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In order to ensure changes
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The Daily Mail

The Weather.

Winds, fine and decidedly cold.

Maritime—Fresh to strong
northwesterly to northerly

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German Attack on Verdun Seems to Have Been Broken

French Official Statement is Very Encouraging---Intermittent Bombardment at Various Points Along the French Front Last Night---Huns Issue No Report.

PARIS, March 1.—There is nothing of importance to report in the region north of Verdun or in the Woivre district, according to the announcement of the progress of hostilities made by the French War Office this afternoon. The text of the communication issued by the War Office is as follows:

"In the region to the north of Verdun, as well as in the Woivre, there has been nothing of importance to report. During last night there was an intermittent bombardment at various points of our front between Reigneville and Remfauville. To the west of Pont-a-Moussan our artillery fire was directed against the second and third of the enemy lines, where the Germans apparently were putting through certain preparatory evolutions.

"In Alsace the fire of our batteries has been directed against the roads of communication of the enemy. In the region of Cernay, in the valley of the Thur, a French aeroplane equipped with double motors was successful in an encounter with an aeroplane of the enemy. The German machine fell at LaBasse into the German trenches, and at once caught on fire."

Situation Around Verdun is Felt to be Satisfactory From French Point of View

PARIS, Feb. 29 (delayed).—That the situation around Verdun is now well in hand and considered quite satisfactory from the French point of view, is freely stated by the military experts. To the northeastern part of the stronghold the chief effort of the Germans seems to be the rescue of the Brandenburghers who remain cooped up in the ruin of Fort Douaumont.

The development of the German operations to the south-eastward of Verdun is interpreted by the observers as preliminary to an attempt to assail the French positions on the Meuse heights through two principal gaps through the woods which are protected by Fort Tavannes, east by northeast of Verdun and southeast of Fort Douaumont, and by Fort Rozelier, to the southeast of the fortress. Both sides are profiting by the period of comparative calm to bring up fresh forces and supplies of ammunition. While it is realized that the Germans have not yet reached the end of their offensive resources, it is stated that any fresh onslaught on their part is awaited by the French with supreme confidence in their ability to hurl it back.

Looks as if German Attack on the Great French Stronghold Had Spent Its Force

PARIS, March 1.—The Havas Agency says that the German attack on Verdun has made no further progress and is now dwindling. According to the latest information reaching Paris, the Germans captured the village of Manheulles, but gained no strategic advantage thereby, since the whole region is being flooded. The French fell back slightly to a strong line, from which they can hold the village under their fire.

The bombardment to the north of Verdun, which continued with great violence during the preceding night, slackened yesterday before the vigorous response of the French artillery and the desperate attacks which had been made under cover of darkness by the German infantry in the Douaumont region were not renewed. French troops still surround the ruined fort of Douaumont, in which several hundred Germans are cut off.

The line from Douaumont to Cote de Perver has been more solidly fortified, and is now in a condition to resist the most violent attacks. The bend made by the Meuse north of Verdun is swept by both the German and the French artillery, and is untenable for either side.

German Attack in the Champagne District Never Got Beyond Local Operations

In Champagne, the Havas agency adds, the attack which it was believed would assume serious proportions, never got beyond purely local operations and does not seem likely to extend. In a word, the German offensive is suspended, but not stopped. It would be risky at present to say whether the pause is due to the fact that Germans realize that all efforts to take Verdun are vain and are simply confining themselves to defending positions which they have so dearly bought, or whether the German troops are merely in need of a rest before being hurled forward again to the assault, but the Havas Agency says the German intentions will be revealed before the end of the present week.

A Divorce Case In High Life

Ottawa, March 1.—The Hamilton Gault divorce case has been set down for hearing by the divorce committee

of the Senate on the 10th of March. The petitioner, Major Hamilton Gault of the Princess Patricia's, will be represented by the Montreal law firm of Lafleur, Macdougall, MacFarlane & Pope. The case will be vigorously contested and Mrs. Gault will have as counsel H. H. Dewar, K. C., of Toronto, and R. A. Pringle, K. C., of Ottawa.

