

BRITISH ATTACK ON TWO-MILE FRONT TAKE DEFENCES NEAR MIRAUMONT

About 800 Prisoners, Virtually All Prussians, Were Taken, in Addition To Heavy Losses Inflicted on Enemy.

London, Feb. 18.—Again the British have struck on both sides of the Ancre, cutting a wide gap in the German lines and pushing within a few hundred yards of Petit Miraumont. A successful attack Saturday captured trenches on a front totalling more than two miles to an almost uniform depth of a half mile.

It was another of the thoroughly-planned attacks the British have delivered recently on the Somme-Ancre front, far different from trench raids. Its main object was to push closer to the immediate objectives of Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, north and south respectively of the Ancre and on the road to Bapaume.

On Sunday the Germans tried to regain the positions taken from them by the British, but their attempts were fruitless. Attacking in waves, the Germans came under the concentrated fire of the British guns and were swept back to their trenches, suffering heavy casualties. At no place did the attacking forces reach the British line, and the British suffered no casualties. The British captured 780 officers and men.

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2,000 OTTOMANS MADE PRISONER

Important British Success on the Tigris, Near Kut-el-Amara.

London, Feb. 18.—By a series of attacks uniformly successful the British in Mesopotamia have tightened their hold upon the defences of Kut-el-Amara. Turkish resistance was almost paralyzed on Thursday and Friday, and the capture of almost 2,000 prisoners, including high officers, and much war material, is reported by the War Office.

This spoil, unusually large for the Mesopotamian fighting, fell into British hands as a result of assaults upon the strong Turkish fortifications on both banks of the Tigris where it winds about Kut. A considerable sector on the right bank was completely cleared of Turks, and advanced troops now hold the south-west corner of the strong Shumran loop positions five miles from Kut.

An unusual feature is that the Turkish statements admit the British success, which usually they totally ignore. Two Turkish statements of Thursday and Friday admit that "part of our positions were evacuated according to orders to prevent needless losses" on Thursday, and that on Friday "we executed a slight backward movement to avoid unnecessary casualties."

TO REDUCE TRAVEL IN SUBMARINE ZONE

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Action which will reduce the number of women and children leaving Canada for European countries adjacent to the zone of Germany's submarine operations or which may even prevent such travel entirely, will probably be taken by the Government. The dangers of navigation, consequent upon the submarine warfare and the necessity of passing through the danger zone, make it inadvisable to allow women and children to undertake such voyages at the present time.

CUBAN BAY MAY BE THE REFUGE FROM WHICH U-BOATS OPERATE

News of the Revolutionary Outbreak in Cuba Greatly Interests British Officials.

A despatch from London says: British officials are greatly interested in the news of the revolutionary outbreak in Cuba, where, they assert, they have reason to suspect German agents have been at work for a long time. Only a few weeks ago Captain Hans Boehm, a German army officer, was taken from the Dutch steamer Zeelandia at Falmouth. He had in his possession a chart of Santa Lucia Bay, Cuba, where, according to other papers seized at the same time, German agents had secured an oil con-

cession. It is the belief here that the Santa Lucia project was being developed by means of money sent from New York to Havana.

The British naval authorities, while they have failed to discover any German submarine base in the West Indies, declare that they have long had reason to suspect the intention of the Germans to establish one there, and as a consequence they look with suspicion upon the Cuban oil project, as possibly a blind to hide the establishment of a refuge from which submarines could operate.

WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT CAPTURED STRONG POSITION

Russian Detachments Surprise Austro-German Garrison in the Carpathians.

Petrograd, Feb. 18.—Germans dressed in white yesterday took the offensive against the Russians near Kochava, south-west of Dvinsk, on the northern end of the eastern front, and broke into a front line Russian trench. Russian reserves, says the official

statement issued to-day by the War Department, immediately drove out the Teutons. In the Carpathians Russian detachments surprised and captured without firing a shot a strongly fortified Austro-German position south-west of Okna. Teuton counter-attacks were repulsed.

FIVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Success of British Loan Bitter Pill for Germany to Swallow.

