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HEAVY FIGHTING REGAINS MOUNTAIN FRONT IN ITALY
ITALIANS TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PREVENT AUSTRIAN ADVANCE

Bitter Fighting Proceeds on Asiago Plateau, Where Enemy Forces Are Endeavoring to Maintain Positions Held Since November.

Associated Press War Summary. Among the rugged peaks of the Asiago plateau, east of the Brenta River, the Italian front has again flamed up into violent action.

The fighting seems to have centered on the comparatively short section of the battle line between Monte Asolone and Monte Pertica. These two heights, about three miles apart, rise to an altitude of about 6000 feet, while between them there is a sort of "saddle" on which the Teuton forces have taken up strong positions.

With the French Army in France, May 15.—Germany's conditions of peace are clearly stated in a document found in a German trench that was recently recaptured by entente allied troops. A resume of the principal conditions as given in an official translation reads:

Heavy Fire in West. In Flanders and Picardy, only heavy artillery fire has marked the fighting during the past few days. The general bombardment that has been going on and have again set buildings in Montdidier in flames.

HABES CORPUS DENIED DRAFT ACT DEFAULTERS
Important amendments to the Military Service Act passed by order-in-council on April 15 have just been received in Toronto by C. Lesslie Wilson, Ontario registrar.

DUTCH SHIP SUNK. Vessel Taken Over by United States Goes Down in Collision. Washington, May 15.—The steamship Zaanland, one of the Dutch vessels recently requisitioned by the United States government, was sunk in a collision at sea May 13.

NO INFANTRY ACTION. But Eighteen German Planes Were Brought Down by the French. Paris, May 15.—The war office announcement tonight reads as follows: "There was no infantry action. The activity of both armies was marked north and south of the Arve."

Paris, May 15.—The war office announcement tonight reads as follows: "There was no infantry action. The activity of both armies was marked north and south of the Arve."

Official Report on Italian Drive

Rome, May 16.—Italian troops carried out an offensive operation yesterday in which the Austrian trenches on Monte Asolone, between the Brenza and Piave Rivers, were entered at two points. The Italians inflicted heavy casualties and took prisoners.

GERMANY'S PEACE CONDITIONS

Belgium Under German Rule, Return of Colonies, Readjustments of Frontiers and Payment of Heavy War Indemnities.

The Longwy and Briey mine fields, which furnished France its weapons for attack, shall become German. "Readjustments of the frontiers, particularly in the Vosges, are to be fixed according to the military situation, and the appreciation of the commander-in-chief."

KERENSKY EXPECTED IN UNITED STATES

New York, May 16.—Alexander F. Kerensky, who became premier of Russia in July, 1917, and was deposed in November by the Bolsheviks, is expected to arrive in the United States next week, according to a report published today in The New York Call.

HAIK'S REPORT

Beyond Artillery Activity There is Nothing of Consequence. London, May 16.—Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France tonight says: "Beyond artillery activity on both sides, particularly on the battlefield north of the River Lys, there is nothing of special interest to report."

Toronto

Fourteen applications for exemptions are refused. The habit of smoking is warmly discussed by the board of education.

Ontario Municipal Electrical Association recommendations are presented to the Ontario Government. Sir Thomas White on his return from the United States says Canadians are still consuming too much.

The case of Carlton Rayfield, charged with criminal negligence in connection with the death of Dorothy Mae Stevenson on March 3, is nearing completion. A thousand people attend the exhibition of physical drill and dances given at the Central Y.M.C.A. under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association.

SHIPS BLOWN UP BEFORE RETREAT

British and American Submarines Destroyed in Harbor of Helsingfors. ALL WERE FROZEN FAST

Induced Destruction of Other Ships Germans Would Have Got. London, May 16.—Russian naval officials blew up their four American submarines before retreating from Hango, Finland, last April, the British admiralty announced.

Seven British submarines also were destroyed when the German naval force approached Hango. None of the British vessels fell into the hands of the enemy, the admiralty announced.

The effect of the destruction of the British submarines upon the crew of merchant vessels was, however, the statement says, excellent and induced the destruction of many ships which would otherwise have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

Were Frozen Fast. All British submarines in the harbor of Helsingfors were destroyed when the German naval force approached the city because it was impossible to get them away, owing to the fact that they were frozen fast, according to an admiralty statement this evening.

The guns at and near Hango, the admiralty announcement says, "had already been dismantled and upon the approach of the German naval force, the Russian retreated from the vicinity after blowing up their four American submarines."

BURBANK EVOLVES A SUPER WHEAT

Can Be Grown Anywhere and Yields Forty Bushels to Acre. Santa Rosa, Calif., May 16.—A new wheat, containing 14 per cent gluten, has been evolved by Luther Burbank, the California horticulturist, after extensive experiments over the past few years, it was announced here today.

Breaking into Rosedale. Rosedale, the well-kept nook of Toronto, is a closed-in section, with a few narrow gateways and winds in her streets that lead to nowhere.

McKENNA ARRESTED. Chairman of Kerry County Council, Ireland, Held on Charge Under Defence of Realm Act.

IT PAYS TO BE CAREFUL. Byron never said truer words than these: "All is to be feared where all is to be lost."

AVIATORS BUSY. British Airmen Bomb Depots in Region of Seres. Paris, May 16.—An official statement says: "Eastern theatre: Spirited artillery actions occurred in the region of Doiran and Srka di Legen; the activity was less marked on the Serbian front at the Cerna Bend and around Monastir."

BRITAIN PREPARED TO LISTEN TO SERIOUS PEACE PROPOSALS

TWO ATTEMPTS TO REACH PARIS FOILED BY FRENCH AIR DEFENCE

German Aircraft Squadrons in Two Groups Make Separate Raids Against French Capital Without Achieving Results.

