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MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 12 1917 -FOURTEEN PAGES

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## Turks Driven Back Near Kut-el-Amara BRITISH SUCCESSES Turks Driven Back Near Kut-el-Amara Strong German Positions on Ancre Taken French Airmen Bombard German Factories in Alsace-Lorraine and Serre

# BY BRITISH NEAR KUT

Factory Held by Gen. Townshend is Captured, and New Line Occupied on Frontage of 6000 Yards to Depth of 800 to 1200 Yards.

London, Feb. 11 .- An official report issued tonight describes briefly a British success against the Turks in Mesopotamia, a new line being occupied by the British of about three and a half miles to a depth of more than half a mile. The text of the statement reads:

"In Mesopotamia during Friday night and Saturday four Turkish attacks on the right were repulsed, and the British hold on the enemy trenches on the left was rapidly extended by bombing attacks. Later after a heavy bombard. ment a successful assault was undertaken against trenches west of the liquorice factory which Gen. Townshend held thruout the siege of Kut. whereby we secured the factory and five hundred yards of enemy trenches. "As a result of these operations a

new line has been occupied on a frontage of over 6000 yards, and the enemy pushed back for a depth varying from 800 to 1200 yards. All the evidence shows that the Turks suffered heavily."

Successful Offensive. el-Amara was resumed successfully on Friday, says an official statement on the campaign issued last night. Under cover of a heavy bombardment a portion of the new Turkish front line west of the Hai River was secured and consolidated in the face of two counterattacks and two bombing attacks. Further westward, the statement adds, Turkish trenches were penetrated and by successful bombing work were secured and consolidated along a front

HUNS MAY MODIFY SUBMARINE WARFARE

of 1200 yards.

Kaiser Calls Important Conference to Discuss Matters of Policy.

London, Feb. 11.-An important conference at headquarters has been called by Emperor William, presumably to discuss the submarine question, says the Exchange Telegraph Company's Amsterdam correspondent today.
Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the imnavy officials will attend, and it is reported that the possibility of negotia-tions with neutrals for modifying the terms of the recent German memorandum will be discussed.

### U. S. to Arm Merchantships Existing Tie-Up Unbearable

Sufficient Number of Guns for Ships Needing Them Immediately Can Be Assembled ---Speedy Decision Expected.

Special to The Toronto World.
Washington, Feb. 11.—State department officials admitted tonight that a decision regarding the arming of American merchant ships traversing the blockaded zone would not be much longer delayed. They said the present situation was intolerable, since it involved a complete tie-up of American shipping. It is believed that the government will take a direct hand in the arming of merchantmen and will help the navy department to supply them to the best

of its ability. At the present time the navy has no great amount of small guns that can serve for this purpose, but it is expected that it can assemble a sufficient number for the ships that will immediately require them. The problem of gunners is more complicated. The navy cannot spare any of its present gunners, altho it will doubtless open its reserve list for the benefit of the shipping interests. There are hundreds of former gunners of the U.S. in civil pursuits

## INDIA TO COME UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

Compulsory Enrolment of European British Subjects for Home Defence Necessary to Permit Release of British Regulars for Service in the Field.

from Delhi says:

Lord Chelmsford, the viceroy, presiding over the imperial legislative council, said that the government's activities were being concentrated upon how best to assist the empire to proposed to introduce a bill whereby achieve victory. India must be ready achieve victory. India must be ready all European British subjects between to place all resources at the disposal the ages of 18 and 41 would be liable

who can be called upon if necessary.

of the empire. He did not wish to minimize the efforts already made but for

London, Feb. 11.—(Via Reuter's Ottister, the viceroy stated that the time tawa agency)—A special despatch had now arrived for India to release the ages of 18 and 41 would be liable to general military service in India. Those between the ages of 41 and 50 imize the efforts already made but for the future the motto must be effort and yet greater effort." Lord Chelmsford asked the new members to continue to co-operate in avoiding controversial questions.

Those between the ages of 14 and 18 would be compulsorily enrolled for local military service, and youths between the ages of 16 and 18 would be enrolled for military training. The government also proposed enrolling in the following control of the first service and youths between the ages of 16 and 18 would be enrolled for military training. Referring to the recent ordinance requiring all European males in India between the ages of 18 and 50 to reg-

## STEAMERS SUNK

Steamers yesterday reported sunk are: Mantola (British-India liner), \$500

Sallaga (British), 8811 tons. Havgard (Norwegian), 100 tons. Japanese Prince (British), 4876 tons. Ellavore (Norwegian), 2760 tons. Vessels sunk since Feb. 1, 83; total onnage, 188,562.

