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* The Weather. *
* Maritime—Strong winds and *
* moderate gales, west and north- *
* west, becoming much colder; *
* Tuesday fair and cold. *

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Great Battle at Verdun Continues With Unabated Fury

Heavy Reinforcements Arrive for the French and Check the German Onslaught---Premier Briand Says French Now Have Advantage and Are Making Counter Attacks.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The great battle of Verdun, now entering its second week, is continuing with unabated fury, the German armies driving hard at the French defences along a lengthening line, which now runs far beyond the salient on which lies the fortress.

Paris asserts that with the pouring in of heavy reinforcements for Gen. Joffre's armies, the German advance has been checked, but Berlin claims a continuing of the forward march on the French stronghold. Along the Meuse, to the north of Verdun, the Germans have been unable to make as rapid progress as in the initial stage of the battle, and even on the Woevre front, where the French at first fell back, they now appear to be offering effective resistance. Pressure here is particularly menacing to the fortress, as the crushing in of this eastern line of the Verdun salient for any great distance would spell disaster for the stronghold.

French Defensive Operations are Taking On the Nature of a Counter Offensive

The French defensive operations at places are taking on the nature of a counter offensive, as in the attacks on Fort Douaumont, four miles northeast of Verdun. This movement has been forecasted in despatches, which told of the expectation in Paris that the French, when they had fallen back to positions which they believed they could hold indefinitely, would drive back over the ground that had been yielded in the face of the terrific German artillery and infantry attacks.

According to a statement by Aristide Briand, the French Premier, this happened after the fourth day of the battle. The French brought up strong reinforcements at an unexpected moment, and the infantry, sweeping down upon the Germans, who already were suffering heavily from the effects of the French artillery fire, stopped them short and even drove them back.

The Premier declares the French have now regained the advantage, the beginning of their counter-attacks marking the turning point of the battle, which is now in its second phase.

The German accounts fail to agree with this version of the fighting. Berlin having announced further advances for the Crown Prince's troops, including the taking of Harcourt, east of Fort Douaumont, and the village of Champ Neuville, on the German right.

Premier Briand Tells Newspaper Men That The Tide Has Turned in Joffre's Favor

PARIS, Feb. 28.—Impetuous counter-attacks by French troops north of Verdun, in which the Germans were thrown back from many positions conquered by them during the first four days of the battle, according to reports from the front, are considered as inaugurating a second phase of the great action, under conditions most favorable to the defenders.

Premier Briand told representatives of the press today how the tide was turned.

"Caught between two barring 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 upon formidable positions, our heroic soldiers remained masters of the field of battle."

Great Battle at Verdun is Still Raging Without the Slightest Sign of a Let Up

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The most recent information here depicts the battle of Verdun as raging without the slightest let-up, the Germans launching frenzied attacks against the French lines, backed up by the outer forts, without regard to their sacrifices. The Temps states that from the most reliable source it is learned that the Kaiser is prepared to sacrifice at least 200,000 of his best troops to take the French stronghold.

SAYS BOMB WRECKED FACTORIES.

BERLIN, Feb. 28 (by wireless to Sayville).—On the occasion of the last Zeppelin raid over England, two government factories and two ammunition factories at Birmingham, and one ammunition factory near Bradford were destroyed by bombs, the Overseas News says.

SERBIA TO THANK ENTENTE ALLIES.

PARIS, Feb. 28.—Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, accompanied by Premier Pachitcha, is soon to make a trip to Rome, Paris and London, to thank the Entente governments for the assistance they have rendered to Serbia, says a Havas despatch from Athens.

REFERENDUM MAY BE TAKEN IN ONTARIO

Toronto, Feb. 28.—The Mail and Empire this morning says: "Although official confirmation is lacking, it is understood that during the session of the Legislature advanced temperance legislation will be brought down. Since last session the cabinet has been giving a great deal of earnest thought to the whole question, concurrent with the investigations carried on by the Ontario license board, and the result of the consideration, it is said, has been to convince Premier Hearn and his colleagues that the sentiment of the province is such as to warrant the submission of the matter to the people in the form of a referendum which, should it be carried, would wipe out bar, club and shop licenses."

BODIES WASHED ASHORE.

London, Feb. 28.—The bodies of 8 sailors and the captain of the Wilson liner Dido, which was sunk on Feb. 26, were washed ashore today at Donna- hook, Lincolnshire.

The Dido, a vessel of 4,769 tons, carried a crew of 29 men. The first reports of her sinking said that the captain and two of the crew had been landed by a Belgian steamer.

FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT TELLS OF SEVERE FIGHTING

PARIS, Feb. 28.—So far as the French official report of this afternoon shows, the French lines in the immediate vicinity of Verdun are holding firm. The German attack is developing along the front to the east and the southeast. At Fort Douaumont, where the fighting has been heaviest, the situation is unchanged, the fortress itself apparently being still held by the Germans. In the village of Douaumont, a few hundred yards from the fort, there was a furious struggle last night. The War Office announces that the German attempts to capture the village resulted in a failure.

Southeast of Verdun, over the line bending south to St. Mihele, the Germans are pressing the attack. The French statement reports a futile German attack against Manheulles, ten miles southeast of Verdun, which may indicate an advance in that quarter, although the precise location of the front in this direction has not been made known.

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The text of the communication on the progress of hostilities, given out by the French War Office this afternoon reads as follows:

"In Belgium, our batteries have bombarded German organizations located opposite Steenstrate. In Champagne, in the region of the Navarin Farm, to the north of Souain, the enemy was successful by a surprise attack in occupying certain trenches of our advanced line. They also took a supporting trench."

