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The Toronto World

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 24 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,282

PROBS—Strong westerly winds; generally fair; not much change in temperature.

Senate Reading Room 310-17-97 SENATE P O OTTAWA

TWO MILE GAIN MADE BY FRENCH NEAR ST. QUENTIN British Also Advance Near Croisilles and Ecoust FRENCH MAKE BIG ADVANCE BETWEEN SOMME AND OISE

Country Will Be Made Ready For Active Share in World War.

BIG LOAN TO ALLIES

Five Billion Dollar Issue is Being Discussed at Washington.

Washington, March 23.—The American Government has decided upon sweeping measures to be put into effect following the expected declaration by congress soon after it meets, April 2, that a state of war exists between the U. S. and Germany.

Broad questions involved were discussed today at a long cabinet meeting to which heads of departments carried reports on preparations already made and others contemplated.

Regrettably the government apparently is making war upon the U. S. thru ruthless killing of Americans and destruction of their ships.

Complete Program. As outlined after today's cabinet meeting the preparations of the government are not to be for a short war.

Whether an army will be sent abroad is one of the questions to be left to the future. It would take many months to train an army for such service, and many things may happen in that period.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

WHILE the British army was mainly pausing before making another advance in northwestern France, the French forces, fighting in the zone to the south, made important progress towards the isolation of St. Quentin and La Fere yesterday.

The British steadily increased their pressure against the ten-mile section of the German flank between Beaurains and Etrelles, southeast of Arras.

The French drive and the continual flank attacks of the British have apparently by their object the compelling of a German retreat eastward toward Luxembourg, instead of into Belgium.

France Admits Loss Of Battleship Danton

Nearly 1,000 Men Perish When Warship is Torpedoed In Mediterranean Sea.

London, March 23.—In the sinking of the French battleship Danton in the Mediterranean on March 19, says a statement from the French Admiralty received here, 286 men were drowned.

The sinking of a French battleship of the Danton class by a German submarine in the Mediterranean on March 19 was reported in a statement issued by the German Admiralty on March 20 and received here by wireless.

FRENCH BEAT GERMANS IN BIG BALKAN ACTION

Allies Win Important Engagements North of Monastir—British Aeroplanes Bombard Enemy Stations and Artillery.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Paris, March 23.—The French have won an important battle north of Monastir, taking 1800 prisoners.

As a whole, including the figures given in the preceding communication, we have captured in this region 4000 prisoners, 20 machine guns, two trench guns, 24 officers and 1,770 men.

Violent engagements have taken place to the north of Monastir (Serbia) for the possession of Hill 1248, which ultimately remained in our hands, despite repeated attacks by the Germans and Bulgarians.

NO GRAFT IN PURCHASE OF FOOD AND HORSES

Davidson Commission Reports on Transactions in Regina and Vicinity.

Ottawa, March 23.—Two additional reports of the Davidson royal commission were given out by the government today. One deals with charges of improprieties in connection with government food supplies to troops in the vicinity of Regina in the early part of the war; the other with the purchase of horses for war purposes in the same vicinity.

GERMAN BREAD RATION REDUCED

Fear Admitted That Wheat Will Not Last Until Next Harvest.

GREAT CONSTERNATION

Newspapers Comment Bitterly on Fresh Sacrifice Now Demanded.

Amsterdam, March 23, via London.—The bread ration in Germany will be diminished one-fourth, beginning April 15, owing to the scarcity of wheat, according to a despatch from Berlin to the Wasser Zeitung of Bremen.

PICTURE IDENTIFIED.

Photo Picked up on Somme Battlefield as That of Toronto Woman and Her Child.

The picture of a woman and child picked up on the battlefield of Flanders by Pte. Geo. Grant, and published in the morning World of March 19, was yesterday identified as Mrs. E. S. Pains, of this city.

DARING BURGLARY IN FLAT BUILDING

Robbers Hold Up Lonely Occupant at Point of a Revolver.

MUCH JEWELRY TAKEN

Second Man Ransacked the Apartment and Tore Rings From Victim's Fingers.

On obtaining entrance to the apartment of Mrs. Catherine L. Skinner in the Queen's Court Apartments, Jarvis street, Thursday morning, by posing as a telephone inspector, a burglar suddenly turned on Mrs. Skinner and after placing his hand over her mouth so that she could make no outcry, called an accomplice who was waiting outside in the hall, and, keeping Mrs. Skinner covered with a revolver, ransacked the apartment, securing about \$2000 worth of diamonds and jewelry.

