

3,130 PERISH WHEN FRENCH CRUISER SANK

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY AT 2.30-7 and 9
CANADA'S
FIGHTING FORCES

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong winds and gales, with snow.

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FRENCH WIN STRATEGIC POINT AT DOUAI-MONT AND REGAIN LOST GROUND BY FERCE COUNTER ATTACKS

Violent Bombardments in Region of Malancourt and East of Verdun Foreshadow New Drive Over a Considerably Wider Area.

French Take Advantage of Lull in Fighting and Filled Gaps in Ranks—Big Guns Play Havoc With Enemy Whenever He Attempts to Assemble Forces for Attack.

PARIS, MARCH 3.—THE BIG BATTLE OF VERDUN HAS BEEN RESUMED. THE GERMANS GRADUALLY WORKED UP A PRELIMINARY BOMBARDMENT THROUGHOUT WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THURSDAY MORNING UNTIL, IN THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY, IT HAD REACHED GREAT INTENSITY. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TO THE FRENCH POSITIONS WEST OF THE MEUSE, BETWEEN FORGES AND MALANCOURT, AS WELL AS ON THE FAMOUS PEPPER HILL AND DOUAI-MONT POSITIONS FROM WHICH IT IS INFERRED THAT THE GERMANS INTEND TO MAKE A SECOND EFFORT OVER A WIDER AREA THAN THE SIX KILOMETERS FRONT ON WHICH THEY CONCENTRATED MASSES OF MEN IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE STRUGGLE, WITH THE IDEA THAT IF IT FAILS TO BREAK THE LINE ON THE NORTH IT MAY SEVER IT ON THE NORTHWEST.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VIOLENT ASSAULTS ON PEPPER HILL AND DOUAI-MONT THE GERMAN INFANTRY, THUS FAR, HAS NOT BEEN ENGAGED IN THE FRAY. THE COMMAND HAD GONE OUT TO THE FRENCH TROOPS NOT TO LET THE GRASS GROW UNDER THEIR FEET, AND THEY PROFITED BY THE LULL PRECEDING THE FRESH ATTACK BY CONCENTRATING VAST STORES OF MUNITIONS, FILLING GAPS IN THEIR RANKS AND STRENGTHENING STILL FURTHER THE VITAL POINTS IN THEIR DEFENSE. THE FRENCH AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE WITH THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE.

French Take Important Position.

Paris, Mar. 3.—The French have occupied the highest part of the mound on the northern slope of which the village of Douaumont is situated, and also in counter-attacks against the Germans have regained ground in the immediate vicinity of Douaumont, according to the French official communication made public this evening.

The bombardment continues very violent along the entire front of the west to the Woëvre region. The communication says: "In the region to the north of Verdun the fighting is very spirited. Near the village of Douaumont we have occupied the highest part of the mound on the northern slope of which the village is situated. A heavy counter-attack has enabled us to regain ground in the immediate vicinity of the village.

The bombardment continues very violent to the west and the east of the Meuse and also in the Woëvre. Our artillery has concentrated its fire on assembling points of the Germans, notably in the vicinity of Beaumont, where a column on the march was dispersed.

In Upper Alsace we have carried out an attack to the east of Seppelt, and have taken several elements of German trenches on the right bank of La Grande Lague. A counter-attack of the enemy failed to dislodge us from the conquered ground.

Albatrosses brought down yesterday in the region of Douaumont his sixth aeroplane, a craft of the Albatross type. The aeroplanes fell inside our lines. The passengers, who were wounded, were taken prisoner."

GERMAN STEAMER HAS BEEN SUNK BY MINE.

French Aircraft Carried From Saloniki on Transports Bomb Towns Around Smyrna.

Cairo, Egypt, March 3, via London, 8.01 p. m.—Sidi Barani, a town in Western Egypt, was re-occupied yesterday after being for three months in the hands of tribesmen commanded by Turkish officers.

British Mine Sweeper Sunk. Bulletin—London, March 3, 6.00 p. m.—The Admiralty announces that the mine-sweeper Primula was torpedoed and sunk March 1 in the eastern Mediterranean, while performing her usual duties.

All the officers and crew, except three men, were saved and landed at Port Said.

New York, March 3.—A news agency despatch from Paris this afternoon says: The following official communication was issued here today: "A squadron of French aeroplanes at Saloniki were taken on board transports and afterward bombarded the communications and defensive works of the Turks at Bourmaba and Bordenio in the vicinity of Smyrna."

