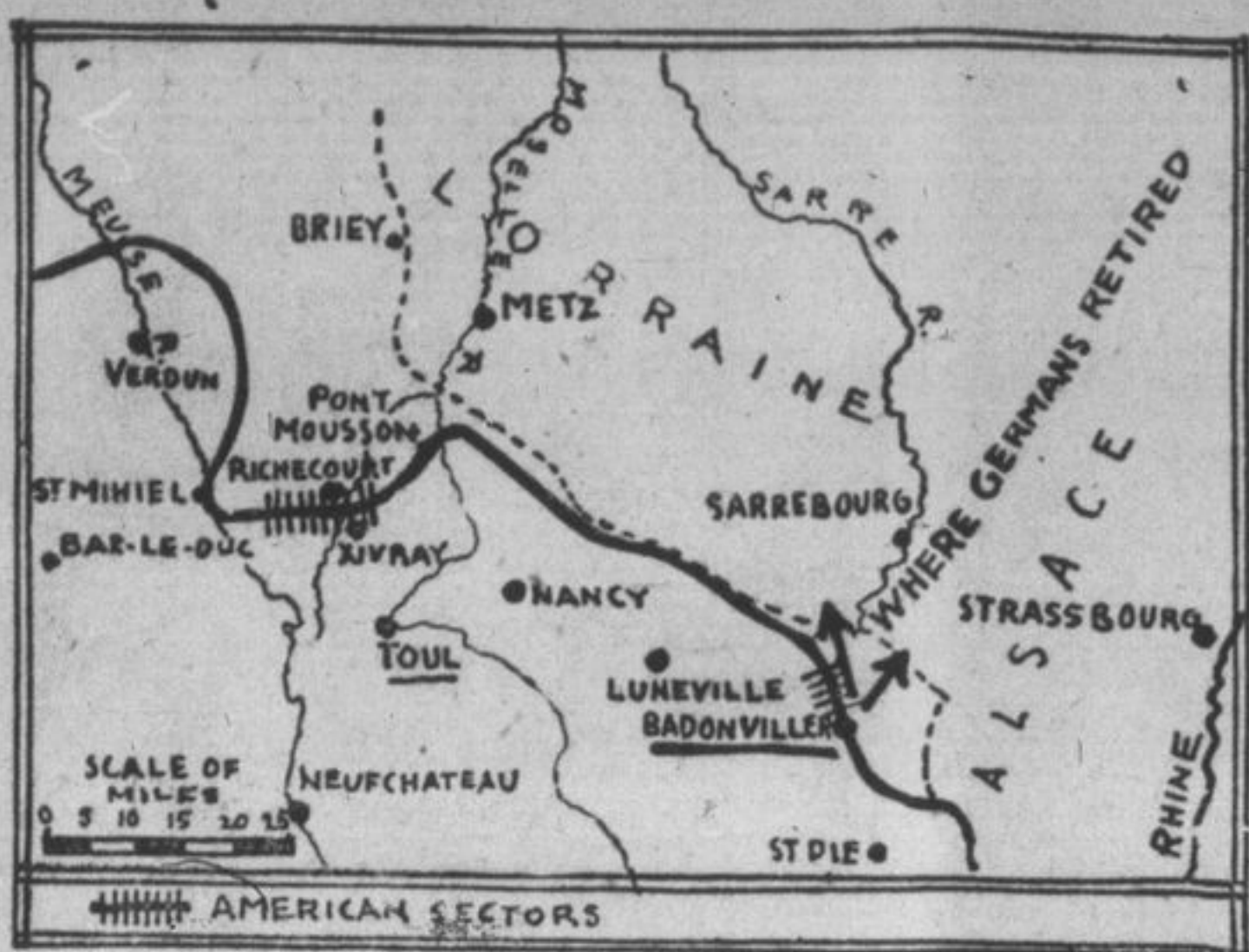


HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OPENED BY ENEMY

On Fifty Mile Front From Vendeuil to River Scarpe---It May Indicate Beginning of Much-Advertised German Offensive.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London, March 21.—A British official statement says: A heavy bombardment was opened by the enemy shortly before dawn this morning against our whole front from the neighborhood of Vendeuil, south of St. Quentin, to the River Scarpe. A successful raid was carried out by us last night in the neighborhood of St. Quentin. Thirteen prisoners and three machine guns were brought back by our troops. Prisoners were also taken by us in patrol encounters south-east of Messines and in another successful raid carried out by us south of Houtholst Forest. A raid undertaken by the enemy in the neighborhood of Armentieres was repulsed. Later despatches report the artillery fire on battle front as the heaviest ever heard on the English coast from such a distance. Doors and windows of houses in Dover and other places were continuously rattled by heavy shells. The shelling is reported to have lasted from three to seven o'clock this morning.

WHERE THE AMERICANS ARE FIGHTING



American troops, according to the despatches, are fighting in a sector east of Lunéville, near Badonville, as well as on the southern edge of the St. Mihiel salient, northwest of Toul. In the latter sector they penetrated to the second German line in a surprise attack, and in the Lunéville sector the American artillery caused the Germans to abandon positions north and northeast of Badonville.

GERMAN PLANS AN OPEN BOOK

The British Intelligence Service in France is Ceaseless and Unerring.

HUNS' HOPES ARE HOLLOW

SURE DEFEAT IS THE ENEMY'S ONLY PROSPECT NOW.

Must Reckon With The British Forces, Which Have Defensive Systems Which Cannot Be Broken. War Correspondents' Headquarters, March 21.—We still have full evidence of the enemy's plans, so far as military preparations are concerned, for attacks along the British front. There is very little about the enemy's organization, movements and work behind his lines which the leaders of the British armies do not know. The intelligence branch of the service has become extraordinarily scientific, and day by day the military life and intentions of the enemy before it like an open book written in a cipher of which most of the code words are known. The enemy is afraid of this