THE ALLIED ARMIES ARE SMASHING FORWARD IN FRANCE

Enemy Forced Back to Notheast of Canal of St. Quentin—Many Desperate Encounters Near Aisne.

A despatch from London says:—Along the entire battlefront between the Scarpe and the Aisne in France the allied and German troops have come to grips. At some places the battle waged by infantry, cavalry and artillery attained the biggest proportions of any engagement this year. Standing before the Hindenburg line, from the region of Arras to Laon, the Germans launched counter-attack after counter-attack at the advancing French and Britsih forces, but the Teutons were hurled back suffering heavy losses.

Some observers here see in the recent developmnets 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. If 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.

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 separate Nivelle's troops from the enemy's defensive system. One struggle surged around St. Simon, along both sides of the Somme-Croseat Canal, and slightly north, near the villages of Artemps and Seraucourt-le-Grand. Here the Germans delivered a violent counter-blow that almost swept the French off their feet.

Shortly afterward 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.

North of Soissons and along the Aillette River 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. Despite the ferocity of the opposition, the French advanced along this front at several important points, moving considerably nearer Margival.

Along the Aillette front, on both sides of the Oise, the forces of Nivelle pushed ahead also, continuing their crossing of the Aillette and advancing on the heights of the Oise to the northeast of Tergnier. From these dominating positions the French can now look down on the German defences, and with the bringing up of their heavy artillery the enemy's positions will be exposed to a raking fire. The French soldiers in this sector report that the Germans have inundated the entire countryside, including the stronghold of La Fere, to impede the allied advance.

The British forces on the front southeast of Arras struck up against even more powerful opposition than the French, despit. the fact that they are several miles farther from the German's reserve line than their allies. Everywhere British patrols and advanced detachments came into contact with strong German forces of rearguards, and succeeded in clearing up these outposts and continuing the advance. At three points—near Aizecourt-le-Bas, Baumetz-le-Cambrai and Vraucourt—the enemy counter-attacked in force. In the region of Ecoust and Croiselles Haig's troops made progress, but even here they are groping forward so cautiously that the advance is slow. The British Commander is refusing to force the issue here, as he knows that eventually the Germans will be forced back to their general line of defence, and also because he is finding it more profitable to show his strength in the sector southeast of Peronne, where his troops are lined up with the French and there is little danger of them falling into a German trap.

FLEET OF 15 SHIPS LEFT DUTCH PORT

Sent by Holland to Load Grain at United States Ports.

A despatch from New York says:—An Associated Press despatch from Washington Friday night says:

"A fleet of 15 Dutch steamships was said here on Friday to have sailed recently from a port in Holland for the United States, by way of Halifax. The vessels all steamed out the same day, and now are believed to be well north of the German submarine zone around the British Isles.

"It is intended by the Netherlands Government, which has the ships under charter, to have them load grain, probably in New York, and then return by the same route they came. It was explained here to-day that lack of foodstuffs in Holland made it necessary that a large quantity be obtained at once, and it was felt that a merchant fleet could better brave the dangers of the seas than individual ships. Many Dutch ships loaded with grain now are being detained in British ports either by the British authorities or through fear of German submarines."

MORE SLAVE RAIDS.

Germans to Steal Men and Women For Spring Farming.

A despatch from Hazebrouck, France, says: It is reported here that deportations from the invaded district of Northern France are about to be resumed. The Germans for some time are said to have been distributing blanks to be filled out, in order to organize the deportation of young men and women, with a view to employing them for spring farming. The Germans continue to requisition metal, having taken from most of the churches in Lille their bells and organ pipes, and from other places quantities of sheet steel.

GERMANY SENDS CAPTIVES TO THE FRONT LINES

A despatch from Lausanne, Switzerland, says:—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 on Friday. The statement said the Red Cross was endeavoring to dissuade the German authorities from such form of reprisal.

TURKISH RULERS CONFRONTED WITH UPRISING OF THE PEOPLE

Mass Levy Ordered So Unpopular That Government Nas Not Ventured to Enforce It Fully.

A despatch from Athens says: Information has reached here that the mass levy ordered by the Turkish Government has proved so unpopular with the people so far that the Government has not ventured to enforce it fully. Resentment is rife among the people. The Young Turks are trying to prevent the spread of the facts about the Russian revolution, referring to it as disorders and riots against the war. The attitude of the people is beginning to be feared by the Government.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Mar. 27—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.03½; No. 2, do., $2.00½; No. 3, do., $1.94½; No. 4 wheat, $1.83½, track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 73½c; No. 3 C.W., 71½c; extra No. 1 feed, 71½c; No. 1 feed, 70½c, all rail delivered.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.23, track Toronto, subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 65 to 67c, nominal; No. 3 white, 64 to 66c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.83 to $1.85; No. 3, do., $1.81 to $1.83, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, $2.65, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.21 to $1.23, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat — $1.32, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.48 to $1.50, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $9.70; second patents, in jute bags, $9.20; strong bakers', in jute bags, $8.80, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, $7.55, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment, $7.15, bulk seaboard, export grade.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $38; shorts, per ton, $40; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—Extra No. 2, per ton, $11.50 to $12; mixed, per ton, $8.50 to $11, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 39 to 40c; creamery prints, 43 to 45c; solids, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—New-laid, in cartons, 39 to 40c; out of cartons, 37 to 38c.