Loss of French Auxiliary Cruiser Provence Greatest Ocean Tragedy of Modern Times

Paris, Mar. 3.—It was announced at the French ministry of marine today that there were nearly 4,000 men on board the French auxiliary cruiser Provence when she was sunk in the Atlantic ocean on Feb. 26.

It was stated that on board the Providence were the staff of the Third Colonial Infantry Regiment, the Third Battalion, the Second Company of the First Battalion, the Second Machine Gun Company and one extra company, in all nearly 4,000 men.

As the ministry of marine, on Feb. 26, announced that the number of survivors of the Provence disaster was estimated at 870, it is indicated by the foregoing despatch that upwards of 3,130 lives were lost.

The loss of more than three thousand lives in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser Provence is the greatest ocean disaster of modern times. Up to the present the largest number of lives ever lost in one wreck was when the White Star liner Titanic struck an iceberg off the Newfoundland Banks on April 14, 1912, and sank with a death list of 1,595. The rescued numbered 743.

The French ministry of marine had previously given out no statement as to the number of persons on the Providence when she went down. The vessel, however, when in the trans-Atlantic service could carry 1,900 passengers, including the crew, and it has been presumed that as she was transporting troops between ports not far distant apart, she was carrying a number of men larger than her normal capacity.

The official statement announcing the sinking of the Providence said: "The French auxiliary cruiser Provence II, (so designated to distinguish her from the French battleship Provence) engaged in transporting troops to Saloniki, was sunk in the Mediterranean on Feb. 26. Two hundred and ninety-six survivors have been brought to Malta, and about four hundred more are being sought."

The Canadian Pacific steamship Empress of Ireland, sunk in collision with the Danish collier Storstad in the St. Lawrence river, May 29, 1914, with the loss of more than 1,000 lives.

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RUSSIANS TAKE BITLIS, CITY IN TURKISH ARMENIA

Czar's Forces Continue to Sweep Forward in Asia Minor Along Three Lines Radiating From Erzerum—Close on Trebezdond and Occupation of that Town Looked For Soon

Petrograd, via London, March 3, 10.19 p. m.—It is officially announced that the Russians have captured Bitlis, Turkish Armenia, about 1,100 miles southeast of Erzerum near the southwestern extremity of Lake Van. The city was taken by assault.

Bitlis is a city of some 35,000 inhabitants and the capital of the vilayet of the same name. It has numerous mosques and convents of dancing dervishes. It stands at an altitude of 4,700 feet above sea level.

Petrograd, via London, March 5.—The Russian advance in Asia Minor, radiating along three main lines from Erzerum towards Trebezdond, Sivas and Bitlis, is meeting with equal success in all three directions. Since there has been no serious Turkish resistance since the fall of Erzerum, however, there is little to record in this theatre of operations except the continued forward sweep of the Russian armies, retarded, according to reports from the front, only by the ragged character of the country and the severity of the weather.

In their retreat the Turks appear to have been mainly occupied with attempts to save their guns and equipment, in which they were only partially successful as the Russians report an increasing toll of captured cannon.

The Turks are said to be strengthening the fortifications of Sivas, which is about two hundred miles west of Erzerum, this point being the only one considered here as likely to be a serious obstruction to the westward progress of the Russians, and it is believed to be improbable that the Turks will attempt to make a stand until Sivas is reached. Turkish reinforcements are pouring daily into this centre.

In the north pass of the Russians' progress their forces are close upon Trebezdond and the Russian occupation of that city is momentarily expected. This successful co-ordination between the different Russian army groups is enabling the main army, which is proceeding due west from Erzerum, to continue their advance without reaching out too far ahead of its supporting wings and becoming subject to flank attacks from the Turks.

There has been no recent official news regarding the progress of the Russian forces in Persia, but, with Kermanshah safe in their hands, they are now reported moving towards the British forces in Mesopotamia; junction of these two forces is regarded by military writers here as a foregone conclusion.

Senator Kern, who voted with the administration forces, declared their action did not represent the real sentiment of the senate. Senator Fall, a Republican, said: "By your action today you have sent a message to the Kaiser, if you have done anything, notice that the senate of the United States will look upon his sinking of armed merchant ships and the death of an American citizen as probably with some degree of regret, but that no action would be taken against him."

Senator Borah, Republican, arraigned the senate for what he characterized as its evasive action, he said he would "rather have battleships sunk, than to have the honor of this senate compromised before the world."