BONAVENTURE DEPOT AT MONTREAL WAS BURNED TODAY

Montreal, March 1.—The Grand Trunk railway station (Bonaventure depot) was completely destroyed by fire today. The fire broke out early this morning, and as the building was old and inflammable, the flames quickly gained mastery and the firemen could do little to save the structure. The flames shot up to an enormous height and the fire was one of the most spectacular Montreal has had for many years.

The cause of the fire is not definitely known, but is believed to have been due to defective electric wiring.

No estimate of damage has been made, but the loss will be considerable.

A great quantity of baggage and express matter was destroyed, as well as valuable railway records, but so far as known no one was injured and no lives were lost.

Street traffic had to be diverted from the district, but railway traffic will not be interfered with to any extent, as the St. Henri station, two miles away, is available as a central depot, and officials say there will be no disturbance of schedules.

The Grand Trunk station is the terminus for Grand Trunk railway trains in Montreal.

Only Walls Remain.

At 10.30 the firemen were still pouring streams on the burning building from all sides, and the fire was under control. Nothing remains of the building now but the bare walls, encased in ice.

Fire, police and railway officials have expressed the view that the origin of the fire "looks mighty suspicious." One railway official said there was no doubt in his mind that the fire was caused through the agency of a German sympathizer. One report is that the fire started in the lavatory, and another that it was first discovered in the north tower. Some contend that defective electric wiring was responsible, but the majority seem to incline to the incendiary theory.

The proprietor of the restaurant in the building, J. Clark and wife, were in bed when the fire started, and made their escape with difficulty.

With the temperature below zero, the firemen worked under a great handicap as they quickly became encased in a coating of ice.

Fire Was Accidental.

Montreal, March 1.—Howard G. Kelly, Vice-President and General Manager of the Grand Trunk, in a statement issued at noon, stated that the origin of the fire was accidental and due to a short circuit in the stationery department. The loss is placed in the

CANADIANS IN BRILLIANT NIGHT ATTACK

NEW YORK, March 1.—A surprise night attack on the German trenches on the battle front guarded by the Fifth and Sixth Canadian infantry, in which 200 Canadians killed and wounded 150 Germans with but slight losses to themselves, was described by Capt. G. C. Drury, of Montreal, of the Fifth infantry, who was a passenger on the steamer California, invalided home.

"The expedition was sent out at night to cut and remove wire entanglements, preparatory to a contemplated attack the following day," said Capt. Drury. "The men, working their way forward, came across a new German advance trench. The party divided and, entering the trench at each end, worked their way toward the centre mainly by using the bayonet and their wire-cutting knives.

"Lieut. Taylor, of Winnipeg, of the 5th infantry, led one end of the Canadian party and he personally killed or wounded more than twenty Germans. Only three prisoners were taken."

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The value of imports to Fredericton last month was \$42,405, on which \$8,136.46 was collected in duties. For February last year the imports were valued at \$67,164, and the duty collected \$6,022.10.

French Sapper Tells Of Slaughter

Paris, Feb. 29 (delayed).—"We were in a front line trench on the slope of Cote du Perver," said a wounded sapper who has returned to a hospital. "The captain sent me forward to a small shelter in the open, where the electric contact had been placed, which led to a mine field. I crawled through along a narrow tunnel without mishap. Through a slit I looked out on the battlefield, as through the opening in a theatre curtain. I saw the Germans after long waiting march forward in good order. They thought from their observations that their bombardment had sufficiently devastated our trenches, but they were unable to see that our men had held firm and were making fresh trenches and using shell craters.

Huns Surprised.

"The Germans were 200 yards away from my post when our rifles and machine guns opened fire. They were taken by surprise and crouched down. When the order was passed along their line to advance, they began to sing The Watch on the Rhine, and dashed forward.

"My heart beat badly. They were over the mine at last. I touched the button. An infernal fountain seemed to shoot up in smoke. I saw men go up bodily as from a crater of a volcano.