Paris, May 16.—Two successive attempts to reach Paris were made by two distinct groups of German airplanes last night. The first group, after dropping bombs eighteen miles south of the point where they had crossed the line, regained their base shortly before 11 p.m.

FOUR THOUSAND MORE BEDS AT ST. ANDREW'S

Accommodation Will Be Provided at Once for That Many Wounded Soldiers Returning.

It has been estimated by the government and military authorities that in addition to the hospital accommodation for the treatment of returned wounded soldiers already provided, hospital accommodation for 4000 more will be required.

ONE MAN MAY DIE SEVERAL ARE HURT

Result of Five-Passenger Touring Car Running Into Telephone Pole. SPEEDING IS ALLEGED

Driver Swerved Car Out of Way of Ice Wagon, He Says.

An accident with probably fatal results occurred at 4:25 yesterday afternoon when a Gray-Doty touring car with five passengers crashed into a telephone pole at the corner of Adelaide and Peter streets.

MANY ENEMY RAIDS MARK BATTLEFIELD

Germans Endeavor to Locate Positions of Allied Batteries Before Attacking.

With the French Army in France, May 16.—Every day the number of trench raids from both sides increases along this battle front, where the concentrated forces of the opposing armies must soon again be engaged.

At Rosedale, where an enemy attack is expected momentarily, the Germans yesterday let down a severe bombardment, but their infantry, although showing indications of an intention to advance, was kept back by the French gunners and could not leave its position.

The Germans are endeavoring to locate the position and estimate the strength of the allied batteries by tempting them to open fire and thus disclose their emplacements and show where their barrage fire strikes.

War News

German raiders attempt to discover disposition of allied batteries. Increased artillery fire on both sides is noted in Lagarina and Arsa Valleys.

French report no infantry actions, but heavy artillery duel on both banks of River Arve. Austrians recall artillery from western front to reinforce their batteries on Italian front.

French head off two groups of German airplanes in two distinct attempts to reach Paris. Austrians report bitter fighting between the Brenta and Piave Rivers on the Italian front.

Field Marshal Haig reports nothing beyond artillery activity, especially north of the River Lys. Italian naval units in raid enter Pola harbor and torpedo Austrian dreadnought of Viribus Unitis class.

Before retreating from Hango, Finland, Russian naval officers blew up two American and seven British submarines.

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Mr. Balfour Declares Central Powers Have Made No Effort at Conversations in Interest of Fair and Honorable Settlement

London, May 16.—The British secretary for foreign affairs, Arthur J. Balfour, in giving explanations in the house of commons today in connection with Emperor Charles' letter to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, recently made public by the president of the French Republic, declared that no effort at conversations has ever been made by the central powers in the interest of a fair and honorable peace, and he added:

"If any representative of any belligerent country desires seriously to lay before us any proposal, we are ready to listen to them. The letter in question had been examined by a committee of the French chamber, said Mr. Balfour, and the conclusion reached was that it did not provide an adequate or satisfactory basis for an honorable peace."

Answer to Questions. Mr. Balfour in his explanations was replying to questions submitted by the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, former president of the board of trade, who asked whether, when Emperor Charles' letter was communicated to the French Government, and by the French Government to the British prime minister, it was communicated to any other of the allies; had the American Government any information as to what was passing; did the prime minister inform the foreign office at the time of the fact that the communication had been shown to him? Why were the negotiations dropped? Was it on purely territorial grounds; was it because a demand was made by France not only for Alsace-Lorraine, but for the 1514 line, or even the 1790 line?

Mr. Balfour explained that he had no secrets from President Wilson. He was in America at the time and had not gone very far from the master. The letter, however, had been conveyed by Prince Sixtus to President Poincare and the French premier under seal of the strictest secrecy. Only the British sovereign and the premier were to see it. Therefore it was not communicated to the president of the United States and the American Government was at the time no better informed of the facts regarding the letter than he was himself.

Mr. Balfour in replying to questions by the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, former president of the board of trade, regarding Emperor Charles' letter, said that Mr. Runciman had questioned him on the subject which naturally excited a great deal of interest, both here and abroad.

"I must remind the house, however," he continued, "that there is a very natural tendency to treat this subject as if it was one in which the British Government alone was concerned, and that the position or critics of the day had the right in the public interest and their own to exact the last drop of information which it was in the power of the government to give. That might be the natural mood for the house to be in when discussing ordinary subjects of domestic controversy, but it is not the mood suited to the delicate question of international policy."

Ready for Proposals. "In international policy it is not a good thing necessarily to discourage informal attempts at conversations. But we have never at any time initiated conversations of the sort. We have never turned down conversations when other people wished them. If any representative of any belligerent country desires seriously to lay before us any proposals, we are ready to listen to them. Of course, we are not going to deal with them without the cognizance of our allies. The mere fact that such conversations are of an informal character makes that a very improper subject for discussion in the house. That is true as a general proposition, and emphatically and especially true of the subject now under discussion."

Letter of Emperor. "The letter to which public attention is directed was a private letter written by Emperor Charles to a relative (Prince Sixtus of Bourbon) and conveyed by the French premier under seal of the strictest secrecy, but with no permission to communicate it to anyone except the sovereign of that country. The letter was communicated to the French and English premiers under these pledges:

"I cannot conceive of a more inconvenient method of dealing with a great transaction, the inconvenience in this case was not due to any wish on the part of the British Government to depart from the ordinary method of conducting international affairs, you laid yourself in inevitable difficulties."

"I was in America at the time of these transactions, and as they were over when I returned, I did not go into them as intimately as I might have done."

No Secrets From Wilson. As to whether any person had been informed of these negotiations, Mr. Balfour said that the American Government was at the time no better

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