knowledge, for many times, and quite lately, he has been staggered by the accuracy of the British information which has revealed his plan before it could be carried out. What is not so easy to know is the political brain behind the military weapon, and until one knows the secret of that psychology one cannot tell exactly how far the plans of the German army chiefs will be modified. It is probable that only three men in Germany have the controlling decision, and it is likely that those three are at the present moment torn by many doubts and fears, so that their minds are perplexed and their decision delayed.

GERMAN AND SLAV TROOPS IN CLASH

A Furious Fight Reported Behind the Austrian Lines in Italy.

Washington, March 19.—An official despatch from Rome says German and Slav troops have clashed behind the Austrian lines on the Italian front. "During the recent transfer of troops in the enemy rear lines," says the despatch, "serious conflicts took place among the regiments of various races. A typical episode occurred at Assling, where a detachment of German troops met the soldiers of the 36th Battalion of Slav troops, composed of Slav elements almost entirely, who were singing their national hymns. The Germans commenced to insult the Slav and furious fighting followed. Other troops were sent to the station and the Slav soldiers, having been overpowered, were locked in railroad waggons and sent to the front under escort of the German guards."

MOSCOW IS ALSO NOW THREATENED

Bolshevik Government May Have to Move 265 Miles Northeast of There.

ANOTHER PEACE EFFORT

MAY BE MADE BY THE TEUTONS SHORTLY.

Might Offer to Restore Alsace-Lorraine If Given a Free Hand in the East—Russia, However, is Thoroughly Revolutionary. London, March 21.—While reports from Russia show that the fall of Petrograd is probably only a matter of a few hours, they also indicate the greatest anxiety over what appears to be an enveloping movement of the Austro-German forces, are carrying out against Moscow. There is talk of moving the Government, according to these advices, to Saroff (probably Saratoff, 450 miles southeast of Moscow), or to Nizhni Novgorod (265 miles northeast of Moscow). A Reuter despatch from Petrograd dated March 19th, reports the Patriarch of the Russian Church to have sent a message to the orthodox population declaring that the church cannot regard as binding a peace which dismembers the country and places it under the domination of a conquering foreign power.

