
* Notice to Advertisers. *
* In order to ensure changes *
* being made in advertisements, *
* copy must reach this office not *
* later than 9 a. m. on the day of *
* publication. *

The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Increasing south- *
* easterly to southwesterly winds *
* and fair and mild today, with *
* showers at night. *

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1917

ALLIES MADE FIERCE ATTACK ON THE HINDENBURG LINE

French Troops Continue to Make Progress in the West

**The Village of Coucy Le Chateau Was Captured Last Night---
Teutons May Soon Start a Big Offensive on the Italian
Front---Italians Prepared for It.**

PARIS, March 27.—The village of Coucy le Chateau was captured by the French in an attack last night, the War Office announces. Further progress was made in the lower section of Coucy forest, all of the northern part of which is now held by the French. The statement says: "South of the Oise we continued to make progress in the lower forest of Coucy, all of the northern part of which we occupied. The enemy was driven beyond the Barrish-Servais line, and south of the forest our troops made an attack and captured the village of Coucy le Chateau, which was strongly and energetically defended by the German forces."

ROME, March 27 (via Paris).—A great Austro-German offensive on the Italian front is being freely predicted throughout Italy. Information reaching the Italian press from Switzerland has convinced the newspapers that such a campaign has been planned by the Central Powers for this spring. There is no uneasiness apparent, however, but a general confidence that Italy is fully prepared and can meet any blow directed against her. General Cadorna is quoted by the Giornale d'Italia as saying to Salvatore Barzalai, governor of the occupied Austrian territory: "Whether they come or not I am acting on the principle that they will and in force. I am conscious of having neglected nothing that past experience may have taught, and I am certain of having at my command a magnificent army, full of energy and faith and strengthened rather than worn by the war. I have put at its head, with strict impartiality, chiefs possessing greatest aptitude for the particular posts they are required to fill."

Sir Sam Hughes Would Send Villa to the Front as a General if He Had the Power

NEW YORK, March 27.—An Associated Press despatch from Rochester, N. Y., says:

"Speaking at a dinner of the Chamber of Commerce here last night, General Sir Sam Hughes of Canada said: 'Were I in the United States, and if I had the power, I would be only too delighted to offer Villa a command as brigadier general in charge of 50,000 or 60,000 Mexicans and send him over to the trenches in Europe to fight the Teutons. The Mexicans are much like us Irish. They must fight, and when they have no one else to fight must fight among themselves.'"

"In his address Sir Sam said that if Germany had been fully aware of the state of unpreparedness of the English and the French, the war would have lasted only three months, and Germany would have been the victor. He urged universal military training as the only bulwark of democracy."

Commission Will Investigate Illegal Acts Committed by Former Ministers of Russia

LONDON, March 27.—A Reuter's Petrograd despatch says that a special commission has begun an investigation of illegal acts committed by former ministers, heads of departments and other officials of the old regime. About 600 machine guns have been found hidden in different parts of Petrograd.

At the first performance at the Marie Opera House since the revolution, two members of the Duma executive committee addressed the audience from what was formerly the Imperial box. Delegates of the workmen and soldiers delivered speeches from another box. According to the Bourse Gazette, Rasputin's body has been buried near Petrograd.

GRAND DUKES GET INTO LINE.

PETROGRAD, March 27, via London.—The Grand Dukes and the Imperial Princes, in a joint telegram addressed to the provisional government today, not only formally associate themselves with the abdication of Grand Duke Michael, but also turn over to the new government their official wealth, namely, their holdings of crown lands and other state grants heretofore attached to their station.

GAS USED ON THE RUSSIANS.

PETROGRAD, via London, March 27.—Attacks by German troops on the Russian line along the Shara, in the Baranovitchi region, southeast of Vilna, were at first unsuccessful, the War Office announced today. A discharge of gas accompanying the second attack, however, compelled the Russians to fall back.

HUNS BACK ON NEW LINE OF DEFENCE

War Correspondent Headquarters, Monday, March 26.—Apart from outposts of infantry with machine guns, and cavalry patrols, the enemy is now back on his new line of defence, commonly called the Hindenburg line, which, as everyone knows, now swings back from Arras past Cambrai, Laon and St. Quentin. Along the whole of this line, as far as British troops extend, we are keeping in touch with his outposts by our outposts, and round St. Quentin the French are fighting heavily against the strong German defence and threatening to turn his line at that section.

It is northwards round the village of Beaumetz-Les-Cambrai, east of Bapaume, that the British and German forces have been fighting more important actions than mere skirmishes, and where the guns on both sides are most active. In this neighborhood there is high ground, giving a good and clear view of the position which the enemy wishes to hold while he is consolidating his main defences, and for this reason he ordered men to attack and to counter-attack in order to drive us back from this observation ground.