Live poultry—Fowl, lb., 20 to 25c; chickens, 20 to 25c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 23 to 26c; fowl, 20 to 22c; ducks, 22 to 25c; squabs, per doz., $4.00 to $4.50; turkeys, 25 to 28c; geese, 18 to 20c.

Cheese—New, large, 26½ to 27c; twins, 27 to 27½c; triplets, 27½ to 27¾c; old, large, 28c; twins, 28½ to 28½c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb. tins, 14 to 14½c; 5-lb. tins, 13½ to 14c; 10-lb., 13 to 13½c; 60-lb., 12½ to 13c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 9 to 9½c. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz., $2.75; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2.00 to $2.25.

Potatoes—Ontario, per bag, $3.25; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $3.50 to $3.75; Albertas, per bag, $3.25 to $3.50.

Beans — Imported, hand-picked, per bush., $6.25; Canadian, hand-picked, per bush., $7.35 to $7.50; Canadian primes, $7.00 to $7.25; Limas, per lb., 12½ to 13c.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 26 to 27c; do., heavy, 23 to 24c; cooked, 37 to 38c; rolls, 23 to 24c; breakfast bacon, 29 to 32c; backs, plain, 31 to 32c; boneless, 33 to 34c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 22 to 23½c; tubs, 23 to 23½c; pails, 23½ to 23¾c; compound, tierces, 17¼ to 17½c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 20 to 20½c per lb.; clear bellies, 19½ to 20c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Mar. 27—Oats—Canadian western, No. 2, 77 to 77½c; do., No. 3, 75 to 75½c; extra No. 1 feed, 75 to 75½c. Barley—Man. feed, $1.03; malting, $1.35. Flour—Man. Spring wheat patents, firsts, $9.80; seconds, $9.30; strong bakers' $9.10; Winter patents, choice, $9.25; straight rollers, $8.50 to $8.80; do., bags, $4.10 to $4.25. Rolled oats—Barrels, $7.35 to $7.45; do., bags, 90 lbs., $3.50 to $3.60. Bran—$36 to $38. Shorts—$39 to $40. Middlings—$41 to $42. Mouillie—$45 to $50. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $13.50 to $14. Cheese—Finest westerns, 26½; do., easterns, 25½c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 43c; seconds, 40 to 41c. Eggs—Fresh, 38 to 39c. Potatoes—per bag, car lots, $2.75 to $3.25.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, Mar. 27—Cash prices—Wheat, No. 1 Northern, $1.85¼. No. 2 Northern, $1.82½; No. 3 Northern, $1.78½; No. 4, $1.65¾; No. 5, $1.47½; No. 6, $1.15½; feed, 97c. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 62½c; No. 3 C.W., 60½c; extra No. 1 feed, 60½c; No. 1 feed, 59½c; No. 2 feed, 57½c. Barley—No. 3, $1.06; No. 4, $1.00; rejected, 89c; feed, 89c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $2.62½; No. 2 C.W., $2.59¾.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, Mar. 27—Wheat—May, $1.84½ to $1.84¾; July, $1.78. Cash, No. 1 hard, $2.01½ to 2.02½; No. 1 Northern, $1.90½ to $1.96½; No. 2 Northern, $1.88½ to $1.96½. Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.10¾ to $1.11¾. Oats—No. 3 white, 58½ to 59½c. Flour unchanged. Bran, $34.50 to $35.

Duluth, Mar. 27—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.89¼; No. 1 Northern, $1.88¼; No. 2 Northern, $1.82¼ to $1.84¼. May, $1.84¼; July, $1.78¾ bid. Linseed—To arrive, $2.88½; May, $2.90; July, $2.91.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Mar. 27—Choice heavy steers, $11 to $11.65; do., good, $10.40 to $10.75; butchers' cattle, choice, $10.35 to $10.75; do., good, $10.10 to $10.25; do., medium, $9.50 to $9.75; do., common, $8.40 to $9; butchers' bulls, choice, $10 to $10.50; do., good bulls, $9.25 to $9.60; do., medium bulls, $8 to $8.40; do., rough bulls, $6 to $6.40; butchers' cows, choice, $9.50 to $10; do., good, $8.50 to $8.85; do., medium, $7 to $7.25; stockers, $7.50 to $9.25; choice feeders, $9 to $10; canners and cutters, $5.25 to $5.50; milkers, good to choice, $85 to $110; do., com. and med., each, $40 to $60; springers, $50 to $110; light ewes, $10 to $11; sheep, heavy, $8.50 to $9.50; calves, good to choice, $12 to $14.50; lambs, choice, $14.25 to $15.25; do., medium, $10.50 to $12.50; hogs, fed and watered, $15.50 to $15.60; do., weighed off cars, $15.75; do., f.o.b. $14.75.