On the other hand, Senator Kern, the majority leader, upheld the action, asserting that it would proclaim to all nations that the president, in exercising his constitutional powers in the conduct of negotiations, spoke "not for himself, not for his party, but for all the people of his country, who are prepared to back him with their lives in an insistence on American rights."

Emphatically asserting that there could be no confusion of the senate action because of technical parliamentary entanglements, Senator Lodge, ranking Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the senate had gone on record as "opposing a warning to Americans and against interference with the executive."

The action which effectually disposed of the Gore resolutions was a complex one. Senator Stone moved to bring the resolution before the senate and Senator Gore then obtained permission to change his resolution. Retaining the original preamble, he substituted the resolution with the following:

"Resolved, that the sinking by a submarine without notice or warning of an armed merchant vessel of her public enemy, resulting in the death of a citizen of the United States, would constitute a just and sufficient cause of war between the United States and the German empire."

Senator McCumber, a Republican, immediately introduced a substitute similar to Senator Gore's original resolutions, warning Americans off armed ships, pending negotiations with foreign powers to revise the rules of international law to meet the new conditions of naval warfare.

No Right to Tie President's Hands. Senator James, one of the administration leaders, then moved to table all proposals—the McCumber resolution, the original and substitute resolutions offered by Senator Gore, and all amendments. The motion was carried with sixty-eight senators, forty-seven Democrats and twenty-one Republicans voting with the administration, and twelve Republicans and two Democrats voting against it. The Democrats recorded in the negative were Senators Chamberlain and O'Gorman.

After his substitute for the Gore resolution had been slaughtered in the general motion to table, Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, re-introduced it as a new resolution. Inasmuch as it contains a provision for a warning to Americans to keep off ships, discussion may arise again when the senator gets an opportunity to call it up next week. Democratic and Republican leaders asserted, however, that should it be called up it would be forced to the calendar, where other business would effectually smother it.

After a two-hour debate the Foreign Affairs Committee of the house voted to report the McCumber resolution with the recommendation to table. The committee's report was adopted by a vote of seventeen to two, without a record vote. Representative Shackelford, who has been actively supporting a warning resolution, voted affirmatively.

The text of the report follows: "That house resolution 147, known as the McCumber resolution, requesting the president to warn all citizens of the United States to refrain from travelling on armed merchant vessels, be reported to the house with the recommendation that it be laid on the table. Under the constitution the practice and precedents in this country and the conduct of diplomatic negotiations has been left to the president, and with this practice the committee does not feel it proper for the House of Representatives to interfere.

"We know that if the president reaches a point in any negotiation with foreign governments at which he has exhausted his power in the premises, he will, in the usual way, report all facts and circumstances to congress for its consideration.

"The administration is well pleased with the committee action," Chairman Flood said later.

Under the rules of the house only forty minutes' debate will be allowed on the rule under which the report will be brought up. The rules committee will meet tomorrow morning at ten o'clock to provide the necessary rule to get the matter before the house. There was a general disposition displayed among all factions today to dispose of the entire controversy as quickly as possible.

TURBULENT SCENE IN U. S. SENATE

Wilson Gains His Point, Vote Standing 68 to 14 for Him.

VICTORY EXPECTED IN THE HOUSE TODAY.

Senators Hurl Fiery Retorts at One Another and Sergeant-at-Arms Needed to Restore Order.

Washington, March 3.—By a vote of 68 to 14 the senate today carried out President Wilson's wish, and killed Senator Gore's resolution to warn Americans off armed belligerent ships.

In a turbulent scene, such as seldom is witnessed in the senate, the voting proceeded with senators shouting objections, futilely demanding recognition to explain their positions, and making hot retorts to each other, all of which were out of order. At one time so many senators were shouting for the vice-president's recognition that the sergeant-at-arms was called to restore quiet.

After having manoeuvred for two days to get the resolution in such parliamentary position that it was disposed of without debate, the senate then proceeded to a general discussion of the subject which continued all afternoon, to the dismay of administration supporters. There were free expressions of opinion that the senate's action, because the vote actually was taken on a motion to table the Gore resolution with a correction by the author and a substitute by Senator McCumber, was in effect a "Scottish verdict," and had not actually accomplished the purpose of the president. Such statements aroused the president's friends, who feared they would produce an effect exactly opposite to that intended—a notice to the world that the senate stands behind the president in his demand on Germany for the rights of Americans travelling the seas.

In the house, however, the Foreign Affairs Committee, by a vote of 17 to 2, took a longer step toward meeting fully the president's wish. It voted to report the McCumber warning resolution with the recommendation that it be tabled. In the report the committee asserts that the constitution imposed the conduct of diplomatic negotiations on the president, and "with this practice the committee does not feel it proper for the house of representatives to interfere."