CHINESE BANDITS BURNING VILLAGES

Hundreds of Inhabitants Have Been Put to Death in Fu Kien.

New York, March 21.—Brigades in the Province of Fukien have joined forces with revolutionists from the south of China in a revolt against the Pekin Government, according to information reaching the joint centenary commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city.

FRONTENAC COMMANDERED

A Great Lakes Vessel Is to Carry Coal.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., March 21.—The steamer Frontenac, which formerly was commanded by Capt. Henry Murphy of Ogdensburg, is the latest Great Lakes freighter to be taken over by the shipping board for the Atlantic trade. The Frontenac was laid down in 1889 and has a 270-foot keel. She will have to be altered to be taken through the locks.

NOT ESTABLISHING SHIPYARDS

Government Giving Contracts to Yards Now Building Ships.

Brockville, March 21.—In a communication to Hon. George P. Graham, as a member of the local Board of Trade Council, Hon. C. C. Ballantyne states that the Government does not intend establishing any shipyards. The present program of construction contemplates awarding contracts to yards that are at the present time engaged in construction of steel ships for the Imperial Munitions Board. No assistance of any kind is being given towards establishment of new yards, nor does the program include the construction of any wooden vessels. As the vessels are completed and the berths become vacant, contracts will be placed by the Government for a certain type of ship of either three, five or approximately eight thousand tons.

A NEW PORTFOLIO

Secretary of State For Foreign Affairs to be Appointed.

Ottawa, March 21.—The Government has given notice of a number of resolutions covering proposed bills to be introduced. One will provide for the appointment of a secretary of State for external affairs; a minister of immigration and colonization, and a minister of soldiers' re-employment, and that the salaries of each of the said ministers shall be seven thousand dollars per annum. The appointment of a secretary of State for external affairs means the creation of a new portfolio. The other departments have already been created by Order-in-Council. The bill also makes provision for the appointment of a Parliamentary secretary of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, at a salary of five thousand dollars per annum.

Boats of Enemy Were Destroyed

(Canadian Press Despatch.) London, March 21.—The Admiralty official report says: Two enemy destroyers and two torpedo boats have been destroyed by the force of British and French war vessels. One British destroyer was damaged. The engagement was off Dunkirk early to-day. The British casualties are slight; French losses, nil.

SUBMARINE LOSSES; WORLD SHIPBUILDING

Figures Given Out To-day By the British Embassy at Washington.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Washington, March 21.—Secret figures of the British Admiralty on submarine losses and world shipbuilding were made public here today by the British Embassy. They show that from both enemy action and marine risk on January 1st, 1918, the Allied and neutral shipping had lost since the war began, 11,827,572 gross tons, while the shipyards outside of the Central Powers were turning out 6,606,275 tons.

CAUGHT PERIPARING TO LAUNCH ATTACK

German Shelters Destroyed and All Occupants Killed.

On the French Front in France, March 21.—It is a tale into the German lines at Malancourt Wood, north-west of Verdun, Sunday, French troops found the German shelters full of troops waiting to launch a counter-attack. The shelters with all their occupants were destroyed by bombs. A large party of German trench mortars were demolished and many machine guns were brought back by the French.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS.

French. The French official says: Strong German attacks preceded by heavy shelling along the Woivre were repulsed by the French to-day with heavy losses to the enemy.

THE WORLD'S NEWS IN BRIEF FORM

Tidings From All Over Told in a Pithy and Pointed Way.

Atlantic flatfish will soon be sold in Ontario and Quebec at an average of ten cents a pound.

Mrs. Ernest Trepalner of Quebec dropped dead while knitting with a neighbor for the soldiers.

Control of importation of luxuries is provided for in a resolution of which notice was given in the Commons.

The Finance Minister has approval of a resolution providing for the appointment of a Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Municipalities on the Lake Erie and Northern Railway strongly urge the Dominion Government to improve Port Dover harbor.