RUSSIA'S SHAME HAS BEEN ENDED

Russkai-Volia Comments on Imprisonment of Deposed Czar in Palace.

NEW LIBERTY LOAN

Attempt Will Be Made to Raise Sum of Five Billion Rubles.

Petrograd, March 23, via London, March 24.—A picture of the arrival of Nicholas Romanoff, the former emperor, at Tsarskoe Selo is drawn by the Rusekai-Volia, which is the only newspaper editorializing on his arrest, and which declares that the event puts an end to Russia's shame.

High Court of Justice to Punish Misdeeds of Huns

Paris, March 23.—A resolution proposing that the entente allies establish a high court of justice to judge those responsible for all crime and criminal attempts committed by the enemies of the entente during the war was introduced in the chamber of deputies today by Edouard Ignace, of the department of the Seine.

DINEEN'S FIRE SALE.

A stock valued at \$85,000, consisting of furs, millinery and men's hats, must be cleared out in the shortest possible time.

CAPTIVES ON FRONT LINES.

Louisanne, Switzerland, March 23.—Germany has sent many of her captives to the front lines of battle as reprisals, according to a statement issued by the International Red Cross today.

Allied Onset Drives Germans Back on Wide Front as Much as Two Miles and a Half From St. Quentin Canal—Germans Flood Oise Valley and City of La Fere—British Operations Gain Further Ground in the Region of Croisilles

London, March 23.—Along the entire battlefield between the Scarpe and the Aisne in France the allies and German troops came to grips today.

The French forces operating to the northeast of the St. Quentin Canal have pushed back the Germans between one and a quarter and two and a half miles and also have gained additional ground on the heights northeast of Tergnier overlooking the Oise valley, according to the French official communication issued tonight.

Two German attacks near Thil, northwest of Rheims, were repulsed. The communication says: "Between the Somme and the Oise in the course of the day our troops carried out with precision a spirited offensive which was completely successful."

"To the northeast of Tergnier our detachments have pushed ahead on the heights immediately overlooking the Oise valley. In this region the Germans have resorted to inundations. The City of La Fere is under water."

"To the south of the Oise we have continued our crossing of the Ailette River. In the region to the north of Soissons our troops fought for and realized considerable progress toward Margival."

"To the northwest of Rheims the Germans carried out against our trenches before Thil two attacks, which failed under the curtain fire of our machine guns. The losses of the enemy have been serious, judging from the bodies of men abandoned by him within our wire entanglements."

"Along the rest of the front the day has been comparatively quiet. "Aviation: Today our anti-aircraft guns brought down a German aeroplane, which fell within our lines near Bieulouard."

"Belgian communication: In the region to the north of Dixmude the day has been characterized by reciprocal bombardments of varying intensity."

Some observers here see in the developments of the last two days signs that Hindenburg intends to fight a decisive battle over the despoiled and desolated country stretching from the Somme to the Aisne and from St. Quentin to La Fere.

It is such a battle should develop it will probably be the greatest struggle in every way that has been fought in this war, not excepting the battle of the Marne. And with it Hindenburg will reveal his strategy and the prime reason for the great German withdrawal.

DESPERATE ENCOUNTERS.

The most desperate encounters of the day took place along the French front south of St. Quentin, where less than two and a half miles separates Nivelles' troops from the enemy's defensive system.

One struggle surged around St. Simon, along both sides of the Somme-Croizat Canal and slightly north, near the villages of Artemps and Seraucourt-le-Grand. Here the Germans delivered a violent counter-blow that almost sent the French off their feet.

Rallying quickly, however, the poilus rushed forward and drove the enemy back for some distance. The German report states that the French suffered sanguinary losses and lost 230 prisoners in this operation.

Shortly afterwards the French launched a wide offensive in this same region and, in the face of stubborn resistance, pressed the Germans back to the northeast of the St. Quentin Canal to a depth varying from one and a quarter to two and a half miles.

TWO MIGHTY BATTLES.

North of Soissons and along the Ailette River line two other mighty engagements were fought. In the former sector, to the west and south of Margival, the line swayed backward and forward as first the French and then the Germans scored successes.

In some sections of the long, fluid line the Germans hurled entire regiments at the French ranks. The German artillery, operating at every turn, picked out squadrons of French troops and mowed them down on the move.

Two companies of French chasseurs became isolated from the main army, but succeeded in cutting their way back and bringing with them a number of prisoners. Despite the ferocity of the opposition, the French advanced on