It probably will be voted on in the house tomorrow under a special rule. Administration forces are confident of a full-fledged victory.

At the White House satisfaction was expressed with the senate's action. Senator Gore voted for the motion to table and declared he considered the administration victory a mixed one.

A Sensational Debate. The debate which followed the senate vote was sensational. Senator Lewis, the Democratic whip, pleading with senators for moderation in their remarks, declared the Spanish war would have been averted by action in Congress similar to that taken today, and that the war was brought on by vituperative debates. Senator Clarke,

in a statement made by Mr. Hazen that a page deleted from a report by the department of agriculture had nothing to do with the Atlantic Hay Company's contract. The minister had declared, on the assurance of the officials of the department, that the matter deleted contained information that it was inadvisable to allow to get into the hands of the Germans. It is a most unusual thing for a member of the house to refuse to take the pledged word of a minister, but Mr. Carvell is not an ordinary man.

The member for Carleton went on to say that it was fourteen years ago when he entered into his contract for the purchase of hay, and he gave as his right to do what he did, because he was not a member of parliament nor of the legislature. He declared that the restrictive clauses were put in by Smith himself.

"Mr. Smith," he said, "wouldn't sign the contract with us until the clause was put in."

H. B. Murphy interrupted to ask if it was true that the farmers were not to be paid more than \$8 for their hay. "Yes," answered Mr. Carvell.

Mr. Morphy—"Did you draw up the contract?"

Mr. Carvell—"I did not draw it up, but I helped to sign it." (Laughter.)

Tables Turned on Carvell. Mr. Carvell declared that Mr. Hazen had been compelled to give a contract for hay to other parties through political pressure.

Mr. Hazen pointed out that Mr. Carvell knew very well he had been speaking out of order, but he had wanted to make a statement regarding the hay contract with which he had been called and he (Mr. Hazen) had no objections to his doing so. Mr. Carvell and Mr. Turill had both

(Continued on page 2)

MR. HAZEN AGAIN TURNS THE TABLES ON CARVELL

Carleton Co. Grit Gets Worst of Tilt With Minister of Marine—Hon. Mr. Hazen's Knowledge of Department of Agriculture Wins Praise—United States Embargo on Canadian Tubers Raised.

Ottawa, March 3.—There was a breeze in the Commons tonight when the estimates of the department of agriculture were under consideration.

Hon. Martin Burrell is not yet recovered from the severe burns which he received in the fire which destroyed the parliament buildings, and the Hon. J. D. Hazen has been acting minister, so today when the estimates were before the House the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had to undergo the fire of the opposition. Mr. Hazen bore the brunt of it well. He is one of the most versatile members of the government, and he had mastered the details of this new department thoroughly before he was called upon to act as sponsor for Mr. Burrell.

To take over a new department, and shortly afterwards to appear in the House with the estimates, and to explain all the intricacies of the workings of a huge department in reply to the searching questions of the opposition, is one of the most trying experiences that can befall a public man. Mr. Hazen came out of the ordeal with great credit to himself, and earned in encomiums of several of the speakers.

It was quite evident, however, that F. B. Carvell, the member for Carleton, N. B., was still smarting under the exposure which Mr. Burrell made of his connection with a hay contract he and his company got during the South African war, when they made terms with which farmers in New Brunswick should not be paid more than \$8 per ton for their hay. There was also inserted a clause to provide punishment for agents if they paid the farmers more than the eight dollars. So Mr. Carvell took the opportunity tonight of trying to square himself. His statement only made him appear the more ridiculous. Mr. Hazen is far too able a man for the member of Carleton, and in a few

terse sentences left him in a helpless position.

Mr. Carvell refused to believe a statement made by Mr. Hazen that a page deleted from a report by the department of agriculture had nothing to do with the Atlantic Hay Company's contract. The minister had declared, on the assurance of the officials of the department, that the matter deleted contained information that it was inadvisable to allow to get into the hands of the Germans. It is a most unusual thing for a member of the house to refuse to take the pledged word of a minister, but Mr. Carvell is not an ordinary man.

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OCEAN LIMITED TO BE TAKEN OFF

ONE 26TH MAN IS WOUNDED

Ottawa, Mar. 4.—The casualty list issued at midnight contains the name of one New Brunswick man, Fred A. Woodbury, 26th Battalion, reported wounded.