

Much Fighting in France and Italy; President Wilson Cheers Russians

UNITED STATES TROOPS SAVAGELY RAID GERMAN TRENCHES IN LORRAINE

Succeed in Reaching Second Line of the Enemy Trenches in Three Brisk Raids — Three Attacks on British Lines Frustrated Despite Terrible Hun Fire — Fighting Spreads Further South.

Fighting on Quite a Large Scale on Italian Front Where Teuton Attempts to Advance Are Checked—French Also Have Encounters with Enemy—British Again Win in Palestine.

American initiative has asserted itself on the Lorraine front in France. Three savage raids on the German lines have been made by the Americans, who succeeded in reaching the second line of enemy trenches before being ordered to return. During their stay in German-held territory, they destroyed carefully built defenses and picked up much war material.

The American artillery ably assisted the infantry in the operation. A heavy barrage fire was laid down in front of the advancing Americans and the Germans had fled before the wave of infantry had reached the hostile positions. After the Americans had been in the German trenches for a few minutes the German barrage fire was loosed on them, but the American guns fired shot for shot and silenced a number of batteries. The American artillerymen used gas shells with good effect. Near Toul the American heavy guns have been in action.

Hun Raids Fail.

Three raids on the British lines have been attempted by the Germans in the Armentieres sector, but the British, in spite of a heavy fire from the enemy's heavy guns, repulsed the Teutons. The fighting has spread along the Flanders front, the Ypres and Passchendaele sectors figuring in the official reports. The activities of the contending armies have spread further south, encounters near St. Quentin being mentioned for the first time in recent weeks. Information received from German prisoners was responsible for the disclosure of German plans for heavy attacks on the British southeast of Houthoult Wood. On February 20, February 28 and March 8 attacks were forestalled by a terrific British artillery fire and, while an enemy attack on March 9 was successful to some degree, the British on Saturday succeeded in re-establishing their lines.

Palestine Success.

The British forces operating in Palestine have once more advanced north and northwest of Jericho. They have taken positions to a depth of 3,000 yards over a front of twelve miles. The Turks fought stubbornly at various points of vantage. The resignation of Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, is explained by a report that he acted after a quarrel with Nikolai Lenin, the premier, who insisted that the Russian people agree to the disastrous peace of Brest-Litovsk, which Trotsky protested against submitting without a struggle. Only fighting reported in Russia, is in the neighborhood of Kiev, Rastjelina and along the Shmerinka-Odesa railway, where the Germans claim to have scattered bands of Russians.

Brisk in Italy.

There has been fighting on quite a large scale on the Italian front. In the mountain sectors of the line, enemy attempts to advance have been checked, while along the Piave River, the Austrians were defeated in an attempt to launch pontoons for an attack on the Italian lines.

The French have been in scattered encounters with the Germans at various points along their part of the front, but nowhere has there been serious fighting. A further bombardment of Rheims Cathedral may be expected, for the Germans report that a French observation post on that almost ruined shrine has been detected. The air squadrons have been busy of late. The most spectacular of these operations was made by the Teutons, who raided Naples, the largest city in Italy. It may be that they started from their bases on the eastern shores of the Adriatic and flew over the sea and across Italy in their raid.

The British raiders have dropped large quantities of bombs on military points in Belgium, while the allied airmen have been active in Italy.

SEVERE STORM HALTS TRAFFIC ON RAILROADS

Section Foreman Dies from Injuries Received Near Dorchester.

TWO OTHER EMPLOYEES OF C. G. R. ARE HURT

Entire Moncton-Halifax Line Blocked by Drifts at Folleigh.

THREE OTHER ROADS CLOSED BY SNOW

Blizzard at Moncton Most Severe in Fifty Years.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Mar. 11.—Railway communication between Moncton and Halifax is completely severed for the time being as the result of Sunday night's big snow storm. The C. G. R. in the Folleigh Mountain section is entirely blocked by huge drifts through which it was impossible today to force a passage. The last train to reach Moncton from Halifax was Sunday's Maritime Express, which arrived here Sunday night about twelve o'clock. A snow plow special sent out from Moncton today to the scene of the blockade is off the track in the snow-bound section and is reported buried by drifting snow.

Foreman Killed.

Edmund Cole, C. G. R. section foreman, was struck by a snow plow special this morning near Dorchester and was rushed to the Moncton hospital. He died about 10.30 this evening, having never regained consciousness.

Foreman Cole was working alone on the track just this side of Dorchester cleaning out switches and it is supposed on account of the drifting snow he failed to hear the plow special. One saw the unfortunate man struck and he was found about an hour later by Sebastian Gaudet, section man, lying in the snow beside the track. He was unconscious, suffering from a leg fracture, fractured arms and internal injuries. Deceased was fifty-eight years old and is survived by wife and grown-up family. He resided near Dorchester and was well known, having worked on the C. G. R. section for many years.