U.S. Secretary Baker had his baptism of fire in the front line trenches, and while he was returning a German shell burst within less than fifty yards of his motor car. He was not injured.

Advance in Palestine. (Canadian Press Despatch.) London, March 21.—The British have made another advance in Palestine, capturing three towns. It is announced officially. A counter-attack by the Turks was repulsed.

Antis Lose Out. Chicago, Ill., March 21.—The election board ruled that the petition of the Chicago Dry Federation submitting to the voters at an election April 2, the question of making the city anti-saloon was invalid because it did not contain the required number of legal signatures.

WILL HOLD THE PLACE

The Temporary Leadership of the Liberals in Legislature.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) Toronto, March 21.—William Proudfoot, K.C., Centre Huron, who was appointed temporary leader of the Liberal party at the beginning of the session, was today, at a meeting of a caucus of Liberal members, requested to continue in that capacity and he agreed to do so.

THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

In part President Wilson's statement says: "I profoundly sympathize with the difficulty of the Dutch Government's position under the menace of a military power which has in every way demonstrated its disdain of neutral rights. But since coercion does not exist, no alternative is left to us but to accomplish, through the exercise of our indisputable rights as a sovereign, that which is so reasonable that in other circumstances we could be confident of accomplishing it by agreement."

DUTCH SHIPPING IS TAKEN OVER

The United States Seizes a Fleet of Seventy-Seven Ships.

PRESIDENT ORDERS ACTION

AFTER HOLLAND REPUDIATED THE AMERICAN ULTIMATUM

Violent Threats Made by Germany Influence Answer From the Hague—Ample Compensation Will Be Provided Holland.

Washington, March 21.—All Dutch shipping in American waters was ordered seized last night in a proclamation by President Wilson.

The proclamation was issued after the war trade board received word from London that Holland had refused the American ultimatum for a transfer of the ships according to the original agreement which Germany blocked. All Dutch shipping in British waters is being requisitioned simultaneously.

Naval guards will go on board the ships immediately. Approximately 77 vessels with a tonnage estimated as high as 600,000 tons will be added to the American merchant marine. The ships in British waters will add another 300,000 or 400,000 tons to the Allied merchant fleets.

Caught by British. A German submarine got into a trap.

Amsterdam, March 21.—A Dutch newspaper prints the story of a German U-boat which was caught in a British trap and towed into a British port. The story comes from a member of the U-boat's crew who escaped from England and is interned in Holland.

We had sighted some English fishing boats and were manoeuvring for attack, when their curious movements led us to suspect a trap, so we dived. We proceeded slowly, but presently the screw began to bear irregularly and the commander could not get hold of his bearings.

After about two hours the water seemed curiously still, and the commander decided to come to the surface. When we emerged we were alongside a quay where stood a number of British sailors. We were in British port, towed in like a dead fish."

Autos and Fancy Shoes. May be Refused Import by Canadian Government.

Ottawa, March 21.—Summary legislation of an important nature is predicted at Ottawa. The Government, it is stated, has in mind the imposition of restrictions in connection with footwear. The importation of fancy shoes may be prohibited and Canadian manufacturers may be compelled to manufacture from standard lasts and to limit the height of the uppers.

Montreal Wasting Fish. Montreal, March 21.—It is stated by the civic food inspectors that the enormous quantity of fish and other food condemned and destroyed during the past month was held until unfit for human consumption by dealers who were waiting for higher prices and were held in hand with speculators.

Revolt Quelled by British. London, March 21.—Uprisings on the part of natives in Beluchistan recently resulted in fighting, in which many casualties were inflicted, the India Office announces. The natives attacked British posts, and were repulsed completely. Punitive measures are being undertaken.

AT DECISIVE MOMENT OF WAR, SAYS KAISER. London, March 21.—"We are at the decisive moment of the war and one of the greatest moments in German history," said Emperor William in a telegram to the Rhenish Provincial Council.

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