Marks War on Western

French Aviators at One Place Derail and Fire Railway

Special Cable to The Toronto World,

The British also destroyed three Ger-man aircraft, making the German losses this week-end in the west total

Both British and French squadrons also flew far afield and bombarded many important points including fac-tories in the Serre valley.

The French also operated against many factories in Lorraine, and they also bombarded the aviation ground at Colmarand the port of Zeebrugge. official communication of Saturday

might said:

"Yesterday bombs were dropped by
us on a number of places of military
importance and considerable damage.

**GERMAN NAVAL PLANES** DROP BOMBS AT ST. POL

ficial statement issued today says: bombs on the aerodrome hits on the aerodrome were observed.

All our aeroplanes returned undamaged."

Mantola's Call for Aid After Being Torpedoed, Answered by Shells.

**PASSENGERS ALL SAFE** 

American Surgeon, Who Was Aboard, Tells Story of Huns' Ruthlessness.

London, Feb. 11.—The British India quarters of a mile. liner Mantola, of 8500 tons, with one American citizen, Earl Rice, ship's surgeon, of Portland, Oregon, aboard, was topedoed without warning 185 miles southwest of Fastnet on Feb. 8. The crew and passengers except seven Lascars were saved.

Mr. Rice, the only American on board, was among the survivors of the torpedoed steamer, who arrived in London this afternoon. He gave the Associated Press the following account

"The first we knew was the sound ship from end to end at 1.40 p.m. on Thursday. The sea was fairly rough, but the ship maintained an even keel and excellent order was preserved. Captain Chavas immediately ordered the boats launched. Seven Lascars were killed by the explosion. The rehurt. Everybody got safely into the

less operator, who were to follow us Sub, Starts Shelling. "Nebody had yet seen the submarine and everybody in the boats was peering inso the haze in a vain effort to catch a glimpse of the tell-tale periscope. An hour and a half after the torpedoing the captain, the engineer and the wireless man got the wireles working and began sending out S. O. S. calls, giving details of the position. "The reply came almost instantly,

but from an unexpected quarter. The submarine, which evidently was lying off in the haze two miles or so away, picked up the wirel as and began shelling the Mantola from 4000 yards distance, meanwhile approach ing at full speed so that the range rapidly decreased. Some of the shells were loaded with shrapnel, which burst about the Mantola and around the liteboats. The latter had returned close to the Mantola, but the sallors now put all their muscle into the cars to increase their distance from the submarine's target. Fortunately nobody was hurt by the shells, altho everybody was badly

Fired Forty-Seven Shells-"By this time the submarine was plainly visible to everybody, her guns emitting angry little flashes as they sent their missiles toward the Mantola.

shows that 47 shells were fired. "The submarine was within 200 or 300 yards of the Mantola when an unidentified vessel began to loom up on the hazy horizon. The sub's com-mander decided that discr tion was the better part of valor, closed his landed. ratches quickly, submerged and disappeared, to the unspeakable relief of us all. The new arrival proved to of 1,100 tons, has been sunk. be a British sloop, which gradually

## MANY AUSTRIANS ATTACK ITALIANS

Assail Positions East of Gorizia.

Rome, Feb. 11, via London.--An attack in considerable force was made on the Italian lines east of Gorizia on Friday night, the war office announced today. The Austrians were repulsed at nearly all points, and such portions of the front lines as have not yet been reoccupied by the Italians have been held under heavy fire, it is declared. The statement reads: "There have been desultory artil-lery actions in the Trentino. Our batteries shelled enemy positions on Monte Creino and dispersed enemy supply

columns on the northern slopes "On the Julian front the enemy artilery showed increased activity. In the area east of Gorizia on the night of

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 7).

# ON HILL ABOVE ANCRE

Strong System of German Trenches on Southern Front of Ridge North of Beaumont-Hamel Captured, With Total of Prisoners Exceeding British Casualties.

London, Feb. 11.—British troops cap- on the southern front of Serre Hill reads: ured last night a strong system of (north of Beaumont Hamel), was at-German trenches on Serre Hill, north three-quarters of a mile. We captured

and it commands the valley of the Ancre. The British gains bring their lines a considerable distance up this

Two hundred and fifteen Germans British bulletin from France says that the number of prisoners greatly exceeded the number of British casual-

The British had to fight to hold the of a violent explosion which shook the ground on the Sailly-Saillisel Hill, east of the village. They managed to drive back German attacks with heavy losses to the Germans without losing any ground themselves

The official statement reporting this

peration reads: "Another highly successful local op- the war office. British troops have caused in the enemy's lines by our eration was carried out last night. A carried out successful raids in the fire."

tacked and captured on a front of over 215 prisoners, a number considerably exceeding our casualties. fire an enemy attempt to approach our lines south of Sailly-Saillisel. We entered foe trenches during the night in

neighborhood of Pys, southwest of La Bassee, northeast of Neuve Chapelle surrendered to the British and they and south of Fauquissart. Many casuwent as prisoners to the rear. The alties were inflicted on the enemy and his dugouts destroyed. A number of prisoners were secured. We effectively bombarded the enemy's positions to-

Unsuccessful Attacks.

