

HOW TIDE WAS TURNED BY THE GALLANT FRENCH

Who Halted the German Onslaught Upon Verdun--The French Are Now Masters--Berlin Admits That the Teuton Onslaught Has Been Halted.

(Special to the Whig.) Paris, Feb. 28.—The German offensive on a 25-mile front, north and north-east of Verdun, is now crumbling to a series of local actions, according to despatches received here this afternoon.

Premier Tells of French Attacks. (Special to the Whig.) Paris, Feb. 28.—Impetuous counter-attacks by the French north of Verdun, in which the Germans were thrown back from many positions conquered by them during the first four days of the battle, are considered as inaugurating the second phase of the great action under conditions most favorable to the defenders. Premier Briand told representatives of the press to-day how the tide was turned.

"Caught between two barraging fires," said M. Briand, "covered with shrapnel from all sides, attacked by our fresh divisions surging upon the field of battle at an unexpected moment, the Germans saw their efforts stopped short. The struggle was a titanic one. Our heroic troops went into the melee frantically. Our light and heavy artillery dug sanguinary furrows in the compact ranks of the Germans. Finally exhausted, their ranks decimated, the German armies recoiled under our furious counter-attacks. We have regained the advantage, installed ourselves upon formidable positions, and our heroic soldiers remain masters of the field of battle."

German Now Turn to Champagne. (Special to the Whig.) London, Feb. 28.—Checked in the drive on Verdun by the arrival of reinforcements, the Germans are now extending their mighty offensive to the Champagne region, forty miles west of the Verdun woods.

An official statement from the German War Office this afternoon virtually confirmed the French statements that the Verdun onslaught has been halted, temporarily at least, by the French.

The Berlin War Office Statement. (Special to the Whig.) Berlin, Feb. 28.—An official statement to-day says the Germans conquered the Navarine farm and French positions on both sides about 1,600 yards long, capturing twenty-six officers and 1,009 men and taking nine machine guns and one mine thrower.

"Artillery engagements have been exceedingly violent at several places," says the German statement. "North of Arras there is uninterrupted mine activity. The Germans dug about forty yards of British trenches by blasting operations."

MUST BE HELPED.

Belgium Would Starve Were Supplies Cut Off.

London, Feb. 28.—"There would be wholesale starvation within three or four weeks if the importation of food into Belgium were stopped. In Northern France the percentage of indigent people is even greater than that in Belgium, because there are no native supplies. "The clothing situation in Belgium and Northern France demands very serious consideration. Unless the work of providing clothing is kept up at regular rate, there will be serious suffering in the fall." The foregoing conclusions are those of Frederick C. Wolcott, who spent three weeks in Belgium and Northern France investigating for the Rockefeller foundation the work of the Relief Commission, of which Herbert C. Hoover is the head. Mr. Wolcott in his report says he is greatly impressed by the efficiency of the relief work and he recommends that money intended for Belgium or France be entrusted to the commission.

BLOCKADE IS EFFECTIVE.

Amsterdam Telegram Says Result is Now Perfect.

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 28.—The Telegram, in a long article devoted to showing that the British blockade of Germany is now completely effective, declares that even had the British fleet blockaded Dutch ports no better result would have been obtained. Moreover, it says the same result might have been obtained earlier had the British Government been aware that linseed oil could be employed usefully in producing glycerine. The Telegram quotes figures showing that in December last Germany received scarcely any margarine or any oils or fats from Holland, and that since the British Government changed its policy regarding fats and oils, their exportation from Holland has been reduced to nothing.

WAR TROUPE.

Italian troops have left Durazzo the Capital of Albania. South African troops in Egypt have defeated the tribesmen. Eight British ships were submerged or mined during the week-end. The official Canadian eye-witness story says the Canadian lines were not attacked last week.

Gen. Kuropatkin has been appointed commander in chief of the Russian armies on the Northern front.

The Russians captured 253 officers, 12,753 men and 333 guns in operations about Esmirna. They also occupied the village of Achkaka, 50 miles west of Erzerum.

Advices from both Madrid and Berlin make it appear certain that the seizure of German and Austrian ships by Portugal will be followed by declarations of war.

Thirty-three nuns, most of them from Mercy Hospital, Chicago, left London Saturday for the British front. They have been detailed to service for six months in field hospitals. The nurses had been in London for nearly two weeks gathering their equipment.

Governor-General Van Biesing has issued a fresh proclamation to the populace of Belgium threatening death to any person who deliberately attacks the British or German military or civil officials.

