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WEATHER—SNOW

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BRITISH FORCE BACK HUNS; RUSSIANS CAPTURE HAMADAN

GERMANS CONTINUE TO YIELD GROUND

In Ancre Region British Make Another Advance East of Gommecourt, Along Two Mile Front of About Two-Thirds of a Mile--Enemy Continues to Fall Back.

BRITISH TROOPS FORCED SATURDAY TO EVACUATE A TRENCH EAST OF SAILLEY-SAILLISEL, BUT COUNTER-ATTACK ENABLED THEM TO REGAIN WHOLE OF LOST GROUND.

London, March 4.—The British troops, in their forward movement in the Ancre area in France, have made another advance east of Gommecourt, along a two mile front of about two-thirds of a mile, according to the official report from headquarters tonight. Nearly two hundred prisoners were captured. The text reads: "This morning we attacked and captured the enemy's front and support lines east of Bouchavesnes, on a front of twelve hundred yards, taking 173 prisoners and three machine guns. During the day we repulsed, with heavy enemy losses, several counter-attacks.

Enemy Falls Back.

"East of Gommecourt the enemy continues to yield ground. In this neighborhood we advanced along a two mile front to an average depth of twelve hundred yards. "Six prisoners were taken in a successful raid last night northeast of Ablaincourt. During the last twenty-four hours we have captured a total of 190 prisoners, five machine guns and two trench mortars."

Saturday's Drive.

London, March 3 (10.55 p. m.)—Against stubborn German resistance British troops today advanced their line north of the Ancre, in France, an average of a quarter of a mile on a front of nearly five miles, says the official statement issued by the war office tonight. The British advance was made north of Pusieux-Au-Monts and east of Gommecourt. The statement follows: "During the day our troops made further progress north of Pusieux-Au-Monts and east of Gommecourt, and our line has been advanced an average distance of a quarter of a mile on a front of nearly five miles. The enemy offered stubborn resistance.

Counter-Attack Repulsed.

"A local German counter-attack, made against our advanced positions north of Gueudecourt last night, was stopped by our artillery barrage and rifle fire. An enemy bombing attack forced our troops to evacuate a trench east of Sailley-Sailliseil this morning. An immediate counter-attack was organized which regained the whole of the lost ground.

"The enemy rushed two of our posts last night northwest of Roye; a few men are missing. Another strong enemy patrol, which attempted to approach our lines east of Givency and La Hesse this morning, was stopped by our rifle fire. "Successful trench reconnaissances were carried out by our airplanes during the day. One of our machines is missing."

SCHOONER DAMAGED BY FIRE

Special to The Standard.

Yarmouth, March 4.—The fishing schooner Eddie James, owned by Henry A. Amiro, was badly damaged by fire early this morning while lying at her wharf here. The schooner which has been in winter quarters was being prepared to go into commission, workmen having started on her on Saturday.

No one had been below decks for a long time and the companionways were all locked, but the fire this morning started in the cabin and burned out the inside of the vessel aft. At no time did the flames get through the deck or hull. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery. There was no insurance.

JAPAN STANDS FIRMLY WITH THE ENTENTE

German Intrigue Blamed for Sowing Seeds of Discord Between United States and Empire of the Sea.

Tokio, Mar. 4.—An additional statement issued by the Japanese foreign office Saturday refers to frequent attempts of Germany "to sow seeds of distrust between Japan and Great Britain and to cause the estrangement of Japan and the United States," and adds:

"The government is confident that the peoples and governments of the Entente will continue to have confidence in Japan's loyalty, and its determination to extend all possible aid, and share the difficulties and hardships until the struggle against Germany and German cruelties ends."

Diseased Mentality.

In its editorial comment the Japan Times alludes to the German conspiracy as "proof of a diseased mentality," but thinks it will serve a good purpose because it will clarify, in American minds, many doubts and suspicions of Japan which, however unfounded, it says, they were unable altogether to free themselves from on account of continual poisoning. "Americans," says the Times, "now see, as clear as the sun, that German intrigue is at the bottom of all the pernicious efforts in America to nurse friction between the United States and Japan in the last three years."