German attacks against the new British positions east of Sailly-Saillisel, on the Somme front, were unsuccessful, according to the official statement from British headquarters

strong system of hostile trenches, lying | region of Ypres. The statement "Last night the enemy attacked our

tacks were everywhere unsuccessful

the night southeast of Neuville St.

placement and returned without casualties. This afternoon we carried day at a number of places along our out a very successful raid opposite Givenchy. We captured 25 prisoners, including one officer. In the last 24 hours we have taken 48 prisoners, including two officers.

both sides of the Somme, in the neighborhood of Serre and in the in France, issued Saturday night by Ypres sector. Four explosions were

## WITHOUT WARNING He Was Ranking Member of No-

Japanese Prince Has Many Americans Aboard, But All Escape.

**NORWEGIANS VICTIMS** 

Mates and Eleven Members of Ellevore's Crew Are

London, Feb. 11.-The British steamer Japanese Prince, with many Am. submarine, was torpedoed without the Exchange Telegraph Co. All the antry. crew were landed, the despatch adds. The sinking of the British steamer Japanese Prince, of 4,876 tons, and the torpedoing of the Norwegian steamer A cool headed passenger on my boat took out a pocket notabook and carefully marked down a cross every time the submarine fired. His record of the Ellavore has been landed, but the mates and eleven members of the

The agency confirms the reported torpedoing of the British steamer Beechtree, the crew of which has been

The Norwegian steamer Havgard The British steamer Sallagh has

picked up the survivors.

"We were in our boat about six been sunk Lloyd's Shipping Agency The Mantola sank in the announced today. This may refer to the British steamer Sallaga, of 3,811 tons gross, owned by Elder, Dempster and Co., of Liverpool. She has been in the British government service. No steamer Sallagh is listed in available

A torpede struck the Japanese Prince amidships with a terrific explosion. The crew took to the boats Considerable Force of Foes and were picked up within an hour.

Many were injured by the explosion,

but none fatally.

The seventy-five men aboard the ship, including thirty American cattlewere saved.

SURPRISING FUR REDUCTIONS The Dineen annual stock-taking sale

provides many striking bargains for those who know values in furs. While the reductions are general there is a special em-phasis on Hudson Seal Coats and sets in wolf and fox varieties. The

hurt. Everybody got safely into the boats with the exception of the captain, the chief engineer and the wire-

bility and Foremost English Catholic. London, Feb. 11 .- The Duke of Nor-

folk, ranking member of the English nobility and the foremost English Catholic, died in London today. The death of the duke was rather sudden, the first announcement of his

serious illness having been made on Saturday. The heir to the dukedom, the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who is eight years of age, comes into an estate es-

timated at £300,000 annually. Henry Fitzalan-Howard, fifteenth Duke of Norfolk, was born Dec. 27. 1847. He was earl marshal and heredericans aboard, which was sunk by a itary marshal and chief butler of England. In virtue of his office as marshal he was the titular manager of cerewarning, according to a despatch to monies upon occasions of royal page-

## **ALLIES WILL WIN**

Gen. Castelnau Points Out Favorable Conditions for New Campaign.

#### INCREASE IN NUMBER

Entente Forces Constitute Best Guarantee of Ultimate Success.

Paris, Feb. 10.-Gen. Castelnau, chief Holland in search of employment, of the French military delegation at the conference of the entente allies are but few. These have been com-

"One has only to compare the mili- production of steel is menaced. month of January, 1916, with that of January, 1917, and he will be compelled to admit that the condition tary situation of the allies in the pelled to admit that the conditions former production because of the lack

which has assumed a formidable task; the gallant Italian troops, and, finel-ly, the Anglo-French forces, which are increasing in number, constitute the best guarantee of our final victory, which hereafter, will come promptly. In the meantime the mili-

## **MUNITION CRISIS**

Lack of Rolling Stock Hampers Production of Essen Plant.

