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War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A.M.

MORE VILLAGES TAKEN BY BRITISH.

LONDON, March 21. The official statement from the British Headquarters to-night says: South and southeast of Peronne we have advanced repeatedly during the last 24 hours, and reached points some ten miles to the east of the River Somme. We have occupied another forty villages in this area. Between Narlu and Arras the enemy is beginning to develop considerable resistance at a number of places, nevertheless his rearguard is being steadily driven from their positions, and our progress continues. We carried out successful raids during the night east of Arras and northeast of Neuville St. Vaast. A hostile raiding party east of Neuville St. Vaast was repulsed. The enemy blew a mine this morning southeast of Ypres, damaging his own trenches. There has been considerable artillery during the day by both sides in the neighborhood of Armentieres and Ypres.

COLD WEATHER.

LONDON, March 21. Stormy weather with severely cold winds and frequent snow squalls continued during the night in the region over which the British armies in France are following the retreating Germans. Although these conditions add to the discomfort of field campaigning, says Reuter's representative at British headquarters, they have had no effect on the surface of the ground, which in the newly-occupied area remains quite practicable for movements of horse, foot-troops and guns. Notwithstanding the work of destruction which the Germans are carrying out as they withdraw, the British troops find shelter in the villages they occupy. Large proportions of the houses have been gutted, but in most cases the walls remain standing, so that cover for the troops is improvised early. Many places which the British have taken in the past two days contain civilian inhabitants. It is reported that the Germans evacuating the towns and villages on the line of retreat are sending civilians in large numbers back instead of forward, so that they will not have so many mouths to feed. The correspondent reports the joy of the civilians at

their liberation from German rule. It is pathetic that instead of leaving provisions for five days for civilians as was reported, the Germans took the last loaf from the inhabitants before burning the villages. Apart from the large proportion of the original population left at Nesle, the greatest number of civilians found in one place thus far is four hundred at Bouvencourt. No important engagement or marked change in the line is reported to-day. The Germans appear to be falling back here more rapidly and are offering less resistance to the British pressure between Ham and Peronne.

FRENCH PROGRESS.

PARIS, March 21. The official communication issued by the War Office to-night reads: North of Ham the situation is without change. Our light forces remain in contact with the enemy between Roupuy and St. Quentin. East of Ham we forced this morning at two places a passage of the canal of the Somme, despite lively resistance by the Germans. Our operation conducted vigorously enabled us to clear the north and east margins of the canal and drive back the enemy as far as the outskirts of Clastra and Montecourt. Most of the villages before our lines in the neighborhood of St. Quentin are in flames. We have advanced north of Tergnier, which lies southwest of La Fere. In the valley of Ailette there have been skirmishes between our patrols and the enemy who occupied in force the east bank of the Croiseat canal, and Ailette has been subjected by our line to lively bombardment. In the region north of Solesmes we have made considerable progress and fought several quite spirited engagements. Most of the conquered villages are entirely destroyed. East of the Meuse the enemy delivered several surprise attacks against Calonne trench, but these failed under our fire. The day was relatively calm on the rest of the front.

Belgian Communication.—A bombardment on both sides occurred at various points on the Belgian front, particularly in the direction of Dixmude, Drieghen and Steenstraete.

STILL EXPECTING.

LONDON, March 21. According to private telegrams from Berlin to the Amsterdam Bourse, it is expected that a state of war with the United States will be an accomplished fact within 48 hours, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam. American journalists in Berlin, the despatch adds, have been warned to this effect by the Foreign Office.

RIOTING IN BERLIN.

LONDON, March 21. Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports it is rumored that serious riots have broken out in Berlin in connection with the scarcity of food. A despatch from Oldenseal, Holland, says persistent rumors are current of great rioting in Berlin. Frontier regiments are reported to have left for Berlin to maintain order.

STRIKES IN DUSSELDORF.

LONDON, March 21. A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Rotterdam, says: "Our frontier correspondent understands that five munition factories in Dusseldorf have been the scenes of strikes during the last 48 hours, as a protest against the small rations, entailed by the reduction in meat, bread and potato allowances introduced last week. Workers refused to resume work unless food rations are increased."

THE GERMAN LOAN.