What has followed the exposure of the conspiracy, adds the newspaper, indicates that Germany's ambition to gain a footing on the American continent through Mexico will solidify the cohesion of the western hemisphere against the dangers of German militarism.

A BRITISH DESTROYER GOES DOWN

London, March 4.—A British destroyer was sunk, with all hands, in the North Sea on Thursday, the admiralty announced today. It is believed she struck a mine, the announcement states.

CHINESE PREMIER RESIGNS

Cabinet Favors Country Acting with United States but President Objects.

Peking, Mar. 4.—The cabinet today decided that China should join the United States in breaking off relations with Germany. This decision was submitted to the president, who refused to approve the cabinet's action, saying such a step would be injurious to his mission. Premier Tuan Chi Jui immediately resigned and left for Tien Tsin, accompanied by several other members of the cabinet.

The resignation of the entire cabinet is expected. Parliament is virtually unanimous in favor of the opinion of the cabinet. The leaders of all the political parties are adversely criticizing the president's position. The vice-president of the republic supports the action of the cabinet.

Personal Differences.

An official statement issued from the president's office says that the break between the president and the premier was due to personal differences, rather than to the foreign policy. President Li Yuan Hung has sent representatives to Tien Tsin to induce the premier to return to Peking.

According to the president's office the immediate cause of the break was a despatch sent to the Chinese minister at Tokio, committing China to a rupture of relations with Germany and a union with the Entente Powers under certain conditions. The president refused his approval because, he declared, parliament must sanction all measures contemplating war, as well as a direct declaration of war.

President Li Yuan Hung justifies his position by Article 35 of the provisional legislation, which reads as follows:

"The provisional president shall have power, with the concurrence of the national council, to declare war and conclude treaties."

GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST EXPORTERS

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 4.—Some doubt appears to exist in the minds of exporters as to the powers of the Department of Trade and Commerce under the recent restriction of imports order of the British government, and accordingly an official statement by Sir George Foster says that "the Department of Trade and Commerce has no power to grant licenses to import goods into the United Kingdom. It can only assist and will do so when the case so justifies it in presenting the facts to the high commissioner so that he may endeavor to prevail on the controller of import restrictions to issue a permit for the importing of the goods desired."

These import restrictions were issued with a view to controlling the imports rather than prohibiting them and the Department of Trade and Commerce will assist Canadian exporters whenever possible.

DRASTIC BONE-DRY PROHIBITION MEASURE SIGNED BY WILSON

Bill Most Far-Reaching Prohibition Measure Ever Enacted By United States Government—Fourteen States Made Bone-Dry.

Washington, Mar. 3.—President Wilson today signed the post office appropriation bill containing the "bone dry" prohibition provision. The "bone dry" provision of the postal bill is the most far-reaching prohibition agreement ever enacted by the federal government—in fact it is the first direct legislation by the government prohibiting the liquor traffic.

At least fourteen states which have prohibition laws, but do not prohibit the importation of certain quantities of liquor for personal use will be made bone dry by the law which prohibits the importation of liquor into any state that prohibits "its manufacture and sale," state legislation, recently passed and about to become effective will in the next few weeks increase the number of bone dry states to at least twenty-one.

The same bill prohibits delivery in the mails of any publication or correspondence bearing liquor advertisements in states which by their own laws prohibit such advertisements within their borders.

SMALL GROUP OF SENATORS DEFY PRESIDENT WILSON

Lafollette of Wisconsin, Stone of Missouri, and Ten Others Prevent Passage of Law Enabling President to Arm American Merchant Ships—Ships, However, will Probably be Armed.