PLIGHT IS DESPERATE

Food Famine Attributed Largely to Collapse of Transport System.

pecial Cable to The Toronto World. Amsterdam, Feb. 11.-Altho the cenorship in Germany is strict, awkward truths have a way of leaking out thru the columns of trade papers and other organs which have reached those who have fied to the Netherlands from German cities. From these reports it is blainly discernible to your correspondent that potatoes and pork are not the only things that are lacking in Germany. The munition supply is rapidly becoming most critical, and highly embarrassing situation.
First and foremost there is a great scarcity of rolling stock in Germany. Because of the sending of great numters of trucks and flat cars to the various fronts, German railroads find themselves all but denuded of the means of transporting even the steel and metals that are necessary for the

manufacturing of munitions.

Transport System Collapses. Indeed, it is because of this fact that German crops were a failure this year. There has been no manure for the farmlands, was the decided statement here recently by several farmers who, satisfied that naught but starvation faced them on their farms near the Holland border, defied the guard at the border and made their way into at Petrograd, is quoted in a despatch to The Temps from the Rumanian capital, as saying:

mandeered by the army, and the present complaint is that there are not enough wagons to convey coke to the blast furnaces, with the result that the

The difficulty exists even in Westfor the forthcoming spring campaign are much more favorable than they were last year.

"I can say that each day we are coming nearer to the realization nour objects. The brave Russian army, which has assumed a formidable test."

#### APPEALS FOR BIG LOAN TO KNOCK OUT ENEMY

London, Feb. 11.-In a letter read at the war loan meeting Saturday, Vice-Admiral Sir Reginald Bacon, some instances below shakeable. The Germans have prothe present market cured success only on secondary value of the raw skins.
in the stock, all regulary on which decisive action will count to the stock of the raw skins.

"With regard to the principal fronts, on which decisive action will count to the stock of the area east of Gorizia on the night of Friday, after heavy artillery and Limited 140 Vence street Toronto. Limited, 140 Yonge street, Toronto, powerless to obtain any serious re-and 20-22 King street west, Hamilton, sulta."

## & WAR SUMMARY &

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

ONTINUING their offensive in the Ancre Valley, British forces captured a strong German trench system on the southern front of Serre Hill, on a frontage of more than three-quarters of a mile, on Satur-considerable damage to the Germans, day night. They took 215 prisoners, or a larger number than they sustained French aviators and gun fire brought Hill, on a frontage of more than three-quarters of a mile, on Saturcasualties. The official bulletin from general headquarters describes this advance as a highly successful local operation. The British also fought Guynemer destroyed one of these, making the 31st success to his credit. a considerable action east of Sailly-Saillisel, where they had to defend their newly-won positions on the summit of the Sailly-Saillisel Hill against furious German counter-attacks. A heavy artillery bombardment preceded these onsets, but they succeeded at no point, the British maintaining their eight. front entire. The British also carried out successful trench raids at Pys, and near La Basse, Neuve Chapelle, Fauquissart, Neuville St. Vaast and Givenchy. The Germans, on the other hand, had mishaps with the raids which they attempted at several strategical points.

While the operations of the British, as well as the operations of the other allies, have in a broad sense the object of wearing down the enemy until his losses by attrition become so great as to render the continuation of the war hopeless on his part, the fighting on the Ancre has other objects besides mere attrition. In brief, in the Ancre Valley, Field Marshal Haig is enlarging the wedge which he drove last November. The hill of Serre, dominating this valley, still presented a hostile front to the British advance, and if the British had left it in the hands of the enemy it would form a valuable point for the making of flank attacks against their march eastward. When it falls the British will have more elbow room for their coming movement across the Somme watershed to the valley of the Scheldt.

In fighting on Friday and Saturday the British in Mesopotamia broke into some of the outer defences proper of Kut-el-Amara by capturing a licorice factory and 500 yards of trenches, which had been held by Gen. Townshend thruout the siege by the Turks. The British won considerable success in their latest fighting by bombardments, bombing attacks and regular infantry attacks. The two days' operations give the British possession of a new line on a frontage of over 6000 yards, or three miles and a half, and to a depth of 800 to 1200 yards. The Turks made, during the engagement, four attacks on the British right, but these all broke down. Then the British troops rapidly extended their hold on the Turkish trenches

(Continued on page 2, cols. 1 and2.)

## **ALLIED SQUADRONS**

Great Aeroplane Activity

Front.

VISIT SERRE VALLEY

Train.

Paris, Feb. 11.-Great aeronlane operations, conducted by the French in the past two days, have wrought down five German machines. Lieut.

They derailed and set a train on fire near Saint Ingbert. Referring to aviation, the British

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 1).

Rerlin, Feb. 10, via London,-An of. "Our naval arroplanes Thursday night successfully dropped sixty-St. Pol , near Dunkirk, and on Coxude (east of Dunkirk). Several

## **BOMB FOE POINTS**