It is reported that another section man was struck by the blow special at College Bridge, being thrown clear of the track some distance and escaping with slight shaking up.

In the derailment of a snow plow special at Folleigh one of the crew was injured.

Ocean Stalled.

Today's Ocean Limited from Halifax had no chance of getting through by night and the blockade at Folleigh may not be raised until tomorrow if weather continues cold and snow continues drifting as it has since the storm broke there is a possibility of serious interruption to traffic for several days.

The storm has been very severe all over the heaviest of the winter. An old trawlerman states that the blizzard in the Moncton yard was the worst in forty-two years' experience in rail roading. On the northern division the line is clear, but the Maritime, due from Montreal this morning, only arrived here tonight at 7.45.

The storm gave the C. G. R. the most trouble east of Moncton and plow specials have been kept moving between Moncton and Amherst during the day to keep the track clear of drifting snow. It will be some days at least before traffic conditions on the C. G. R. will be back to normal, even if

Storm-Delayed Trains Hold Up Legislature

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, Mar. 11.—Owing to the non-attendance of members, due to delay in trains, there was no session of the legislature tonight. It requires fourteen members to make a quorum of the house, and although there are sixteen members in or around Fredericton, they did not put in an appearance in the legislative halls, consequently the session stands automatically adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at three when the real business will commence.

Opposition Stronger.

In the house tonight while waiting for the opening the opposition had a majority, Hon. Mr. Burchill and Mr. Hetherington being alone in their glory on the government side, while on the opposition benches there were Messrs. Tilley, Potts and Campbell of St. John and Mr. Pinder, Dr. Crockett and Mr. Young of York.

Late trains however played havoc with the plans of the members for attending the session as the North Shore delegation, which includes the greater part of the government, was unable to get here. The premier arrived tonight from St. John, but did not put in an appearance in the house. Consequently there is an automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock when Hon. Mr. Foster will resume the debate on the address.

ELEVEN KILLED IN A THEATRE

Wall Crashes in On Motion Picture House, Ending Lives of Ten Children and Injuring Many Other Persons—Hundred Buried in the Debris.

Winchester, Mo., Mar. 11.—This town was in mourning today in consequence of one of the most fearful motion picture tragedies which has occurred since the introduction of the modern system of entertainment to the world. Saturday night, while several hundred persons were enjoying a national tragedy of the ever popular movies, in the Winchester Theatre, a towering wall of an adjacent building crashed over onto the play-house, burying one hundred or more of those in the audience and turning the house of amusement into a chamber of horrors.

Today Winchester buried her dead, ten children and one adult. Many are in the hospitals and several of the number are expected to succumb to their injuries.

Was No Warning.

The horror was probably the only one of the kind that has overwhelmed a motion picture house. Without warning, with the large audience, including half a hundred children, were enjoying the displays on the screen, the crash came and transformed a scene of contentment into one of death and frightfulness, one that would have made grim material for the professional film men.

More than one hundred of the occupants were buried by the tons of brick, mortar and debris which overwhelmed them like an alpine avalanche. Ten children were killed outright, others were maimed, and one grown person died from suffocation. Several of the little ones also lost their lives in this way. The clouds of choking dust delayed rescue work and it required several hours careful labor by the fire department and police before the bodies and the injured were taken out. Relatives of those imprisoned added to the excitement and many of the scenes outside of the wrecked theatre were harrowing.

No Fire Followed.

Luckily the building did not catch fire, thus limiting the casualty list. Twenty-two persons are in the Clark County Hospital and many more are at their homes suffering from bruises, cuts and shock. Four children's names are on the dangerous list at the hospital.

Sunday was a day of gloom in Winchester. Many persons from adjoining or nearby places in this state and Illinois came to town to view the ruins. Today the funerals of ten of the little victims and one adult were held. By proclamation of the mayor all business houses were closed and flags hoisted at half mast.

A thorough investigation will be held to place the responsibility for the disaster. The building adjoining the theatre was being repaired and it is claimed those in charge of the work were negligent.

FRENCH LIBERAL DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr. Chabot Declines to Become Deputy Speaker on Ground of Ill-Health.

Ottawa, Mar. 11.—Dr. J. J. Chabot, M. P. for Ottawa, the only Union government French-Canadian in house, has definitely refused to accept the deputy speakership of the Commons. The position carries with it a salary of \$2,000 a year, but Dr. Chabot, who has not been in the best of health, feels that he cannot undertake the work. The government therefore will have to appoint a French-Canadian Liberal and a name suggested tonight is that of Hon. Charles Marcl, a former speaker.

There should be no more storms and more seasonable weather prevails. The latest report as to the progress of work at Folleigh says it is expected to get the road open before morning. The Salisbury and Albert, Moncton and Butouche and Elgin, and Pettit-codiac branches are blocked. The Kent northern branch is open. Trains are moving all right on the N. T. R. between Moncton and Edmundston.