It was last Tuesday afternoon that small bodies of our troops advanced through the village of Berthancourt, and surrounded Beaumetz, the enemy immediately launching a counter-attack near a little place called Permes, and this was easily repulsed under our machine gun fire.

The next day, curious as it seems, Beaumetz village was seen to be unoccupied, and our men went in among its ruins and stayed there.

Engagement Announced.

Mr. and Mrs. William Carter Cross, of St. John, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lois Marion, to Douglas G. Kitchen, of Fredericton, N. B. The wedding will take place in April.

FIERCE FIGHTING IS NOW GOING ON NORTH OF HISTORIC ST. QUENTIN

**Allies Have Cut Two of the Four Rail-
ways Which Feed the City---Position
of City One of Grave Peril---The
Situation in the East.**

Driving forward north and south of St. Quentin, the heart of the Hindenburg line, the Allies have cut two of the four main railroads which feed the city, while a third is well within reach of the French guns.

With La Fere inundated by the retreating Germans, and two of its dominating forts in the hands of the French, the chief interest in the tremendous battle which has been raging for a week on an eighty-mile front shifted to historic St. Quentin.

The Germans are making desperate attempts to wrest from the French the Essigny-Benay plateau, from which General Nivelle's guns command the southern approaches to the city and render its position in the opinion of military critics, one of grave peril to the defenders.

Little Known Concerning the Operations On the Northern Section of the Battle Line

Further to the south the French have forged well to the west of St. Quentin, hammering a great dent in the German line between that town and La Fere. The advance of this salient three miles further would give the French possession of the last direct railroad line between the two towns.

South of La Fere the French troops have swung in a great curve around the forest of Coucy and St. Gobain, formidable natural barriers which lie between them and Laon, the southernmost fortress on the Hindenburg line. In the centre of the curve General Nivelle has forced a wedge into the forest, but about ten square miles of heavily timbered country must be conquered before he reaches his goal.

On the northern section of the great battle line the situation is somewhat obscure. Neither British nor German official communications throw much light on the operations here.

Some progress has been made in the direction of Cambrai by General Haig, but apparently the determined resistance of the Germans has checked the British advance along the whole Arras sector.

The Allies Trying to Deal a Death-Blow to Ottoman Power in Its Eastern Empire

While the issue of the titanic struggle in France remains in doubt, the stage is set for sensational possibilities in far off Mesopotamia. In the plan of the Tigris five armies are converging on the Turks in the hope of dealing a death-blow to Ottoman power in its eastern empire. The Russians are advancing from Persia in three divisions, driving the Turks before them, and have already crossed the Turkish frontier in two places. To the south General Maude, conqueror of Bagdad, is pressing forward up the Tigris and the Diala rivers.

Outside of the possibility of a decisive victory over the encircling forces, apparently the only road of retreat open to the Turks is to the west. Here they are confronted with the desolate wastes of the great desert of El Jezireh, according to military critics an impassable barrier.

The meagreness of the official reports from London, Constantinople and Petrograd leaves, however, considerable doubt as to the precise nature of the situation in this theatre.

HUNS DROP POISONED CANDY FROM AIRPLANES

PARIS, March 27.—The newspapers of Besancon say that German aeroplanes are dropping on French territory objects quite inoffensive in appearance, but which are in reality of the utmost deadliness. Candy containing germs of epidemic diseases, fatal to any person eating it, and handbags and pocket-books filled with dangerous explosives, which detonate on contact, have been cast down by German fliers, these newspapers declare.

FINLAND ORGANIZING FOR SELF GOVERNMENT

**Party Leaders Have Agreed on the Composition of
New Senate---A Siberian Exile to get the Post of
Attorney General.**

HELSINGFOR, Finland, March 26, via London, March 27.—The leaders of the Finnish party, after prolonged negotiations, have agreed on the composition of a new Senate, which is Finland's supreme executive. A senate of twelve members has been chosen approximately according to party division in parliament, six being Social Democrats, the largest party in Finland, and other six representing the old Finnish party, the young Finnish party and the Swedish popular party, all Finns enjoying the nation's confidence. The head of the government is a social democrat and former president of the diet, M. Tokoi, who once was a miner in the United States.

The new government has also organized a judicial department, excluding reactionary officials with Russian associations and appointing instead the country's best jurists, a majority of whom were dismissed under the reactionary regime of the late governor general, Bobrikoff, and his successor, Major General Seyn. The post of attorney general will be offered to Judge Svinhufvud, former speaker of parliament, Finland's greatest lawyer and most popular citizen, whose exile to Siberia in 1915 by Governor General Seyn created intense bitterness. Judge Svinhufvud is now on his way home from Siberia.

BAD WEATHER ON CANADIAN FRONT.

Canadian Army Headquarters in France, March 27.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press.) Wet, stormy weather has rendered aerial observation difficult along the Canadian front. The result has been a lessening of artillery fire.