

OFFICES FOR RENT

C.P.R. BUILDING King and Yonge Sts. Single or en suite. Excellent service. Reasonable rent. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King St. East. Main 5480

The Toronto World

MONDAY MORNING MARCH 26 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

FOR RENT

ON RAILWAY SIDING CARLAW AVE. north of Queen; similar to building occupied by Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. Each floor 22 x 26. Lowest insurance rate. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King St. East. Main 5480

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,284

MORE IMPORTANT GAINS ARE MADE

Roisel Occupied In Forward Dash BY THE BRITISH

Important Town Seven Miles East of Peronne is Taken and Two-Mile Advance Reported at Ecoust-St. Mein, With Successful Raid East of Arras and Gains East of Loos.

LONDON, March 24, 10.15 p.m.—The British have occupied the village of Roisel, in the Somme, according to the official report from British headquarters in France tonight. Roisel lies seven miles east of Peronne. Heavy fighting took place at Beaumetz-lez-Cambrai, where the Germans, in a strong attack, gained a footing. By a counter-attack the British again drove them out. The text reads: "Our troops have occupied Roisel, seven miles east of Peronne. This morning strong hostile detachments again attacked our positions in Beaumetz-lez-Cambrai and obtained a temporary footing in the village. They were immediately counter-attacked and driven out, leaving a few prisoners in our hands. "We have made progress during the day on a front of one and a half miles to the southwest and west of Ecoust-St. Mein (southeast of Croisilles). Enemy attacks on our posts in this neighborhood and north of Boiry-Becquerelle were repulsed.

Successful Raid Near Arras. "We carried out another successful raid early this morning east of Arras. The enemy's second line was reached and casualties were inflicted. We also entered the enemy's trenches east of Neuville-St. Vaast. A number of Germans were killed and occupied dugouts were bombed. "The enemy attempted to reach our lines this morning in the neighborhood of Richebourg-l'Avoue (south of Neuve Chapelle), but were dispersed by our fire. Another hostile raiding party succeeded in reaching our trenches west of Messines. "The artillery was active on both sides today in the neighborhood of Ypres. Our fire caused three explosions in the enemy's positions."

Sunday's Official Statement. The official report from British headquarters in France Sunday night reads: "North of the Bapaume-Cambrai road an enemy bombing attack on one of our posts, in the neighborhood of Beaumetz-lez-Cambrai, last night was successfully driven off. We improved our position west of Croisilles. "We entered the enemy's trenches during the night northeast of Loos and captured several prisoners and machine guns. "An enemy raiding party entered our trenches early this morning west of Hulluch, but was ejected with loss, leaving prisoners in our hands. A few of our men are missing. "There was considerable activity in the air yesterday. Two important railway junctions behind the enemy's lines were bombed by our aeroplanes. A number of fights occurred. Eight hostile machines were driven down out of control. Four of our machines are missing."

Fascinating War Pictures. The open fighting of the past ten days during the German retreat has presented war pictures fascinatingly spectacular and closely approximate the older ideals of martial splendor. The roads, or more exactly the remnants of roads, in some of the stricken districts of France, had been fairly choked with troops on the move. From an eminence on a recently evacuated German stronghold could be seen today a column of cavalry coming over a distant hill dipping down into a beautiful valley and rising again by a winding road to a broad, open field where camp was pitched for the night. At times the brown-hued horses and brown-clad men were almost invisible against the brown winter landscape. At points further forward infantry detachments could be seen disappearing in the distance, skirmishing, dodging, one unit covering another, until it seemed almost as if the days of Indian fighting had returned.