Washington, Mar. 4.—Twelve Senators, led by Senator Lafollette and encouraged by Senator Stone, Democratic chairman of the foreign relations committee, in a filibuster denounced by President Wilson's spokesman as the most reprehensible in the history of any civilized nation, denied the will of an overwhelming majority in Congress up to the last minute today, and denied to the president a law authorizing him to arm American merchant ships to meet the German submarine menace.

Unyielding throughout twenty-six hours of continuous session to appeals that their defiance of the president would be humiliating to the country; uncompromising in a crisis described to them as the most serious to the nation since the Civil War, Lafollette and his small group of supporters refused a majority of their colleagues an opportunity to vote on the armed neutrality bill and it died with the sixty-fourth Congress at noon.

Manifesto Signed.

To fix the responsibility before the country, seventy-six senators, thirty Republicans and forty-six Democrats, signed a manifesto proclaiming to the world that they favored passage of the measure.

The twelve senators who went on record with the thirteen members of the house against granting to President Wilson the authority he asked from Congress in the crisis were: Republicans—Clapp, Minnesota; Cummins, Iowa; Grohns, North Dakota; Kenyon, Iowa; Lafollette, Wisconsin; Norris, Nebraska; Works, California; Democrats—Kirtz, Arkansas; Lane, Oregon; O'Gorman, New York; Stone, Missouri; Vardaman, Mississippi.

Bitter Fight.

Hours before the end senators who fought throughout the night to break down the filibuster conceived a way to thwart Lafollette's well laid plans to occupy the center of the legislative stage at the climax of the bitter fight. Its execution brought the session to a dramatic end, with Lafollette fighting vainly for a chance to deliver a speech in which he had worked many days. He saw friends of the doomed legislation inflict the death blow which he planned.

Instead of Lafollette, Senator Hitchcock, leader of the majority in favor of the bill, talked out the waning hours of the session. Timing his opportunity to the minute, Senator Lafollette entered the senate chamber shortly after 9 o'clock this morning, prepared to take the center of the stage for the last act of the tragedy. When the moment he had chosen arrived he addressed the chair, but Senator Hitchcock presented his recognition. The forensic struggle which ensued seldom, if ever, had been equaled in the history of the senate.

Voices were strained to shrieking; threatening fists were shaken at the presiding officer, while the crowded floor and galleries heeled on breathlessly. But the incident soon passed without violence. The chair recognized Senator Hitchcock and Lafollette's opportunity was snatched away.

Wilson's Statement.

President Wilson issued a statement tonight declaring that through the action of a few senators it had proved impossible to have passed legislation

RUSSIANS CAPTURE CITY OF HAMADAN IN PERSIA

Captured Town Has Population of Forty Thousand and is About One Hundred Miles from Mesopotamian Border.

Fall of City Probably Means that Czar's Troops Will Again Attempt an Advance Into Mesopotamia from Persia to Aid British in Advance Towards Bagdad.

London, March 3 (11.12 p. m.)—Hamadan, an important Persian city near the Turkish border, has been captured by the Russians, says a Teheran despatch received in Petrograd and transmitted by Reuters. The message adds that the Russians are pursuing the Turkish troops, who are in retreat.

Russian Victory.

Petrograd, March 4, via London.—The capture of Hamadan, in Persia, slightly more than a hundred miles from the Mesopotamian border, was officially announced by the war office today. The town was taken from the Turks on March 2. Russian troops also are on the offensive further northwest, and have captured a village within two miles of Bijar, eighty miles northwest of Hamadan, and about the same distance from the

border. The official statement reads: "On the Persian front: In Persia our detachments assumed the offensive in the direction of Bijar, and occupied the village of Khanikal, two miles south of Bijar. "As the result of operations in the Hamadan region the town of Hamadan was captured by our troops on March 2.

"Western front: In the neighborhood of the little town of Krevo we made a gas attack which caused alarm in the enemy trenches. "Roumanian front: There has been reciprocal firing activity."

City of 40,000.

