

CONTINUOUS FIGHTING PREVAILS; BRITISH RAID HUN TRENCHES

BRITISH AGAIN WIN IN ACRE DISTRICT

East of Bouchavesnes in Somme Centre Army of Britain Raids German Trenches.

Fighting continues to prevail on various sectors of the Somme and Ancre fronts in France. North and south of the Ancre the London war office reports the British have made additional gains in the region north of Puisieux-Au-Monts and in the latter northwest of Iries.

East of Bouchavesnes, in the Somme sector, the British report the raiding of a German trench, and the scattering of German forces who were massing for a counter-attack. Berlin, on the other hand, reports the repulse of a British attack east of Bouchavesnes which was delivered after heavy artillery preparation. It is probable that the German official communication refers to an engagement on Monday, while the British communication specifically mentions early Tuesday morning as the time of the successful raid.

Artillery Duels.

Near Verdun, between Les Chambrottes and Bezonvaux, violent artillery duels are in progress. Attempts by the Germans to evict the French from recaptured positions north of Courleres Wood failed, according to Paris.

The Russians near Brezany, in Galicia, and in the wooded Carpathians, near the northern Rumanian front, have delivered attacks against the Austro-Germans, but in each case met with repulse, says Berlin.

Further progress for the Russians in the Persian theatre is recorded by Petrograd. The villages of Hussenabad and Chariak have been evacuated by the Turks, who are in retreat from Bijar. Southwest of Hamadan the Russians have attacked the Turks, who are holding a strategic summit.

There is still no change in the situation in the Austro-Italian and Macedonian theatres, where artillery duels and small infantry attacks continue.

Austria's reply to the United States government's request for information as to Austria's stand with regard to unrestricted submarine warfare, has been received through unofficial sources. While the note says that Austria "strictly adheres to the assurance already given," and that the Austro-Hungarian government "is essentially in accord with the American government with regard to the protection of neutrals against endangering their lives," it asserts that neutrals will have to bear all losses they suffer by entering territory where warlike actions are taking place.

French Statement.

Paris, March 6.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"Between the Oise and the Aisne our fire shattered German organizations northwest of Moulin-Sous-Toutvent and demolished camouflages and shelters north of Au Broches.

"On the right bank of the Meuse violent artillery attacks took place along the entire front of Les Chambrottes-Bezonvaux. There was no infantry action. The cannonade was intermittent on the rest of the front."

Belgian communication: "Our artillery successfully bombarded enemy organizations in the region of Het Sas. A spirited struggle with bombs occurred in the direction of Steensstrate."

British Statement.

London, March 6.—"Last night further progress was made by our troops northwest of Iries and north of Puisieux-Au-Monts," says the official report from British headquarters in France tonight. "We raided the enemy's trenches east of Bouchavesnes early this morning. Later the enemy was seen massing for a counter-attack on the trenches recently captured from him in that area, and was dispersed by our fire."

Berlin Statement.

Berlin, March 6, by wireless to Associated Press, via Tuckerton.—The expected criticism of the government's ill-starred German-Mexico project failed to materialize in today's session of the Reichstag budget committee. After an executive sitting of six hours the committee unequivocally endorsed the action of the foreign office by unanimous vote. The government's efforts to negotiate an armistice in the eventuality of war with the United States was approved as being within the legitimate scope of military precautions.

The committee expressed regrets at the misfortune which resulted in the interception of Foreign Secretary Zimmerman's note. Responsibility for its loss cannot be fixed until former Ambassador Von Bernstorff arrives from the United States.

Russian Statement.

Petrograd, Mar. 6, via London.—Further successes for the Russians operating against the Turks in Persia where Hamadan recently was taken from the Ottoman forces, are announced in today's war office report. The Russians are advancing south-west of Hamadan, attacking the Turks on the Asadabad summit and have the hostile forces in retreat in both the Bijar and Develtebad regions. The statement reads:

"Caucasus front: Our troops are pursuing the Turks, who are withdrawing from Bijar, and soon occupied the villages of Hussenabad and Chariak.

"In the direction of Hamadan our troops attacked the Turks occupying the Asadabad summit (southwest of Hamadan).

"In the region southwest of Adzok Lake the Turks are withdrawing towards Develtebad, pursued by our troops."

"The following is today's official statement: "On Sunday night enemy patrols attempted to approach our position on the left bank of the Assia torrent, opposite Camo Rover, and on the Masso torrent, on the slopes of Monte Cenon. They were promptly driven back."