Striking Change Seen. This open movement is a striking change from the deadly stalemata, the depression of fixed trench fighting. On the other hand, it is wonderful how the men, long inured to trench life, have come out in the open without noticeable change in their condition. There is warmth below the surface and a protection from the wind which "Tommy" has learned to appreciate, and which is not available now. Following the German wake it is difficult to understand why the retreating army gives up without a fight some of the enormously strong positions which are now in British or French hands. Of course these positions including the high barriers of the heaviest wire, could have been destroyed by sufficient concentration of gunfire, as were the positions which the Germans were forced to relinquish along the Ancre and the Somme, but the retirement has saved the allies countless tons of ammunition. The changes that have occurred within a few days in the territory recently occupied by the Germans are almost miraculous. Ruined villages which two days ago seemed isolated within the zone of deadly desolation, had military traffic policemen on duty on their main streets today. Advanced hospitals have been established and divisional and brigade headquarters taken up, while on the corners of the shattered villages, blacksmith shops were ringing with the sound of hammer upon anvil and soup-kitchens were sending out their savory odors. Everywhere were visible the activities of a great army moving forward. Major-generals and brigadier-generals who a few days ago occupied comfortable houses behind the old fixed positions are directing operations today from huts and dugouts, and thereby enjoying the change. Motoring over pontoon bridges hastily thrown across streams to replace the permanent structures blown up by the Germans, was one of the many novelties offered by the present situation. Another has been to see Indian sheiks, khaki clad and with immense khaki turbans on their heads, moving forward as patrols.

German Rear Guards Engaged. German rear guards engaged with hostile forces near Beaumetz and Roisel and east of the Crozat Canal on the front in northern France have fallen back, according to orders, after inflicting losses, German army headquarters announced today. A French attack near Vregny, northeast of Soissons, was repulsed. The British and French lost 17 aeroplanes, the statement reports. "Lively fighting activity in the angle between the Somme and the Crozat Canal is reported from the western front," reads tonight's supplementary army headquarters report. "From the eastern and Macedonian fronts nothing important has been reported."

WILSON ACTIVE IN WAR PREPARATIONS

Recruiting of Eighty-Seven Thousand Men for Navy Ordered.

GETTING ARMY READY

Steps Taken to Speed Up the Work of Mobilization.

Washington, March 25.—President Wilson took steps today to place the nation on a war footing. By executive order he directed that the navy be recruited without delay to full authorized war strength of 37,000 enlisted men. Taken in connection with emergency naval construction already ordered, this means that the president has exercised the full limit of his legal powers as commander-in-chief to prepare the navy for war. For the army, the president directed that two new military departments be created in the Atlantic coast region. The order means that the task of organizing whatever army congress may authorize will be divided among six departmental commanders instead of four in the interests of speed and efficiency in mobilization. The third step was to assume as a national duty the task of protecting American industries from domestic disorders in the event of hostilities. For this purpose eleven full infantry regiments, two separate battalions and one separate company of National Guard were called back into the federal service to act as national police in important districts. Supplementing these troops, a regiment of Pennsylvania Guard and two companies of Georgia infantry, en route home from the border for muster out, were ordered retained in the federal service. The president's orders were made known in terse official statements issued by both departments. No explanation accompanied them except the statement that reorganization of the military departments effective May 1, was designed to facilitate decentralization of command.

CANADIAN SAILING SHIP FELL PREY TO THE MOEWIE

British Schooner Owned in St. John's, Nfld., Also Reported Captured.

Berlin, March 25.—An additional list of vessels captured by the German auxiliary cruiser Moewe, which recently returned to Germany from a second cruise in the Atlantic was issued by the admiralty today and includes the Canadian sailing ship Jean of 215 tons gross, and the Duchess of Cornwall, a British three-masted schooner owned in St. John's, Nfld., which was reported sailing from St. John's on Dec. 4 for Gibraltar. The auxiliary cruiser Moewe had on board 223 prisoners when she reached her home port.

MAY SUBSCRIBE QUARTER BILLION

Finance Minister Says Victory Loan Has Proved Unqualified Success.

Ottawa, March 25.—Sir Thomas White, minister of finance, stated today he would not be surprised if the total subscriptions to the war loan, including \$60,000,000 from the banks, would aggregate \$250,000,000. The issue was for \$150,000,000. An official statement issued by Sir Thomas today said that the subscription lists of Canada's third war loan closed on Friday, several days must elapse before the mails from distant points, carrying thousands of subscriptions, are received. Sufficient applications, however, have come to hand to warrant the minister in stating that the loan is an unqualified success. "When all the subscriptions have been received it will be found that the loan has been considerably oversubscribed without linking into account the subscriptions of the chartered banks or conversions into this loan of bonds of stock of any other issue."