"The attack was stopped. I crawled back to my trench. I had barely emerged from the tunnel when I felt a burning sensation in my shoulder and fainted. When I recovered consciousness I found myself in an ambulance."

German Ultimatum Sent To Portuga

London, March 1.—Germany has sent an ultimatum to Portugal, demanding the restoration within forty-eight hours of the German ships recently seized by that country, according to a despatch from Madrid to Reuters Telegram Company.

U. S. CONGRESS WILL STAND BY THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION

President Wilson Confers With Party Leaders on the Question of Armed Merchantmen---Will Throw Down The Gauntlet to Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—At an early conference at the White House today, President Wilson and administration leaders made plans for bringing the armed ship agitation in Congress to an end at once with a demonstration of unity, to convince Germany that the American Congress stands by the foreign policy of the Government.

President Wilson reiterated to the leaders that while dissensions in the American Congress over the question of warning Americans not to travel on the armed ships of the European belligerents were being made "industrious use of in foreign capitals," and being pictured as evidence that the country does not support the President in his stand for the observance of the laws of nations and humanity, his negotiations with Germany are embarrassed and in fact cannot be continued.

He was prepared to urge prompt action on one of the various pending resolutions proposing to warn Americans off armed merchant ships of the European belligerents.

THE ACTION OF THE PRESIDENT HAS CAUSED SOME SURPRISE AT WASHINGTON

The President's determination thus to throw down the gauntlet to Congress on the subject caused distinct surprise at the Capitol. It was reached following yesterday's cabinet meeting. The President decided that he could not go ahead with the German submarine negotiations while dissensions in Congress weaken his position before the world.

Administration ministers plan to bring the agitation in Congress to an end by the adoption of a resolution endorsing the President's course. After a canvass they apparently were sure of their position. A defeat of the pending resolution and a vote of confidence in the President, administration supporters point out, would enable the President to continue to contend for the principles of international law and humanity with the solid backing of the government. It was generally believed today that no action would be taken by either House before tomorrow. This being "Calendar Wednesday" in the House, it would require two-thirds vote to take up a resolution.

TWELVE BIG LINERS ARE NOW NEAR THE WAR ZONE WHERE PIRATICAL CRAFT ARE OPERATING

NEW YORK, March 1.—The scheduled opening of the new submarine campaign of the Teutonic powers, which was set for today, finds twelve big liners in or near the war zone, in which the Austrian and German undersea boats are operating.

The liners are: Celtic, White Star Line; Italia, Italian Line; Taormina, Italian Line; Lafayette, French Line; Philadelphia, American Line; Finland, in American Line service; Bergenfjorde, Norwegian-American Line; America, Italian Line; Patria, Fabre Line; Pannonia, Cunard Line, and the Ionian and the Vasiles Constantinos, of the Greek Line. None of these vessels are believed to be armed, unless they have mounted guns after putting to sea.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSION ON SOUTH- ERN STEAMER PLACED ON TWO GERMANS

RIO JANEIRO, March 1.—A despatch from Bahia says that the police authority there, as the result of an investigation they have made, place the responsibility for the bomb explosion on the Lamport & Holt Line steamship Tennyson on two Germans named Neworth and Phesdman. The police say the latter cannot be found. With their families they have abandoned their residences. They add that the Bahia office of the Siemens Co., of which Neworth was the agent, has also been closed.

On February 21 the British steamer Tennyson, of the Lamport & Holt Line, put into port at Maranhao badly damaged as the result of a bomb explosion which caused the death of three of the crew, an American, an Englishman and a Dutchman. It was later stated that a box containing a bomb had been put on board the steamship at Bahia by order of a German merchant.

KING FERDINAND AT VIENNA.

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 1.—It is announced from Vienna that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has arrived in that city on a visit to Emperor Francis Josephs.

TURKS NOT DOING MUCH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 1 (via London).—"There is nothing to report from any of the theatres of war," the War Office announced today.

GERMANS ARE SILENT.

BERLIN, March 1 (via London).—No mention of the fighting at Verdun is made in the official statement of today.