It is stated confidently in Ottawa that General Sir Sam Hughes will be at the battle front in the near future to lead the Canadians, who are demanding that Canada's great General be sent to them.

FINE FEATHERS FOR HAPPY HOME NEST.

South Bend Wives Advised to Perk Up and Spend Hubbies' Money.

South Bend, Ind., Feb. 28.—Most of the husbands in South Bend are due for a tough to-night. The wives were planning to-day to follow the pleasing advice of Georgie Burns Lacer, woman lecturer, who told them last night the best way to hold their husbands' love, prevent divorces and generally smooth over the matrimonial road is to buy silk stockings, fancy clothes and perk up generally.

"Silk stockings and low necks cause divorce?" the lecturer demanded. "Not by a long shot. There'd be fewer divorces if the wives would fancy them, together with other fancy regalia. All the men like them."

World's Bloodiest Battlefields.

(Special to the Whig.) Paris, Feb. 28.—The Verdun woods may go down in history as the world's bloodiest battlefields. Trainloads of wounded are moving landward to-day, and are evidence of the fearfulness of the carnage north of the French fortress. Other trains, laden with fresh troops and munition supplies, are hurrying eastward to fill the gaps in the French ranks.

Paris is cheered by the latest advices from the War Office, indicating that the French left continues to hold firmly on the Pepper Heights, north of Verdun, while the centre and right deliver violent counter-attacks against the Germans eastward from the ruins of Fort Douaumont. The first surgeons arriving in Paris in charge of the wounded reported that whole regiments on either side have almost completely disappeared. Caught under a rain of shells in the advanced trenches, those who survived or escaped the first blasts but slightly wounded were blotted out as they attempted to fall back.

"The percentage of dead will exceed that of Champagne offensive," said one surgeon, "because there has been no real lull, on chance to withdraw the wounded under fire. There must be thirty thousand wounded men dying in awful agony in the rain and snow, simply because their comrades cannot get to them."

All reports from the battle front agree that no cannonade comparable with that directed by the Germans has been experienced by the French since the beginning of the war.

The greatest commotion prevails here. Officials assert that the French munitions reserves have been accumulated for the very purpose of meeting such an attack and that the German losses must soon cause a halt in the offensive.

Tamworth Captain's Mother Dead.

(Special to the Whig.) Tamworth, Feb. 28.—Mrs. Sampson Hannah, a widow, seventy years of age, and mother of Capt. J. Hannah, of the 14th Battalion, died very suddenly last night from a stroke of paralysis.

Got Her Deserts.

London, Feb. 28.—Miss Nellie Best, secretary of the Anti-Conscription League, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for circulating literature inciting men not to enlist.

THE FRENCH LOSSES SMALL

In the Great Battle on the Verdun Front.

THE FRENCH CLUNG WITH SUCCESS TO TWO STRONG POSITIONS.

And Repulsed All German Attacks—The Enemy Losses Have Been Enormous—Terrific Bombardment.

Feb. 28.—The bombardment of the Verdun front on both sides of the Meuse was continued without cessation, while the Germans continued the making of tremendous attacks which the French vigorously answered by counter-attacks. The French clung with success to their positions at Champ Neuville and Cote du Poivre (Pepper Hill), repulsing all attacks of the Germans. A furious struggle raged around Fort Douaumont, in which the Germans were driven back, but the enemy clung to positions east and west of this point, which the French fought all Sunday to capture.

All Saturday night the French troops continued to reinforce their positions, and on Sunday the brunt of the fighting was on the ridge which extends from Douaumont heights to the east. French positions have been repulsed. The slaughter of Germans has been enormous.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attacks should continue, so that the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

It is authoritatively stated in Paris that the total French losses in killed, maimed and prisoners are less than 15,000.

PATRONAGE SYSTEM TO BE ELIMINATED?

Macdonald of Pictou Would Take Sir George Foster At His Word.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—When Sir George Foster made his great speech during the budget debate made the following statement: "I wish now that I might speak from the heart out, and make an agreement in this country between both parties that hereafter patronage shall not be applied by political parties in the construction of our public works."

E. Macdonald, of Pictou, taking this as a text, has filed a question asking if the Government intends submitting to the house a definite proposal by which means the evils of patronage may be done away with, and if not, what action the Government proposes to take to do away with the evil.

He also asks what departments of the Government maintain a patronage list, and what departments do not.

VIEW OF PRESIDENT WILSON

"Sacrifice Everything Except Sense of Humanity and Justice."

