, it must be for the nations that inhabit it a sign of peaceful labor. The peace which shall end this war must be a lasting peace, and it must bear the germ of new wars, but must provide for all peace-conditions."

The chancellor declared that England wished an end to war after peace had been secured, and that the commercial war with double violence, "the British endeavor to destroy our military and then our economic policy. Everywhere there is brutal lust of destruction and of annihilation, and the result is a crippled nation of 70,000,000 people."

As to colonial questions the chancellor quoted Bismarck to the effect that the fates of colonies were decided on the battlefield. He asserted that Germany's enemies were actively engaged in inventing new formulas in order to maintain the spell of illusion, hatred and deception which binds them. "Of all the nations in the war," he continued, "only Germany has been peaceful by her enemies and by their responsible spokesmen with unflinching and impartiality of her realm, with destruction of her essential political and economic forces, no matter whether they call them Prussian."

GENERAL OFFENSIVE STARTED BY GERMANS

Foe Begins Series of Attacks Against Northern Russian Line.

UNABLE TO MAKE GAIN
Attempt Being Made to Flank Riga Positions From Southeast.

PETROGRAD, April 5.—The German forces have passed into a general offensive along the entire northern front in Russia, their attacks reaching the highest intensity in the Riga region, where the preliminary skirmishes have developed into a steady assault, supported by the heavy artillery. The Germans, however, have been unable to gain territory by frontal attack against the strong Russian positions, and now are attempting to flank the Riga positions from the southeast.

HOLLAND IN MIDST OF SERIOUS DANGER

Significant Statement Made During Discussion in Chamber of Deputies.

THE HAGUE, April 5, via London.—In the chamber of deputies today, Deputé Lohman made a motion to strike the old age pensions bill from the government program, declaring to be of a controversial nature and that it militated against the unity "necessary in these times when dangers are threatening the country." The president of the chamber declared that the situation was not so dangerous as to necessitate such a step, while the minister of the interior said the government could see no objection to continuing the bill in its program. Thereupon Deputy Lohman's motion was rejected by a vote of 51 to 41.

COLORED MINIATURE OF THE PRINCESS PATRICIA



Reproductions in color of this miniature are being sold for the Red Cross fund by a committee of which Lady White is convener.

OTTAWA HEARS FRESH CHARGES WILL BE MADE

Allison Said to Have Made Profitable Deal in "Condemned" Ammunition.

STRAIN IS INCREASED
News of Early Return of Hughes and Allison Adds to Tension.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, April 5.—This has been another quiet day in the house, but the corridors are buzzing with gossip and rumors respecting the political situation. Rumors of every kind are flying about and a group of Conservative members, mainly from western Ontario, are said to be still making demands upon the government. The vote last night is regarded rather as an armistice than a settlement.

The announcement that Sir Sam Hughes has sailed for Canada and that Col. J. Wesley Allison will be in Ottawa next week tends to increase the strain of a somewhat tense situation. It is said that the government may make several moves in the next few days that will be of great interest to the country. Legislation may be brought down giving the Meredith-Duff Commission the status of a court, so as to facilitate the taking of testimony in the United States.

BIG BATTLE EXPECTED NEAR PASS OF HANIKIN

Turks Mass Organized Force to Oppose Russian Bagdad Drive.

PROGRESS IN ARMENIA

Coastal Wing Beats Off Turk Attack and Captures Positions.

PETROGRAD, via London, April 5.—Although there has been no recent official news concerning the developments on the Caucasus front, it has been learned from private sources that the Russian armies beyond Erzerum and in Persia are progressing swiftly and that the Turkish forces are offering only occasional resistance. It is evident that the Russian troops advancing thru Persia to the Mesopotamian frontier have not yet met the main Turkish forces. These, consisting of the Bagdad divisions and reinforcements sent southward after the fall of Bitlis and Mush, are reported to be assembling in the Hanikin Pass, and when the Russians reach this point they will be confronted no longer by mountain bands and remnants of broken and demoralized divisions, but with the full strength of the organized Turkish army.

TWO ZEPPELINS HIT DURING RECENT RAIDS

Tennant Said Carbon Copy of Wireless Message So Indicated.

SINKING OF PORTUGAL MOVES CZAR GREATLY

"Whole World Should Hear of This Outrage," is His Message.

PETROGRAD, via London, April 5.—Emperor Nicholas has sent a telegram to the chief of the Red Cross Service, in which he expresses profound indignation over the sinking of the Russian hospital ship Portugal, and declares that "the whole world should hear of this outrage."

OBSTINACY OF SENATE PREVENTED NAVAL AID

Government was Prepared to Modify Proposals, But All in Vain.

AVOIDED CONTROVERSY
Feelers Showed Deadlock Was Unbreakable, Hence Government Inaction.

OTTAWA, April 5.—A statement regarding the government's naval policy was made in the commons today by the prime minister. "In the autumn of 1915," he said, "the government had under consideration the reintroduction of the naval bill of 1912, but thought such reintroduction undesirable, unless there was some reasonable prospect that it would not be defeated in the senate. Confidential enquiries were made for the purpose of ascertaining whether such a bill, either in its original form or in some modified form, might be expected to pass the senate; thus enabling Canada to assume her proper share in maintaining the common defence of the empire."

"It was reported to the prime minister as the result of these enquiries that no assurance could be given of the acceptance by the senate either of the naval bill in its original form or of a modified proposal which the government was prepared to consider. For this reason no action was taken, and it was thought undesirable to renew the controversy without any reasonable hope that the government's proposal would be carried in the senate."

SHIP LOST THROUGH LACK OF A DEFENSIVE GUN

Naval Authorities in London Point Out That "Frightfulness" is Intensified.

LONDON, April 5, 6:23 p.m.—The opinion is expressed in naval circles having access to the report on the torpedoing of the British steamship Englishman, that the vessel would have been saved if she had carried a defensive gun, as the submarine was plainly seen as she pursued and shelled the steamer for some distance. British naval circles express the belief that the retirement of Admiral Von Tirpitz from the German ministry of marine was in the nature of a "nod" to American public opinion, as, in their view, the German submarine policy has become "more, instead of less, frightful."

SMYRNA FORTS SHELLED

ATHENS, April 5.—An Anglo-French squadron has destroyed Forts Saint Zaki and Saint George at the entrance to Smyrna harbor, the newspaper Nea Helles reported today.

DINEEN'S MEN'S HATS

The arrival of spring has created a regular rush to the well-known Dineen store at 140 Yonge street. All the new styles have been unpacked and they are proving immensely popular. The vogue of spring, 1916, differs fairly evenly between soft and stiff styles, and the demand is in much the same proportion for American and English makes. You can reserve your decision as to the hat for you till you see our display.

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