"Yesterday our artillery continued to shell the enemy positions along a portion of the front from the Tragnolo Valley to the Upper Cordovols with good results."

"At the head of the St. Pellegrino Valley, on the Aviole, the enemy launched two violent attacks against the Costa Bella group, but was both times repulsed. We captured another machine and one cannon."

"On the Julian front enemy detachments last night renewed the attack upon our lines southeast of Vertoba. They were driven off with heavy loss, and a few prisoners were taken."

Austrian Statement. Berlin, March 5, via Sayville, March 6.—Following is today's official Austro-Hungarian report respecting the Austro-Italian campaign:

"On the coastal front artillery and mortar fire were more active on account of the clearing of the weather. In the evening the Italians shelled Costanyevica with especial violence."

"In the vicinity of Doyle, near Tolmino, patrols of infantry regiment 37 advanced to the rear trenches of the enemy, defeated the garrison and brought back ten prisoners without suffering loss."

"On the Tyrolean eastern front, north of the San Pellegrino Valley, the Italians attacked Cima Di Costanbella. After an engagement of varying character the Italians succeeded in capturing an advanced position. The engagement has not been terminated."

Swedish Cabinet Crisis Not Over. Stockholm, March 6, via London.—The fear that the Swedish cabinet crisis was only postponed, and not removed, by the promise of the minister to make another attempt to solve the "difficulties" referred to by King Gustave in his request that his resignations be reconsidered, can be read between the lines of the press comment today. Even in the newspapers supporting the government in this apparent, while the opposition press is openly skeptical of the ability of the present cabinet to cope with the situation.

Tells of German Traitors in Mexico. Minneapolis, Minn., Mar. 6.—Officers of the First Minnesota Infantry, returning to Fort Snelling today from the Mexican border, announced that Paul L. Scharfenberg, of St. Paul, a private in 1 Company, First Minnesota Infantry, was sentenced to five years imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth, Feb. 5, by a court martial at San Antonio, Texas, for furnishing military information to Germany.

A letter addressed to relatives in Germany asserting that ten million in this country were ready to rise up against the government in the event of war with Germany, was intercepted by British authorities and turned over to Washington officials, according to statements by the officers. Scharfenberg is a native of Germany.

CONDITIONS IN BELGIUM

Associated Press Receives a Message from One of Most Prominent Refugees.

London, March 6.—One of the most prominent men left in Belgium has sent the following message to the Associated Press:

"We have ever increasing need for comfort, for we are suffering much. The extraordinary cost of all food-stuffs is added to the deportations, with all their horror and anguish. Despite all, the Belgian people remain patient. The stand they have taken, on the whole, is worthy of much admiration."

"Repatriated men, who were deported, return worn out and exhausted, but they tell us that a greater number have refused, even under stress of hunger and cold, even blows, to sign an agreement to work for the enemy. Is that not heroic?"

GENERAL ELECTION IN AUSTRALIA

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Mar. 6.—With the announcement of a general election in Australia the opinion is general among cabinet ministers here that the imperial war conference will not be delayed as anticipated and Sir Robert Borden will be able to return to Canada in time for the re-opening of parliament on April 19.

Premier Morris of Newfoundland, and Premier Massey of New Zealand, are in London, and General Smuts, of South Africa, is on his way. There only remain representatives of Australia and India and in view of the election in the former country, one of the prominent Australians in London at the present time may be appointed to represent his country. A good representative could readily be found for India.

The original intention was to open the conference about the middle of March so that the programme may be adhered to.

CROTHERS SUSPENDS HIS ASSISTANT

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 6.—Gerald G. Brown, assistant deputy minister of labor since 1916, has been suspended by Hon. T. W. Crothers, Mr. Crothers today declined to make a statement as to the reasons for Mr. Brown's dismissal.

Brown was appointed assistant deputy minister of labor on the recommendation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King was at that time the minister in charge of the department. Mr. Brown was formerly Ottawa correspondent for several Liberal newspapers.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE EAST.

Petrograd, Mar. 6, via London.—"On the Russo-Galician and Rumanian fronts scouting reconnaissances and exchanges of fire are proceeding."

"On Sunday one of our airplanes, notwithstanding battleship attacks, flew over Barmocich and dropped bombs. In the neighborhood of the Volechek station, on the Serni-Kovel railway, a German airplane brought down by a Russian aviator, caught fire. The aviators were captured."

CANADIANS SAIL FOR CANADA

Large Party of Officers and Men who Have Done Splendid Service at the Front now on Way Home.