"In the region to the north of Verdun the bombardment has continued with intensity, particularly in the central sectors and on our right. There has been no further attack on the Cote du Poivre."

"Yesterday evening German forces made several attempts to occupy the village of Douaumont. Their efforts were broken by the resistance of our troops, who withstood the most furious assaults."

"There is no change in the situation at the fort of Douaumont, which still remains closely encircled. The fighting is less spirited."

"On the plateaus to the north of the village of Vuax, in the Woevre district, the enemy yesterday evening and last night assumed an attitude of great activity. The railroad station at Eix, captured and recaptured several times by the attacks and counter attacks of the two opposing forces, now remains in our possession. All the attacks against Hill No. 255, to the southeast of Eix, were futile, failing to dislodge our troops."

"Further to the south, a German attack against Manheulles resulted in completed failure. Our artillery is combatting with energy the bombardment of the enemy along all this front. In the Vosges we have bombarded several German barracks in the region of Ban de Sapt."

STEAMER SUNK NEAR DOVER WITH HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE

Dover, Feb. 27.—The steamship Maloja, a 12,431 ton vessel, belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within half an hour, two miles off Dover today. More than forty persons, besides lascars of the crew, were drowned or killed as a result of the accident.

London, Feb. 28.—Of the total complement of 411 passengers and crew on the Peninsular and Oriental Line steamship Maloja, which struck a mine and sank within half an hour, two miles off Dover yesterday, only 260 are known to have been saved.

Of the total of 119 passengers, 64 names of persons saved have been received at the steamship company's offices. It was stated there that it is hoped the names of other survivors will still be received.

The bodies of three more lascars of the crew of the Maloja have been washed ashore, making the total of bodies recovered 47. Many relatives are arriving at Dover for the purpose of endeavoring to identify bodies.

Among those rescued yesterday was a baby, warmly clad, which was found floating on its back. The child was

St. John Railway's Annual Meeting

St. John, N.B., Feb. 28.—At the annual meeting of the St. John Railway Company, held here today, the directors reported net earnings of \$71,066. There were four quarterly dividends of 1½ per cent each.

The directors report that the company's earnings in the year were seriously affected because of trouble with the city's public works department.

NEW MANAGER FOR THE DOMINION STEEL CORPORATION

Montreal, Feb. 28.—E. H. McDougall was appointed general manager of the Dominion Steel Corporation to-day.

GERMANY'S NEW POLICY ON SUBMARINES TO BE PRESENTED TO U.S. TODAY

Is in the Form of Instructions to Von Bernstorff---Huns Claim That British Merchantmen Have Attacked Submarines.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Germany's response to the request of the United States for assurances regarding the conduct of submarine warfare in the future is in the hands of Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, who was prepared to present it to Secretary Lansing today. The reply is in the form of instructions to the Ambassador and will not be put into the form of a note unless the secretary desires.

The Ambassador's instructions were to inform the United States that assurances regarding future conduct of Teutonic submarines, given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases, still are binding, but that they apply only to merchantment of a peaceful character. Germany contends that British merchantmen, armed ostensibly for defence, carry guns for the special purpose of attacking German submarines, and thus show themselves not to be peaceful, and subject to destruction. To support this claim, the Berlin Foreign Office sends a list of a score of incidents where British merchant ships have attacked submarines.

ARMED MERCHANTMEN DO NOT ATTACK SUBMARINES UNLESS FIRST FIRED UPON

The instructions call attention to the claim of Germany that despite assurances of Great Britain that her merchantmen, armed for defence, will never fire unless first fired upon, and that they will never attack any vessel, British ships are prepared and instructed not only to resist, but to act. Germany claims that her new policy toward armed ships squares with international law inasmuch as British merchantmen violate the law as interpreted by the United States.

Germany realizes that should it sink an armed ship, upon it will rest the burden of proof regarding the guns, but contends that upon the government owning the ship would fall the burden of proof regarding the non-offensive character of armament. The ambassador was instructed to call attention to the fact that the French ships are not armed, and that consequently the Berlin government considers remote chances of difficulties with the United States, as a result of the new policy of sinking all armed enemy merchant ships beginning tomorrow midnight.

AMERICAN WHO HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING CONDITIONS IN BELGIUM TALKS ON RELIEF WORK

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 virtually no local supplies."

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. Hooper is the head.

Mr. Wolcott in his report says he is greatly impressed by the efficiency of the relief work, and he recommends that all money intended for Belgium or France be entrusted to the commission. Mr. Wolcott said to the Associated Press:

"If any who cavil at the sending of relief supplies into Belgium could only visit Belgium and see personally the plight of the suffering people, they would come back as eager for the continuance of the work as I am."

Of the 7,000,000 inhabitants in Belgium, Mr. Wolcott said, 3,000,000 are virtually destitute and drawing daily of a meal consisting of the equivalent of three thick slices of bread and a pint of soup.

NO LUXURIES FOR GERMANS.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 28.—The German Government has adopted a decree prohibiting the importation of commodities regarded as luxuries, which can be dispensed with in war time. The regulation, forecasted some time ago, will take effect immediately, according to the Reichs Anzeiger.

The prohibition includes, caviar, lobsters, liquors, champagne, pineapple, raisins, silks, silk clothing, clothing with lace trimmings, fans, hats, caps, pictures, sculptures, jewelry, gold, silver, toys of various classes, machine tools and artistic ironwares.

MUCH MISERY IN TURKEY.

BUCHAREST, Feb. 28.—Definite information comes from Constantinople that the Turks are in a wretched position and cannot hold out for more than two months longer. There is much misery, owing to a great famine, and desertions are numerous. Enver Pasha has gone to Asia Minor.