A despatch from London says: The Times' financial editor on Saturday writes: "The Stock Exchange is talking confidently about a thousand millions of 'new money' from the loan. We repeat the estimate under all reserve, for, of course, it is only guesswork, but undoubtedly the figure is beyond all precedent, and all the early expectations of Stock Exchange tips, which are usually based on fairly elaborate calculations arising out of data which is more accessible there than elsewhere. Five weeks ago nothing even remotely approaching such a huge figure was believed attainable. For the purpose of checking any estimate of the gross figures of the loan we repeat the amounts of the earlier securities which carried the rights of conversion. These were £899,927,000 four and a half per cent. war loan, £333,515,000 five per cent. Exchequer bonds, though the latter naturally are less likely to be converted.

"A feature of the subscriptions in many country districts has been the quantity of gold brought to the banks and post offices by working men and women. In Enfield, a busy munitions area, £7,000 in gold was paid for small amounts of stock certificates during the week. Among Saturday's subscriptions were £1,000,000, Lord Nichelham; £650,000, Rio Tinto Company; £150,000, Kodak Co.; £50,000, Singer Sewing Machine Co. One gratifying feature of the war loan is seen in the extent which the County of Dublin farmers subscribed. For the most part it is new money in hard cash. On Friday the amount of subscriptions received at the head office of the Bank of Ireland in College Green exceeded £1,000,000."

Japan Heavy Purchaser.

"Heavy purchases of Japanese bonds for sinking fund purposes have been the feature of the foreign market. The object is the obvious release of funds invested in Japanese securities for investment in the war loan. Down to the last minute on Friday, when there was yet time to subscribe to the loan, agents of the Japanese Government were busy purchasing bonds almost regardless of amounts. This assistance of our Eastern ally, as unostentatious as it is effective, made a favorable impression in the city. We understand that since the beginning of the year £2,840,000 of Japanese bonds have been bought for sinking funds, making a total since the outbreak of war of £9,615,880. The Japanese Government is already reaping its reward for its action. Her credit is higher in this market than those of any other country."

The Weekly Nation says it hears that the war loan is a great success and that sums have been mentioned suggesting that the collection of new money is approaching £1,000,000,000.

Arthur Neville Chamberlain, Director-General of National Service, speaking at Bristol on Saturday, said that he ventured to predict that the result of the war loan would be a bitter pill for Germany to swallow.

FRENCH CROPS 10 PER CENT. LOWER

Excessive Autumn Rains Responsible for the Decrease.

A despatch from Paris says: The report of the Agricultural Information Bureau, published in the official journal on Thursday, gives the average condition for the 1917 Winter crops as ten per cent. below those of 1916. With 100 signifying very good; 80 good and 60 rather good, the averages for 1917, as compared with those of 1916, are:

Winter wheat, 62, as against 70; rye, 67, against 72; Winter barley 65, against 73; Winter oats 66, against 72.

The Temps explains the official figures by the bad state of the soil at the time of seeding, insufficient supplies of fertilizers and the excessive Autumn rains. Some of the late seedings must be replaced by Spring seedings on account of the frost, though most of the wheat crop was well protected by the snow when the heavy freeze came and was not injured. The cold weather is considered to have produced very favorable conditions for Spring seeding.

AGAINST PROHIBITION.

Over 1,400 Soldiers Voted Against It and 221 For It.

A despatch from Vancouver says:—A cable gives the result of the prohibition vote overseas up to Wednesday evening as 1,406 against, 221 for and 41 spoiled ballots.

BRITAIN SEEKS TO CLOSE LAST EXIT FOR SUBMARINES

New Danger Zone Proclaimed Through Route North of Scotland and Down Irish Coast.

A despatch from Washington says:—Two important moves by Great Britain to meet the submarine race were announced on Friday. A new danger zone was proclaimed, seeking to block practically the whole route of exit towards the Atlantic of the German U-boats from their bases in Germany and Belgium. With the English Channel practically closed by an elaborate system of nets, mines and patrols, the means of exit for the submarines has been through the route north of Scotland and down the Irish coast. The new danger zone, design-

ed to close that way out, is understood to have been liberally strewn with mines.

Details of plans for changing the port of call and examination for boats between this country and the Northern European neutrals from Kirkwall to Halifax were made public. The idea is to allow the vessels to avoid the German submarine zone by swinging around Ireland and Scotland and down the Norwegian coast instead of touching the British Isles. A second port for the examination of southern commerce may be established later at the Bahamas or Bermuda.

A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY

Canadian Order Of Foresters Has A Splendid Financial Basis.

The Canadian Order of Foresters which has for years occupied a prominent position as one of the leading Fraternal Insurance Societies operating in Canada. Was instituted in 1879 by 488 members who seceded from the American Order of Foresters. To-day it has a membership of over 90,000, which is the largest purely Canadian membership of any of the fraternal insurance societies doing business in the Dominion.