London, Mar. 6.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—One hundred and twenty Canadian officers have sailed for Canada on duty or sick leave. The party included Lieut.-Col. Mansell, director of engineering services, who has been recalled to Ottawa; Surgeon-General Carleton Jones, who will take up his new duties as medical commissioner at Ottawa; and Major Pineault, 189th Battalion, and Capt. Ryan and Lieut. Downey, 21st Battalion, who have been given new appointments.

Others in the party are Capt. Moxley, for further medical treatment; Capt. Stewart, 4th Battalion, for a new appointment; and Capt. Maswood of the Medical Service, on special leave.

The following are returning on sick leave: Capt. Shenstone, medical; Major Bywater, 46th; Lieut. Fish, 5th Mounted Rifles; D. S. Scott, 151st, and A. F. Macdonald, 50th.

Father Lisiot is returning to be at the disposal of Ottawa.

FORMER ST. JOHN MAN PRESIDES AT MEETING AGAINST CHURCH UNION

Montreal, March 6.—In furtherance of the opposition to church union a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church here tonight that was attended by about 700 people. Rev. Principal D. J. Fraser presided. He said he had no information of any kind which would even partially support reports from Switzerland that his government had decided, or even was contemplating, breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States. Swiss reports, quoting the Balkan News Agency, said that the Bulgarian minister would be instructed this week to demand his passports on the ground that "American hostilities towards Germany must be considered as directed against Bulgaria."

Neither the minister nor the attaches of his legation feel that the relations between the United States and Bulgaria will be disturbed, the latter having no submarines.

Railway Tie Up in Quebec Now Over. Quebec, March 6.—A tie-up of the different railways on the south shore, due to a tremendous snowstorm, which began yesterday, was practically eased up on all lines this morning. Old roadsters state that the snow was piled higher than they had seen for many years and one snow plough was completely covered in Grand Trunk. Intercolonial and Quebec Central officials state that while the storm was a bad one, they managed to cope with the attendant tie-up of trains without any extraordinary delay.

Annual Meeting of Sun Life. Special to The Standard. Montreal, Mar. 6.—The annual meeting of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada took place this afternoon at the company's head office in this city, when the directors' report of operations for 1916 was adopted. The directors were re-elected.

WILSON MAY SUMMON CONGRESS

Extra Session Not Later than June Now Regarded by Washington as Absolutely Certain.

Washington, March 6.—An extra session of congress not later than June now is generally conceded among officials here to be assured.

Although President Wilson has not given any definite indication that he has finally abandoned his hope that an extra session might be avoided, there is an almost unanimous sentiment among senators, representatives and officials of the executive departments that one must be called. They declare that even if the international situation does not demand it, congress must come back to complete its legislative programme and fill up gaps in the government's financial scheme caused by failure of some of the more important appropriation measures.

So certain are many members of congress on this point that they are speculating only on the probable date of the session. The general expectation among them, said to be based on word passed out by officials close to the president is that the end of May or some time in June will be selected as the time for the convening of the new congress.

The progress made by senators today toward carrying out the president's recommendations for a rule limiting senate debate generally was regarded as strengthening the likelihood of a special session within a few weeks. It is pointed out that in his statement Sunday night president conveyed the impression, by implication, that such a revision of senate rules would be a step preliminary to bringing congress back to finish its programme. After enumerating the important measures which had failed, the statement continues that "it would not cure the difficulty to call the sixty-third congress in extraordinary session," unless the preliminary barriers to action in the senate were removed.

RUNNING FIGHT IN CHANNEL

Boston, March 6.—A running fight in the English Channel on January 31 between a German submarine and the British steamer Poye, in which fifty shots were exchanged, two of which struck the Poye, was described by Captain James Evans, of the steamer, upon her arrival today from Liverpool. The engagement took place while the Poye was on a voyage from Liverpool, where she had discharged a cargo from Portland, Maine.

Captain Evans said his vessel was just turning into the channel when he sighted a vessel after a couple of miles ahead. Upon hearing shots fired at the burning vessel, Captain Evans changed the Poye's course and increased her speed. The submarine sighted her, however, and began a shell fire attack at long range.

One shot from the submarine tore a hole through the upper deck of the Poye, and another struck the port side, grazing the bridge and scattering fragments at the captain's feet. The Poye, which carries a 4.7 gun, mounted at the bow, returned the fire and the chase continued for more than two hours. The submarine finally submerged.