GRAND DUKE LOSES CONTROL OF ARMY

Retention Undesirable Because of His Connection With Romanoff Dynasty.

GEN. ALEXIEFF ACTING

New Government Will Meet Financial Obligations of Old Regime.

London, March 25.—The retirement of Grand Duke Nicholas from his post as commander-in-chief of the Russian armies is officially confirmed, according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. Pending the appointment of a successor, the despatch adds, Gen. M. V. Alexieff, chief of the general staff, will act as commander-in-chief. The retention of Grand Duke Nicholas as commander-in-chief was considered undesirable by the Russian minister of war because of the grand duke's connection with the Romanoff dynasty. Meet All Obligations. The provisional government of Russia, says the Reuter correspondent at Petrograd, has issued a proclamation that it will meet faithfully all the pecuniary engagements of the late government, notably with regard to interest and amortization of state debts, the fulfilment of commercial contracts, and the payment of official salaries. (Direct customs duties and other taxes will be levied as in the past until modified in accordance with the new law.) The proclamation continues: "The war involves enormous special taxes, but the new fiscal system which will be planned by the ministry of finance will distribute the burden of the different classes liable." The British, French and Italian ambassadors at Petrograd are reported to have congratulated the new government on its proclamation. (Continued on Page 7, Column 5.)

Hindenburg Line Has Been Pierced

BY THE FRENCH

Two Forts at LaFere Are Captured and Four Miles of West Bank of Oise Occupied, As Well As Important Ground Near St. Quentin, Where Advance of Two and a Half Miles is Made.