The Society has had a most successful record and has accumulated funds, which, at the present time, amount to between five and a half and six million dollars. Last year was apparently one of the most successful years in the history of the institution. The amount added to the insurance funds for 1916 was between four and five hundred thousand dollars. Notwithstanding this success the management decided to ascertain what the actuarial standing of the Society was, and secured the services of one of the most competent actuaries on the Continent. Acting on the advice of the actuary, the Society decided to re-adjust its rates and place itself upon a basis which will give it at least 100% actuarial solvency.

By taking this course, while its funds were still piling up, it has been able to treat its members much more favorably than any of the societies which have re-adjusted their businesses during recent years.

The management is to be congratulated upon a course of action which will place the Society upon a splendid financial basis, and insure the future of the Order for all time.

INDIA HAS CURTAILED RAILWAY SERVICES.

London, Feb. 18.—A Reuter despatch from Delhi says that among the new war measures adopted by the Indian Government are the severe curtailment of railway services and the organization of India's industrial and natural resources, with a view to increasing the output of munitions. In addition, an order has been issued forbidding women and children to sail for England except for the most urgent reasons.

TRY TO RAISE INTEREST ON THE LAST WAR LOAN.

A despatch from London says: The German Government is now discussing with the Bundesrat new direct and indirect taxes to raise £50,000,000 interest on the last war loan, according to Berlin newspapers, quoted in a Hague despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. It is probable, add the papers, that the new taxes will apply to coal mine exploitation and railway traffic, with an increased tax on war profits.

GERMANY'S WAR COSTS SIXTY BILLION MARKS.

A despatch from London says: Germany's war costs to date have reached the total of sixty billion marks, says a telegram from Berlin, forwarded by the correspondent at Amsterdam of Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited.

DOMINION TO ISSUE ANOTHER WAR LOAN

Flotation Early in March to be Payable in Canada and New York.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Another Canadian war loan, the third to be issued in the Dominion, will be floated probably early in March. In view of the exchange situation between Canada and the United States, which is at present adverse to this country, it is regarded as likely that the securities of the new loan will be made payable both in Canada and New York.

No information as to the amount, terms or price of the new issue can, however, be given at present, as these details will not be settled until immediately before the loan is floated and will be determined largely by the conditions which then prevail.

The Finance Minister, it is understood, has been assured that he will have the co-operation, in the flotation of the new securities, of the bond-dealers and brokers, whose activity contributed materially to the success of the last domestic loan of \$100,000,000.

GERMAN STOLE CHARTS OF ALASKAN HARBORS.

A despatch from New York says: Stolen Government charts of anchorages along the Alaskan coast were discovered by the police among the belongings of Herbert Sauer, a German deserter from the coast-guard service, who was sentenced here on Thursday to eight years in Sing-Sing Prison upon his plea of guilty to a charge of manslaughter for killing Mrs. Caroline Tiarka in her home in this city last August. When Sauer was asked what he intended to do with the maps, he replied, according to the police: "I wanted to make a name for myself when I returned to the Fatherland."

FRANCE HAS ADOPTED DAYLIGHT SAVING

A despatch from Paris says:—The Chamber of Deputies on Friday adopted a bill permanently advancing the legal time one hour during the Summer. The putting on of the clocks is to begin the first Sunday in April and this time will be in force until the first Sunday in October.

GERMAN TROOPS MOVED FROM FRONTIER TOWNS

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The majority of the German troops recently concentrated on the eastern border of Holland now have disappeared from the towns along the frontier, according to reports received by The Handelsblad.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Provided that shipment can be made immediately the City of Montreal has ordered seven hundred and fifty tons of coal from the Red Deer Valley Coal Company in order to check the coal shortage here.

ALL COAL MINES IN BRITAIN TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

A New Officer Known As "Controller of Coal Mines" Will be in Charge of Department.

A despatch from London says: It has been decided by the Board of Trade to take possession of all coal mines in the United Kingdom for the period of the war in addition to those in South Wales already taken over. The President of the Board of Trade has decided to set up a new depart-

ment to control the coal mines. The directors of the London and North-Western Railway have placed the services of their general manager, Guy Calthrop, at the disposal of the Board. Mr. Calthrop's official designation will be "Controller of Coal Mines."