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The Daily Mail

 * The Weather. *
 * Maritime: Strong winds and *
 * gales shifting to westward with *
 * snow and rain, then clearing. *

ALL THE NEWS FOR ONE CENT

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

A KNOCK DOWN BLOW FOR HUNS IN THE VICINITY OF VERDUN

French Win a Smashing Victory on the Verdun Front

Crown Prince's Army Driven Back Two Miles on a Six Mile Front and 7500 Prisoners Captured---Two Villages Were Also Taken From the Enemy.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The French have delivered another smashing blow on the Crown Prince's positions before Verdun, and taken 7,500 prisoners, two villages and several minor positions. The attack, launched after the usual artillery preparation, took place on a front of about six miles, and the French penetrated to a depth of about two miles along the entire front, the operation being a complete success.

The attack started at 10 o'clock this morning north of Douaumont, and between the Meuse and Wovre, east of Verdun. The attackers carried the villages of Vacerauville and Louvemont, the farm of Cambrettes and the fortified works of Hardaumont and Bexonvaux. Several heavy German guns were either captured or destroyed.

For the last two days the Germans had reported heavy attacks by the French in the Verdun region, and conceded some progress, the last report today admitting advances for the French at Louvemont and Hardaumont. In the afternoon they reported the French checked at Pepper Ridge. It was not until tonight that the French mentioned the success, apparently waiting until the fighting in this engagement was concluded.

The British were engaged in some rather heavy fighting during some attempted trench raids north and south of the Ancre. The Teutons were defeated in an effort at Les Boeufs and south of Steloi, the enemy losses being severe. The British successfully entered German trenches south of Armentieres and east of the village of Vierstraat.

General Nivelle Takes a Farewell Smash at

The Germans at Verdun and Wins a Victory

PARIS, Dec. 16.—As his last act before assuming the chief command of the French armies on the western front, General Nivelle today smashed the German line east of the Meuse along a front of six miles.

Th General's victory advanced the French positions two miles and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the Great Verdun drive. The military authorities describe the victory as complete and crushing, and carried out without a hitch.

The news of the victory was received in Paris with enthusiasm as a welcome relief to the gloomy tidings from Roumania. General Nivelle is the man of the hour. His latest achievement justifies, it is felt, his choice as commander in chief, and augurs well for the future.

The number of guns captured from the Germans by Gen. Nivelle in the vicinity of Verdun, as counted up to the present, is eighty, according to the latest reports reaching Paris.

London Economist Regards Germany's Cry of Peace as a Confession of Internal Weakness

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The Economist says it believes "Germany's cry for peace is actually a confession of internal weakness, prompted by distress at home and the difficulties she is experiencing in keeping her ill-assorted team of Allies together and in fighting trim. Continuing, the Economist says:

"During this year the armies of Germany and her colleagues have been handsomely beaten by the French, Russians, Italians and British. On the other hand she can claim victory over little Roumania. If Germany is ready for a peace that will satisfy the victors as to further German aggression, and protect civilization against a similar attempt to ride roughshod over international decency and justice, the smashing of Prussian militarism will be completed.

"Since it is extremely unlikely that this consummation is yet in sight, our only policy is to take all possible measures for the prosecution of the war with our confidence confirmed by the signal of distress our enemies have run up to the masthead. Our readiness to do so is very clearly proved by the welcome given by the country to new government, which only claims its support by promising to concentrate the energies of the country to the task of achieving victory."

REJOICING IN LONDON OVER VICTORY

London, Dec. 16.—News of the French victory north of Douaumont reached London at midnight. It created a profound impression.

Capt. Shaw in the House on Thursday, had given a vivid description of conditions along the Somme front, where mud made the movement of big guns impossible.

The Terrain in the Verdun region is of a different character.

A Paris despatch to the Morning post says: "There has been nothing in the nature of a demonstration here, but the newspaper report goes from mouth to mouth and is regarded by the public as the real answer to Germany's so-called peace proposals. Rumor says the German troops are broken at Pepper Hill and are flying in disorder already. This is interpreted as significant because hitherto German soldiers have resisted in different circumstances, but the present news, if confirmed, is an evidence of their greatly shaken morale."

WILL FIGHT HIGH COST.

Quebec City Council Will Enquire Into Food Supplies and Cost.

Quebec, Dec. 16.—The city of Quebec will fight the high cost of living. A motion to this effect was carried at last night's meeting of the City Council and the city clerk has already received orders to inquire into the food supplies, their cost and their retail selling price.