Washington, Feb. 28.—President Wilson told members and guests at the Gridiron Club dinner on Saturday night that "America ought to keep out of the European war, at the sacrifice of everything except this single thing upon which her character and her history are founded, her sense of humanity and justice."

"I would be just as much ashamed to be rash as I would to be a coward. Valor is self respecting. Valor is respect. Valor strikes only when it is right strike. Valor withholds itself from all small implications and entanglements and waits for the great opportunity when the sword will flash as if it carried the light of Heaven upon its blade."

Death of a Dentist. Watertown, N.Y., Feb. 28.—Dr. Henry D. Payne, aged seventy-eight, a well-known dentist, died last night at the Ruddy Sanatorium. He was taken ill of pneumonia three days ago, and was moved from his home at No. 203 Mullen street.

T. E. Caldwell, Lanark, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his birth on Feb. 28rd.

RAIDERS OUT TO SINK

ALL ARMED MERCHANT SHIPS OF GERMANY'S ENEMIES.

Teuton Submarines League With Orders to Destroy Without Warning—Operate From Midnight Tuesday.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany has instructed Count Von Bernstorff to inform the United States Government that the assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare, given in the Lusitania and Arara cases, still are binding, but that they apply only to merchantmen of a peaceful character.

The German Government is understood to contend that armed merchantmen, without regard to the nature of their armament, have shown themselves not to be peaceful, and therefore are subject to destruction without warning.

The instructions direct the German ambassador to tell Secretary Lansing that British merchantmen armed ostensibly only for defence have not assumed the character of peaceful traders, but that on the contrary they carry guns for the special purpose of attacking German submarines.

To support this claim the Berlin Foreign Office has sent the ambassador for presentation to the State Department a list of at least twenty incidents where the British merchant ships have attacked submarines.

Confidential advices received from Berlin state that German and Austrian submarine commanders already have been given their new orders, and that from midnight Tuesday they will be authorized to sink without warning all armed merchant ships of the enemies of Germany.

It was said also that many of the submarine commanders probably had left their bases on voyages, and that even should the United States request the postponing of the campaign, it would be impossible to get word to many of the submarines.

It was stated, however, that so far neither the United States nor any other nation had asked a postponement.

What Berlin Reports.

(Special to the Whig.) Berlin, via Amsterdam, Feb. 28.—German submarines will torpedo no passenger liners without warning, even after the new order against armed merchantmen goes into effect at midnight Tuesday. Furthermore, submarine commanders will endanger human lives only in case of a steamer attempting to escape firing on the submarine or trying to ram her.

Baptist Clergyman Resigns. Oswego, N.Y., Feb. 28.—Rev. Bert J. Lehigh read his resignation as pastor of the First Baptist Church yesterday. It will take effect March 2th. On April 1st Rev. Mr. Lehigh will assume the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Barre, Vt. About three weeks ago he received the call, and during the past week he decided to accept.

Rev. Mr. Lehigh is a native of Brockville, Ont., and was ordained into the Baptist ministry in 1900.

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LOOKS LIKE A CONSPIRACY

To Drag the United States Into Disrepute.

WORK OF BERNSTORFF

BLAME TO BE PLACED UPON UNITED STATES.

Endeavoring To Force Demand That Americans Refrain From Traveling on Allies' Ships, in Order To Perpetuate Terrible Crimes.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 28.—The Providence Journal claims to be in receipt of information direct from Germany embassy sources which proves the existence of a plot to drag the United States into disrepute, and disrepute from which there can be no escape, in connection with the attempt that is being made to force a demand from Americans to refrain from crossing the ocean on passenger steamers carrying armament.

Within the next few days a number of the largest shipments that have been made, are scheduled to leave this country for Great Britain and France," the Journal says, "and every effort is being made by Germany to sink these ships utterly regardless of whether they carry American or other passengers, or whether they are armed or not. If the United States should agree to issue a warning to its citizens to keep off the vessels carrying arms for defence, such a warning carrying with it the presumption that the United States favors German policy, the United States vessels are warships, Von Bernstorff has arranged in advance a scheme which will put every allied merchantman at the mercy of the German submarines, whether armed or not. This is to be accomplished by the simple method of declaring, after such wholesale murder at sea, that while the particular vessel was not armed when she left the American port, armament has been placed aboard her on the high seas after her departure.

This plot was originated and discussed in Count von Bernstorff's suite of rooms in New York hotel two weeks ago. Immediately thereafter messages were sent to German papers throughout the country in order that they might create evidence in advance to show that the German contention that these vessels would be armed at sea, and that they had been made public as a warning of what might happen."

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