U. S. SYMPATHIZES WITH THE RUSSIANS

President Wilson Sends Special Message to Congress of Soviets at Moscow Which Is to Pass Judgment on German-Made Peace Accepted by the Bolsheviki at Brest-Litovsk.

Republic Extends Sympathy at Moment When German Power Has Been Thrust in to Turn Back Whole Struggle for Freedom—New Up-rising Probable.

Washington, Mar. 11.—On the eve of the gathering at Moscow of the Russian congress of Soviets, which is to pass judgment on the German-made peace accepted by the Bolsheviki at Brest-Litovsk, President Wilson has sent a message of sympathy to the Russian people through the congress with a pledge that the United States will avail itself of every possibility to aid them in driving out autocracy and restore Russia to her place in the world with complete sovereignty and independence.

The United States now recognizes no government in Russia, but the president cabled his message to the American consul at Moscow for delivery tomorrow to the congress which is made up of soldiers' and workmen's representatives and speaks for at least a considerable part of the Russian people.

NEWSPAPER MEN USEFUL

Premier Lloyd-George Tells Why He Employed Services of Lords Beaverbrook, Northcliffe and Rothermere.

London, Mar. 11.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Premier Lloyd George, replying in the House of Commons today to Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain who questioned in regard to the relations of the government and the press, said that Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook controlled newspapers when they became ministers. Lord Northcliffe held ministerial office. The governments of all other allied countries employed journalists and newspaper proprietors. He dissented from the suggestion that such a class was disqualified.

Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook had relinquished their newspaper direction when they assumed office. Canadian Propaganda. After referring to Lord Rothermere's qualifications, the premier said that Lord Beaverbrook had organized the Canadian propaganda at the request of the Canadian government. It was acknowledged that the propaganda was perhaps the most successful series of work of its kind on the allied side.

When for reasons of health Lord Beaverbrook gave up the direction of the Canadian propaganda, the premier of the Dominion had warmly recognized his services and urged him to reconsider his decision.

Mr. Lloyd George referred to the deadly effect of the enemy propaganda in Italy and Russia and the strong necessity for counter-action. "Measures taken in this connection had not given complete satisfaction," he stated, "and we therefore invited Lord Northcliffe who was specially qualified and consented to undertake the task without ministerial position."

P. E. I. ROBBERY

Charlotteburg, March 11.—About seven Saturday evening Herbert Clements, an aged shoemaker, was struck down on the street while near his own home by an unknown man and robbed of his money. A robbery is a rare occurrence in this city.

POET DEAD

Boston, March 11.—Charles Follen Adams, poet and lecturer, is dead, aged 76 years. He was the author of "Leedsie Yawob Straus."

The Message.

The message made public tonight by the state department, was as follows: "May I not take advantage of the meeting of the congress of the soviets to express the sincere sympathy which the people of the United States feel for the Russian people at this moment when the German power has been thrust in to interrupt and turn back the whole struggle for freedom and substitute the wishes of Germany for the purpose of the people of Russia. Although the government of the United States is, unhappily, not now in a position to render the direct and effective aid it would wish to render, I beg to assure the people of Russia through the congress that it will avail itself of every opportunity to secure for Russia once more complete sovereignty and in peace her own affairs and full restoration to her great role in the life of Europe and the modern world. The whole heart of the people of the United States is with the people of Russia in the attempt to free themselves forever from autocratic government and become the masters of their own life." (Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

First Formal Word.

Thus in his first formal word to Russia since that revolution took country under the leadership of the Bolsheviki deserted the allied cause, the president indicated the purpose of the United States to disregard the hard terms upon which the German and Austrian war lords have promised peace to the Russians and to demand an accounting upon a very different basis when victory at last shall be achieved by America and the Allies.

The president does not urge the soviets to reject the peace treaty, though the delivery of his message at this time may be interpreted as suggesting such a course. In fact it is couched in official circles that there is scant ground for hope that the congress and what remains of a government in Russia, will refuse to give approval to the German terms. Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has resigned and from Lenin, the premier, who apparently controls the regime, nothing is expected. But there seems to be still a strong belief here that the difficulty for Germany in the East by the means is ended; that as the humiliating nature of the Teutonic terms begins to be realized by the great mass of Russians and the tyranny of war lords in occupied territory shows itself, there will be a new uprising that will make itself felt.

BOLT FROM A SAW KILLS SOLDIER

Prince Edward Island Man on Furlough Fatally Hurt Cutting Wood.

Charlottetown, March 11.—Whilst assisting a neighbor to operate a circular saw, Private Louis Bradlow, of St. Theresa, was struck by a bolt from the saw on the breast and died five hours later. He had been on duty in Halifax and was home on a furlough when the accident happened.