Montreal, Mar. 27—Choice steers, $11 to $11.25; good steers, $10.50; lower grades, $8.25 to $9.50; butchers' cows, $7.25 to $9; bulls, $8.25 to $10; choice milk-fed calves, $18 to $20; good to choice, $12 to $15; lower grades, $5 to $12; sheep, $9.25 to $10; lambs, $13.25 to $14.25; hogs, selected, $16.25 to $16.50.

Her Father—Do you think you can make my daughter happy, sir? Suitor—Why, I have already, haven't I? I've asked her to marry me.

GERMANS FINANCED A BOMB FACTORY

Light Thrown on Method of Destroying Vessels at Sea in 1915.

A despatch from New York says:—An alleged admission that money for the establishment of a bomb factory in Hoboken, N.J., was furnished direct from officials of the German Embassy at Washington was read on Thursday when the trials were begun here of six men charged with having attempted to create a reign of terror on the high seas by destroying vessels sailing from American ports with cargoes for the Entente allies.

The defendants are Captain Charles von Kleist, a chemist, who is accused of having been engaged in the making of the bombs; Karl Schmidt, formerly chief engineer of the steamship Friedrich der Grosse; Ernst Becker, electrician; and Frederick Karbade, George Praedel and Wilhelm Parades, assistant engineers of the same vessel.

How the police captured the alleged plotters after bomb explosions in 1915, had destroyed vessels and cargoes worth upwards of $4,000,000 was recited to the jury by Detective H. Barth, who gained the confidence of von Kleist by representing himself as an agent of Wolf von Igel, said to have been head of the German spy system in this country. Von Igel was an attache of the German Embassy, and returned to Germany with Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador.

The detective said he telephoned to von Kleist, last April, and told him that he had been informed that von Kleist had written to Wolf von Igel.

"I told him he could only see von Igel through me," declared Barth. "I later met him by appointment and he told me that he and Dr. Walter T. Scheele, also a chemist, were partners in the manufacture of fire bombs and dealt also in fertilizer as a blind.

"Scheele, von Kleist told me, had received $10,000 from Captain von Papen of the German Embassy, to finance the bomb moking, but he was in need of more cash."

The head of the alleged plotters was said to have been Dr. Scheele, who escaped arrest by flight to Mexico.

CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN NEED IN ENGLAND.

Some Provision May be Made for Them by Government.

A despatch from London says: In the Commons on Thursday Tyson Wilson asked the Colonial Secretary were there twenty thousand dependents of Canadian soldiers here who were anxious to return to Canada and could not get passports. Steel Maitland, Under-Secretary, replied that he believed some had been unable to return, owing to restrictions which, under existing maritime conditions, it was necessary to impose on the travelling of women and children. Responsibility must rest with the naval authorities.

McCallum Scott—"Is it known that many dependent discharged Canadian soldiers are in severe distress here?"

Steel Maitland—"I have no knowledge of that, but will try to secure information."

McCallum Scott said that if it was so some provision should be made for them here.

FORBID MEAT AND POTATOES TWO DAYS A WEEK IN BRITAIN

Hoarding of Food Will be Prevented—Compulsory Rationing to be Introduced If Voluntary System Fails.

A despatch from London says: The food question is pressing daily with increasing stringency on the British public, and according to authoritative reports, a few days will see new and drastic steps on the part of the Food Controller, Lord Devonport, to meet the situation and prevent exploitation of the public by traders.

The Controller announced in the House of Lords on Thursday that although voluntary rations had brought about excellent results, much more in this direction was required, otherwise it might be necessary to resort to compulsory rationing, which would be a national calamity. He was very desirous of avoiding this, owing to the tremendous machinery needed. This machinery, however, was ready, he declared, if required, and a great reduction in bread and sugar was still imperative. The Controller also intended, he said, to introduce a strong measure to prevent the hoarding of food.

According to an unofficial report, the Government intends to introduce two meatless and two potatoless days weekly in all restaurants and hotels, and to forbid more than five ounces of uncooked meat to be served for each person.