A Military Wedding. A quiet military wedding in which a member of the 194th Canadian Buffs, Sergeant Corps, was one of the principals was celebrated yesterday afternoon in the Dufferin Hotel parlors. The other principal was Miss Francis Craig. The bride, who was charmingly attired, was attended by Miss Theo Waterworth. The groom was supported by Lieutenant C. A. Scott of the battalion. The ceremony was performed by Reverend J. A. MacKeigan of St. David's church. The young couple will remain in St. John until the departure of the battalion, when Mrs. Corps will return to Toronto.

CANADIANS HAVE FORGED HUNS TO KEEP DEFENSIVE

Experience Has Taught Teutons that it Does Not Pay to Raid Lines Held by Wearers of the Maple Leaf.

London, Mar. 6.—The following communication was issued today by the Canadian war records office:

Early in the week (of Feb. 26) the enemy made one or more attempts to imitate the dashing raids which are carried out almost daily along the line of the Canadian front. Since the last effort they have been content to act wholly on the defensive, for apparently they are now convinced that raiding the Canadian lines do not pay.

On the night in question a party of fourteen Germans rushed one of our Lewis gun posts. The night was extremely dark, and the enemy party managed to elude our patrols. Of the two men on duty with the gun one rushed to the dugout nearby to warn the rest of the men. The Germans were too close for the gunner to train his gun on them, and they were able to overpower the gunner and grab his gun. This success was evidently the limit of their ambition, for without attempting anything further they ran off with the gun. They were pursued across No Man's Land by the gun crew, who threw bombs at them with such success that the Huns dropped the gun and fled.

Meanwhile a sergeant and corporal on duty in the trench nearby ordered a "stand to." The corporal went along the trench to the right, and the sergeant to the left.

The corporal met three Germans, and was ordered to halt. In his hand he held a pistol, used for firing star shells. This he promptly discharged in the face of the leading German, and also fired his rifle. He was wounded in the jaw himself at the same time the party fled, leaving a sack of bombs in the trench.

The main event of the week on the Canadian corps front was a raid of a German line on a more extended scale than usual. In fact the "raid" was really a "minor operation" covering as it did, a frontage of nearly 2,000 yards and penetrating the enemy lines to a depth of 700 yards in one place.

The heaviest fighting occurred when the support line was reached. Here Lieut.-Colonel Kembell, C. B., was killed. He was in the thickest of the fighting, leading his men into the disputed trench. Lieut.-Col. Beckett led his men till their objectives were all but reached, but was killed while collecting his men, scattered by crossing the mass of shell holes and craters. Their objective was reached. After one and one-half hours in the enemy lines, during which time great damage was done and valuable information was gained, our troops retired. During the retirement the enemy suffered heavy losses from our artillery fire, which closed down behind our men as they left the German trenches.

In addition to this important operation no less than five smaller raids were carried out with signal success. At three a.m. on the 27th Feb. a party entered the enemy trenches. The net result of the expedition was the capture of a large number of important German documents, at least ten Germans were seen dead in their trenches and eleven occupied dugouts bombed. Our casualties were two.

FAILED TO FLOAT BRITISH FREIGHTER CANADIANS MAKE GOOD

New York, Mar. 6.—A pilot boat and two wrecking tugs failed tonight in their efforts to float the British freight steamer G. R. Crowe, aground on the east bank of Ambrose Channel. The only recourse left, it was decided, is the jettisoning of the cargo. The wrecking tugs returned to port. The pilot boat is standing by for the freighter.

Arrived in Liverpool. Dr. Stanley Bridges, son of Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Bridges, arrived safely in Liverpool on Monday noon, according to a cable message received Monday evening from Mr. White, of Cambridge, Mass., who has charge of the party. There were twenty-two surgeons and fourteen nurses aboard the S.S. Andania, which sailed from New York on February 22. Dr. Richard Cabot was the organizer of the party.

A quiet wedding was solemnized on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Emeline Lloyd, Cambridge, Queens county, when her daughter, Miss Susie J. Gilchrist was united in marriage to George Garfield Reid of Prince Rupert, B. C. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Durkin, Cambridge. Mr. and Mrs. Reid left for their home in Prince Rupert, B. C., visiting Canadian cities en route, and they will be the guests of Mrs. Reid's brothers, Drs. M. R. and H. H. Gilchrist of Calgary for one week during the trip. Mr. and Mrs. Reid are followed by the best wishes of their many friends.

Quiet on Belgian Front. Berlin, March 6, via Sayville.—The supplementary war office communication tonight says that, side from attacks between patrolling parties in the Ancre sector of the Franco-Belgian front, no important action is reported from any of the theatres of war.