LONDON, March 21. A Hague despatch from a correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Co., says: The German Ministry of Finance is organizing a great canvassing campaign for the German war loan, which in financial circles is considered less successful than the previous loan, subscriptions being one-third lower. Frankfurt bankers openly state the present failure shows the uselessness of launching the 7th loan.

FEARS MORE TROUBLE IN RUSSIA.

WASHINGTON, March 21. Recognition of the Provisional Council of Ministers as de facto Government, has been accorded by the United States through conversations carried on by Ambassador Francis at Petrograd. This was stated at the State Department to-day with the explanation that full recognition of the new Government would be delayed pending a demonstration of its stability. To-day's press reports saying the former Emperor and Empress have been deprived of their liberty and the former ordered back from his retirement to Petrograd, caused uneasiness, as possibly indicating control by the extremist radical group. Officials here think the great danger in the Russian situation lies in the possibility of attempts to destroy the moderates now in power, either by the former ruling party or by the extreme socialist revolutionary party. The arrest of the former Emperor and wife is being watched therefore with the fear that it may foreshadow a long period of unrest in Russian internal affairs, crippling the country's re-

sources for war. For this reason immediate recognition of the new Government which was desired because of its announced Republican principles, will be postponed until affairs have had time to settle. Ambassador Francis is calling regularly at the Foreign Office, however, and transacting business as with duly constituted authorities.

ENCOURAGE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

LONDON, March 21. The Government will introduce in the Commons to-morrow a resolution the object of which, Chancellor Bonar Law announced to-day, would be to give encouragement to the Provisional Government in Russia. The resolution follows: Resolved, that this House sends the Duma fraternal greetings and the Russian people heartfelt congratulations upon the establishment among them of free institutions, and has full confidence that they will lead not only to rapid happy progress of the Russian nation but to the prosecution with renewed steadfastness and vigor the war against the stronghold of autocratic militarism which threatens the liberty of Europe.

THE OVERTHROW OF ENGLAND.

AMSTERDAM, March 21. A Munich despatch to the Berlin Tagesblatt says that the National Committee for the swift overthrow of England held a secret meeting on Monday and discussed measures for forcing Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg out of office. The despatch adds that a great popular demonstration is to be held next Monday. The National Committee for a swift overthrow of England is a new organization as far as any public despatches from Germany are concerned. Reports have told of apparent hostility throughout Bavaria against Germany (Prussia).

NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

PARIS, March 21. The new Ministry of M. Ribot made its declaration to-day pledging itself to carry on the war with all possible energy. The declaration which was read in the Chamber of Deputies by Premier Ribot, and in the Senate by Rene Viviani, Minister of Justice, opens with the affirmation: We are resolved to wage with the utmost vigor and to a victorious end the terrible war into which we are drawn by inexcusable aggression. We shall wage it not as our enemies in the spirit of conquest and domination, but with the firm resolve to recover the provinces formerly wrested away from us, to obtain separation and guarantees and to prepare a durable peace founded on respect for rights and liberties of

peoples. The declaration refers to the retirement of the Germans on the French front, which it says is without doubt a prelude to other battles in which the enemy will exhaust his last resources. France, the declaration continues, feels that her confidence is acquiring new impulsion from these results of our unshakable firmness, and the skilful strategic preparation of the commanders of our armies. After hearing the ministerial declaration and supplementary explanations in answer to a number of interpellations, the Chamber unanimously adopted a resolution of confidence in the new Government.

SHIPPING LOSSES.

LONDON, March 21. The British communication issued this afternoon says that for the week ending March 18, sixteen British ships each of a tonnage of more than 1,600 were sunk, and eight of a tonnage of under 1,600 tons. The communication also gives the number of ships arriving and sailing from the United Kingdom ports during this period.

SAFE CONDUCT WITHHELD.

WASHINGTON, March 21. Turkey again notified the State Department to-day that neither Germany nor Austria-Hungary had indicated a willingness to give assurances for the safe passage of the American cruiser Des Moines and the American naval collier Caesar from Alexandria, Egypt, to Beirut, to deliver relief supplies to the destitute Syrians and bring out 1,000 or more American refugees. The plight of Americans stranded at Beirut is causing increasing concern here, for officials feel they virtually have exhausted every diplomatic resource "to secure the safe passage of the American vessels to proceed through the mined and patrolled waters to their destination."

THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, March 21. An authoritative statement issued by Reuter's regarding the Imperial War Conference says: During to-day's discussion, which dealt purely with preliminaries, the general desire was expressed to conduct all energies upon the prosecution of the war. Unfortunately the absence of Australia is much regretted. The feeling is growing that one of the most satisfactory features of the Conference is that it will afford an opportunity to the Dominions to express their views upon terms of peace. It is felt more

and more that the part they have played in the war and the fact that they have regarded it as their own struggle equally with Britain's fully entitled them to this right. From this viewpoint as well as others the Conference is undoubtedly an historic event of first importance.

WITHDRAWING IN-BELGIUM.

LONDON, March 21. The possibility of German withdrawal in the region north of Arras, extending into Belgian territory, is forecasted in a Central News despatch from Amsterdam. The despatch quotes a correspondent in Northern France as reporting great activity from a point north of La Bassée Canal to a point past the Franco-Belgian frontier, which he says seems to indicate a withdrawal of salient lines in the direction of Lens and Douai. Heavy explosions are continually heard, and the same patrol activity which preceded the retreat of the southern front, he adds, is now observed north of Arras.

INDUSTRIAL GERMANY AGITATED.

LONDON, March 21. The morning newspapers give prominence to-day to wireless reports received from Switzerland, saying that news of the Russian revolution has started a serious agitation in some of the German industrial towns. Among these are Leipzig, Dresden and Munich where strikes and other disturbances are said to be taking place. A similar rumor has been received from Amsterdam, but it has not been traced to any reliable source and is entirely lacking in confirmation.

NEW GERMAN PEACE MOVE.

LONDON, March 21. A despatch to the Times from The Hague asserts that a new German peace move is on foot. The despatch says that prominent Germans have recently visited Holland and Switzerland under instructions to try and ascertain what the present attitude of Great Britain is towards a possible cessation of hostilities. The Commission sent to Switzerland is said to be a leading German business man, and one of the emissaries to Holland a high official in the German war service. The latter emissary, disclaiming authority to speak for the German Government, is quoted as saying that the Russian revolution had entirely changed the situation, and that Germany could no longer claim that she wished to free the Russian Baltic province, and could also consider handing back Poland to Russia under some form of autonomy. He is represented as adding that he believed the revolution in Russia made it possible for Germany

to discuss terms more favorable to the Entente. Another visitor to Holland, continues the correspondent sought to learn the attitude of the Entente towards some general scheme of autonomy for the races of Europe, especially in regard to Austria-Hungary. The correspondent says that although the commissioners claimed they were not traveling on behalf of the Government, their journey would have been impossible under existing passport regulations without the connivance of Berlin.

DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY.

LONDON, March 21. The Russian Government has ordered that the deposed Emperor and his consort shall be regarded as having been deprived of their liberty, and that they shall be brought to Tearsko Selo, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent telegraphs.

RUSSIANS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

PETROGRAD, March 21. The Russian troops driving southward from Sakiz, Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian frontier and are in Turkish territory, the war office announced to-day. The Turks are still in retreat in the district southwest of Kermanshah. A season of bad weather has begun at the Persian-Mesopotamian fighting front, the statement announces.

CONGRESS TO MEET.

WASHINGTON, March 21. President Wilson to-day called Congress in extra session April 2nd. The purpose of the extra session is to take action on the state of war which admittedly exists between the United States and Germany. Congress probably will be asked to declare that a state of war has existed since some recent date, when German submarines have been conducting their most warlike operations against American commerce.

COKE IN CHARGE.

OTTAWA, March 21. Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Coke, who has had a distinguished career in the British Navy, is here to take command of the Niobe and to take charge of the Canadian Naval Patrol Service. For obvious reasons details cannot be given of the present scope and activities of the Canadian patrol, but the appointment of such a distinguished naval officer as Sir Charles Coke in command indicates its enormous growth.

FREIGHT. — Schooners are wanted to load Lumber at Riverhead, St. Mary's, for conveyance to St. John's. HORWOOD LUMBER CO., LTD.—m1010i

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