With regard to hoarding it is said that the police will be empowered to search private houses, and if more than a fortnight's supply of sugar, on a basis of a weekly allowance of three-quarters of a pound per capita, is found, the persons so hoarding will be severely punished. Traders would also be prohibited, under penalties, from attempting to compel purchasers to buy other things before being supplied with sugar, potatoes, and similar commodities, as this system has led to mischievous waste.

ALL BRITISH TONNAGE NOW UNDER CONTROL

A despatch from London says: It is understood in shipping circles that the Government has extended its control of shipping and has now requisitioned at fixed rates all liner tonnage engaged in the Australian, South American and South African trades. This extension of the control plan apparently is intended to deal systematically and to the best advantage with virtually the entire British tonnage and bring it under the management of the Shipping Controller.

GERMANS MASS IN MEXICO TO RAID UNITED STATES

A despatch from Wilmington, Del., says:—Officers of the Norwegian steamer Vera arriving here Friday afternoon from Porto Barrios, reported thousands of Germans have entered Mexico through Guatemala with the acknowledged intention of forming an army to wage war on the United States. They say many German reserve officers are at the head of the movement, and are equipping the Mexicans for war.

NEW DANGER AREA CREATED IN ARCTIC

Germany Announces That Ships Entering Waters Do So at Own Risk.

A Reuter despatch from Christiania, to London, says the German Minister has communicated to the Norwegian Government an order from his Government that in future the part of the Arctic Sea lying east of 24 degrees east longitude and south of 75 degrees north latitude, excepting Norwegian territory, is to be regarded dangerous for all navigation. Ships will be met with all weapons. Neutral vessels entering those waters must do so at their own risk. Neutral ships already on the way for or returning from ports in this zone will not be attacked without warning until April 5. The effect oft he German declaration is to extend the barred zone to the waters giving access to the northern Russian ports.

UNITED STATES DECIDES "WAR TO THE KNIFE"

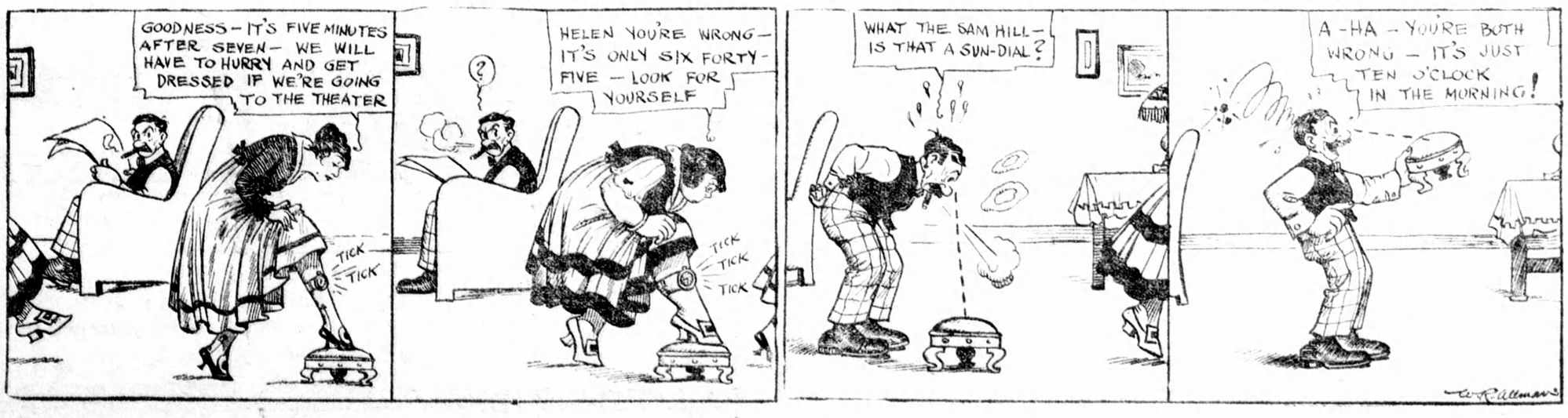
Military and Naval Co-operation With Allies is Possible and U. S. Will Be Unsparing in Money and Supplies.

A despatch from Washington says: The United States 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 United States and Germany.

Fully appreciating Germany's policy of acting in war first and talking afterwards, the Government has determined to provide against every possible emergency.

Broad questions involved were discussed to-day at a long Cabinet meeting to which heads of departments carried reports on preparations already made and others contemplated. Details are being taken up between President Wilson and the individual Cabinet members.

Regretfully the Government apparently has decided that since Germany is making war upon the United States through ruthless killing of Americans and destruction of their ships, the issue must be met with steps much more far-reaching than mere attempts to protect individual merchant craft.

If anything is ahead to prevent this it is not now foreseen. Once a state of war is declared to exist, aggressive measures are expected to be taken.

The Doings of the Duffs.