The capture of Hamadan by the Russians may mean that the Czar's troops will again attempt an advance into Mesopotamia from Persia, to aid the British in their advance up the Tigris toward Bagdad. Hamadan, which is 240 miles northeast of Bagdad, has a population of 40,000.

GREAT LABOR CONFERENCE IS CALLED

Washington, March 4.—Spokesmen of more than three million American wage earners have been called to meet in conference March 21 to determine and announce the part labor shall claim in the formulation of policies of preparedness and defense in the crisis confronting the nation. The call, made public today, was issued by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. It went to presidents of 110 national and international unions affiliated with the federation, department presidents and the four great railroad employees' brotherhoods.

9 RUSSIAN STEAMERS DESTROYED

Berlin, Mar. 3, by wireless to the Associated Press, via Sayville.—Nine armed Russian steamers were destroyed by a German submarine which recently was sunk near Hammerfest, according to a Christiania despatch in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung as quoted by the Overseas News Agency.

STEAMER FOUNDERS.

Halifax, March 4.—The steamer Georgetown, from New York for a port in England, foundered at sea, according to news brought here today. A freight steamer put in here today, and on board were eight members of the Georgetown's crew.

GERMANY PREPARING FOR SUPREME EFFORT THINKS PROF. PAINLOVE

Paris, March 4.—Professor Paul Painlove, minister of public instructions, speaking today at the Sorbonne on the question of when the war will end, said the decisive phase of the struggle would begin this spring. By decisive, however, he said he did not mean brief, and he predicted that Germany was preparing for a supreme effort.

"THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE"

President Wilson Kisses Significant Verse in Bible when He Takes Oath—Will Arm Merchant Ships.

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson took the oath of office at 12.03 p. m. today, in the presence of the chief justice and some members of the cabinet. There was no ceremony.

When President Wilson kissed the Bible after taking the oath of office, his lips touched on this passage:

"The Lord is our refuge; a very present help in time of trouble."

President Wilson will arm American merchant ships and take whatever other steps he deems necessary to protect them even though the senate failed to pass the armed neutrality bill which would grant him special authority, according to administration leaders today.

POLICE CHIEF OF SYDNEY IS KILLED

Sydney, N. S., Mar. 4.—Duncan McEachern, chief of police, died at the city hospital Saturday from injuries sustained in a fall from the S. S. and L. Railway trestle over the C. G. R. tracks on Thursday night.

He was on duty at the time of the accident.

Chief McEachern was born at Little Bras Dor, sixty-three years ago.

ENGLISH PEERAGE IS LEFT WITHOUT HEIR.
London, March 4.—Another English peerage is left without a heir by the death of the Laurentic of Lieutenant Alan de Blaquiere, only surviving son of Lord de Blaquiere. The elder son, John, fell in action in 1915.

MORE BEEF CATTLE IN DOMINION

Decrease in Number of Milch Cows Indicating Tendency to Neglect Dairying for Beef Raising.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, March 4.—The latest estimate of live stock in Canada gives a total of 6,429,964 or six per cent. over the number recorded in 1915, says the Trade and Commerce Department. The increase in respect to beef cattle amounts to 427,000 or 12.5 per cent. while milch cows show a decrease indicating a tendency to neglect dairying in favor of beef production. Sheep showed a shrinkage of 3.6 per cent.

Exports of chilled beef in 1916 are estimated at 21,713 tons as against 6,280 tons in 1915 and practically nil in 1914.

In connection with this new trade it may be said that the further development is attracting the attention of the government as well as farmers throughout the Dominion.

It has been built upon a foundation of high prices but it is believed that the export can be maintained in normal times. Proposals have been put forward to establish a chilled beef trade with the United Kingdom. The advantages are that the right quality of meat is available and the distance from Quebec is much less than from any of the Argentine ports.

meeting the present critical international situation, and other bills of vast importance to the nation. He said he believed in the special session of the senate, already called for tomorrow, the rules should be amended so that action could be taken. He did not disclose his policy on the arming of merchantmen.