PARIS, March 25.—Another important advance has been made by the French in their movement against the strongly-defended town of St. Quentin, the war office reporting tonight that the position embracing Castres and Essigny-le-Grand, extending over a front of about two and a half miles, has been taken. Heavy fighting has been in progress in various sectors, and the French report large German losses. The text of the official statement reads: "From the Somme to the Aisne our troops continue their offensive movement. During the course of the day a desperate struggle followed a strong defence by the enemy, but our soldiers, aroused by the spectacle of the ravages committed by the Germans, everywhere drove back the adversary, who suffered serious losses. "Between the Somme and the Oise we drove the enemy out in the important position of Castres-Essigny-le-Grand and Hill 121. A violent German counter-attack, debouching on the front between Essigny and Benay, was broken down by our fire. "South of the Oise our troops penetrated several points in the Basse Foret de Coucy, and reached the outskirts of Folembry and Coucy-le-Chateau. German troops on the march in the direction of Folembry were caught under the furious fire of our batteries and dispersed with heavy losses. "North of Soissons we increased our gains and repulsed two counter-attacks directed against the Vregny-Margival front. "Active artillery fighting on both sides took place in the region of Craonne (northeast of Soissons). "On the Verdun front our batteries effectively shelled the German organizations north of Hill 304 and northwest of Bezanvaux. Further Progress Saturday. Further progress was made Saturday night by the French towards St. Quentin from north of Grand Seracourt, as well as on the east bank of the Ailette, south of Chauny, and in the region north of Soissons, the war office announced today. In the Verdun region the French captured parts of German trenches in the Malancourt Wood sector and repulsed a German attack near Apremont. The text of the statement is as follows: "During the night we made further progress north of Grand Seracourt, in the direction of St. Quentin. Between the Somme and the Oise the night was relatively calm. Prisoners taken by us yesterday belong to seven different regiments. "On the east bank of the Ailette we advanced noticeably south of Chauny and consolidated our positions, as we did also in the region north of Soissons. "West of the Meuse we executed a surprise attack and captured elements of enemy trenches east of the Malancourt Wood. East of the Meuse a German attack upon one of our trenches in the direction of Apremont was repulsed with hand grenades. There is nothing to report from the rest of the front. Four Miles Are Occupied. Two of the advance forts in the defensive system of La Fere, a strong point on the Hindenburg line, have been captured by the French, who have also occupied the west bank of the River Oise from the outskirts of La Fere as far north as Vendouil, a distance of about four miles. The new French success is chronicled in the official report issued by the war office tonight, which adds that several villages on the east bank of the Ailette River have also been taken, the German rearwards being driven back. "North of the Somme," says the statement, "we have forced back the enemy to the outskirts of Savy, where he had established himself in a line of trenches prepared in advance from the Somme to the Oise. "Our troops, continuing their success, gave battle to the enemy, who defended himself foot by foot, and pushed him about one kilometre north of Grand Seracourt and Gibercourt, occupying the west bank of the Oise from the outskirts of La Fere as far north as Vendouil. Two advance forts of the defensive system of La Fere fell into our hands. "South of the Oise, in spite of the invasions effected by the enemy, we made important progress on the east bank of the Ailette, regaining several villages and compelling the German rearwards to retire. "In the lower section of the forest of Coucy, north of Soissons, there is little change. We found numerous German dead in the trenches taken by us yesterday north of Margival. "A German long range gun, about twelve o'clock today, fired a number of shells of heavy calibre on the town of Soissons. "Artillery fighting has been quite marked in the regions of Berry-aux-Bac and Rheims, as well as in Alsace in the direction of Vioul-Py, south of Colde Saint Marie." French Advance Continues. The rapidity of the German retreat has somewhat diminished, but the French advance continues eastward of St. Quentin Canal. The fighting between the advance and rearwards has been sharp at various points, but the Germans have been unable to withstand the pressure of the French forward move. All obstacles placed in the way of the oncoming French are overcome with indomitable energy and spirit, with which the men are imbued more than ever since they left the trenches for the open country. The hardships of bivouacs and iron rations are borne with the utmost cheerfulness, because the French soldiers feel that they are liberating from serfdom their fellow citizens, who have been under the sternest German rule for more than two years. The Associated Press correspondent with the troops encountered some of the difficulties which confront the pursuing army. At five different places the French tried to cross the canal, but on each occasion were pulled up suddenly by a yawning opening where a bridge had been blown up, but they eventually crossed by a pontoon. Pollution of the Wells. As the French progress continues the extent to which the countryside has been laid waste increases; not a dwelling remains intact. This is not the result of artillery fire, but specially prepared bombs, which were placed in the buildings as the Germans left. Cottages and farmhouses, which once housed nearly 100,000 peasant farmers, have thus been razed.

PICKED BATTALIONS FACING CANADIANS

Prisoners Taken Are From Some of Germany's Best Fighting Divisions.

ENEMY'S GUNS WEAK

Canadian Artillery Dominates Situation—Troops Are in Splendid Health.

Canadian Headquarters in France, March 25, via London.—Our artillery carried out a bombardment on the German batteries in positions behind the enemy's front line and put out of action some batteries occupying important points. The bombardment continues today. Notwithstanding our bombardment on Saturday with unabated vigor, the enemy's response was notably weak. The damage done by him was confined chiefly to the villages already shot to pieces and not in occupation. Our patrols are vigilant. A few more prisoners brought in show that some of the best German fighting divisions are on this part of the line. High Standards of Health. Figures officially available indicate how remarkably well the Canadian corps has come through the trying experience of winter in the trenches. The returns show that the sickness, which includes all accidents or injuries from other causes than the missiles of the enemy, is less than in any other corps of the army of the first three weeks of March. During the first three weeks of March the daily average of men in the hospital from sickness was less than twelve per thousand. The disease known as trench feet has been practically eliminated by careful treatment and precautionary measures. As an evidence of the remarkable effect of the general use of inoculation against typhoid fever among the Canadian soldiers, it is announced that in a division through which about 75,000 men have passed into England, Belgium and France since the war began, under greatly varying conditions, only 30 cases of typhoid have occurred in two years and eight months, and one death. At present it is believed that only 15 men in the division are not inoculated. In the South African war two-thirds of the total number of deaths was due to this disease. Stewart Lyon.