Hon. J. D. Hazen will be the speaker at the next series of patriotic concerts held on Sunday afternoons, in the Regent Theatre, Ottawa.

Mr. W. W. O. Fenety is confined to his home by illness.

GREECE HAS ACCEPTED THE CONDITIONS OF THE ENTENTE POWERS

Is Desirous of Giving Further Proof of Friendly Sentiments Which Have Always Animated It Towards the Entente---Wants Blockade Lifted.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—An official telegram announcing that Greece had accepted unreservedly the conditions of the Allies, was received at the Foreign Office at midnight, according to Petit Journal.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—According to an Athens despatch to Reuter's Greece has replied to the Allies' ultimatum by saying that it accepts the demands made on it and is desirous of giving another manifest proof of the sincerely friendly sentiments which have always animated it toward the Entente.

The reply says that no hostile movements of troops have ever taken place or been projected, and that the transfer of material northwards will immediately cease. Orders have already been given, it is stated, regarding the movements of troops and war material, and will be carried out as rapidly as possible.

Willing to Make Amends for Attack on British and French Marines by Royalists

In respect to the attack on British and French marines in Athens on December 11, the government declares that it desires to give every legitimate satisfaction, and refers to its proposals to arbitrate. It advances the hope that the Allied powers will reconsider their decision to continue the blockade, which, it says, is straining relations and arousing public opinion. The reply concluded with the expression of a desire on the part of the government and people of Greece for a resumption of the excellent traditional confidence which previously existed between Greece and the Entente nations.

THE BRITISH CENSORSHIP IS AGAIN CRITICIZED

Condensed Reports of Important Speeches Liable to Convey a Wrong Impression--Hopes the New Government Will Grapple With the Problem.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The British censorship is again taken to task by the Times this morning on the ground that several recent important official statements, notably the speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg and the speech of A. Bonar Law, were transmitted in such fragmentary form as to convey an entirely wrong impression as to their meaning in neutral countries.

The Times singles out as perhaps the most serious error the fact that the first version of the German Chancellor's peace declaration as sent out by wireless, represented him as speaking of "propositions which the Central Powers will bring forward for negotiation. It points out that the German newspaper version shows distinctly that the Chancellor is not now making proposals, but would if negotiations were opened.

Censorship Responsible for Inaccurate and Misleading Report of Bonar Law's Speech

In regard to Mr. Bonar Law, the Times charges that the censorship was responsible for isolated and inaccurate sentences of his speech in Parliament on the financial situation reaching Wall Street on Thursday in a manner bound to convey a deplorable impression.

The paper adds that in many recent cases grossly misleading versions of statements by members of the late British government were frequently telegraphed to Holland. It concludes its editorial: "The British censorship has accumulated a considerable reputation for petty interferences and futile suppressions. We trust that under the new government immediate and effective measures will be taken to secure, in the transmission of news from this country, the accuracy and adequacy which is essential to British interests."

HOPE FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE IRISH QUESTION

William Redmond's Conciliatory Speech Well Received by the London Press---Nationalists and Ulsterites Urged to cut Out Celebrations of Historic Events.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The morning papers comment with warm approval on Major William Redmond's plea for an understanding between the Irish factions and the reply made by A. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"The 'Daily News' regards the two speeches as 'the most hopeful of recent omens' towards a settlement of the Irish question, and contends that despite failures, despite the rebellion and all the resentment that followed the rebellion, the true spirit of Ireland is the spirit that animated John Redmond's historic words when he pledged the services of Ireland in the war. It claims that the present situation invites a settlement.

The Chronicle similarly thinks that the two speeches are a good augury for progress in the near future. It specially commends the suggestions of William Redmond that both sides mutually agree to end the annual celebrations of historical events which are among the most potent influences in perpetuating feuds between Ulster and Nationalists in Ireland.

The Mail, under the heading: "'Now is the Time,'" says: "So many great things have been accomplished in the present war and the new government has brought about so many salutary changes, that it is difficult to understand why this problem also should not be settled."

CONFERRED ON PEACE PROPOSALS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, conferred with Secretary Lansing today, seeking information of the attitude of the United States towards the peace proposals of the Central Powers, to discuss the general subject of peace from the United States government's point of view, and to give any information Mr. Lansing might desire on the attitude of the German government.