Enemy Clearly Plans Drive Upon Petrograd

Great Numbers of Troops Massed Along Northern Front—Russia Turns From Reconstruction Problems to Face Danger.

London, March 25.—From internal troubles and the problems of reconstruction the attention of Russia has suddenly diverted to a new danger which threatens from without. There is now indisputable evidence that the Germans are massing great numbers of troops along the northern front ready for an effort against Russia's capital. The country has been apprised of the new menace by a series of proclamations from its ministers. Alluding to the military situation in Russia and the effect of the revolution on the men at the front, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent says: "War Minister Guchkof's statement that the foe is at the gate is no mere figure of speech. The slightest relaxation of vigilance and the enemy would be at Petrograd." The correspondent then cautiously refers to the repulsive action on the troops of the consciousness that the army has been the arbiter of Russia's destiny, which has manifested itself in demands incompatible with military discipline, and says that already there is news from various fronts of the prevalence of "second thoughts."

Clocks in United Kingdom To Move Forward an Hour

London, March 25.—All clocks in the United Kingdom, it is announced officially, will be moved forward one hour at 2 o'clock in the morning of April 8. The clocks will be moved back again on Sept. 17. The Italian Government has issued a decree that all clocks shall be moved forward one hour for the period between April 1 and Sept. 30. France also will move its clock forward one hour, beginning March 29.

China to Break With Austria If Reply Is Not Satisfactory

Peking, Thursday, March 22.—(Delayed.)—The Chinese foreign office has directed the Chinese minister at Vienna to ask the Austro-Hungarian Government if it approves of the German submarine policy, because of which China has severed diplomatic relations with Germany. Should a satisfactory reply not be forthcoming, diplomatic relations between China and Austria-Hungary probably will be severed.

BIG ANTI-CONSCRIPTION RALLY HELD AT QUEBEC

Lucien Cannon, Defeated Liberal Candidate, Is Included Among the Speakers.

Quebec, March 25.—St. Peter's Market Hall was too small to accommodate the large crowd tonight to attend the anti-conscription meeting—some 3000 gaining admission while many more were turned away. The unanimous feeling of the meeting against conscription was manifested by the enthusiastic applause which greeted Armand Lavergne and Ald. Eugene Dussault. Joseph Tanguay, labor leader, presided, and Mr. Lucien Cannon, the defeated candidate in the recent Dorchester election, was also one of the speakers. He was frequently interrupted by the crowd for his references to his political fight, and it was plain that for the moment the conscription issue held a more prominent place in the minds of those present than politics.

Warning Proclamations.

Minister of War Guchkof, according to Petrograd advices on Saturday, issued a proclamation warning the people of the menace of spies seeking to uncover secrets of the national defence. The concentration of these spies in Petrograd was pointed to as one element of danger against which steps were immediately necessary, while the other menace was named as the concentration by the Germans of great quantities of munitions, supplies and men on the Russian northern front. Other despatches told of a conference between Gen. Korniloff, the commander of the troops in the Petrograd district, with the council of workmen and soldiers' delegates, concerning the German concentration along this front, and of a great meeting of soldiers on the Riga front attended by Gen. Dimitrioff and delegates of the duma at which it was resolved unanimously to strain every effort for the defence of Russia.

A HURRY CALL.

Dineen's are sending out a "hurry call" to their fire sale, see page two of this morning's "World." The fire stock must be sold. Its presence is hindrance to the resumption of regular business. Store open 10 o'clock this morning, 140 Yonge street.



the macell tail 7.75 Suits to secure an a good shades flared and finished 12.95 \$14.95 specially selected Michaels-Stern any one line. 14.95 coats back-over of the smartest of pinch-back a good quality custom tailor. On 26.00

mounts and 17.25 inch filters: 25.00 18.95 and 3.05 deeply tufted, regular sizes. 10.00

at Glass Sale Footed Comports, floral cut design. Selling today, each. 2.95

Sugar and sale to 2.95 eight-inch size selling to 3.45

Fern Pots, 50 today, 3.45 Company Limited