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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Easterly winds and *
* cold; fair at first, followed by *
* rain. *

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SENTIMENT IN WASHINGTON IS STRONG IN FAVOR OF WAR

St. Quentin and La Fere Are the In Grip of the Allies

Have Control of Two Out of Four Railroads and the Others Under Fire---British Force Moving Forward Along a Thirty Mile Front.

The British and French are knocking at the doors of St. Quentin, the mediaeval town that marks the backbone of the so-called Hindenburg line. Of the four railroads entering in the city, two are in possession of the Allies and the remaining two are under the fire of their guns.

This means that the garrison must depend on a precarious supply line operated at night, and that the value of the city as a base is gone. Apparently its fall is certain, and this assumption is supported by unofficial despatches from the front which say that the town has already been partly razed by the Germans. To the north of St. Quentin the British are surging forward along a thirty mile front, their rapid advance in the last few days, unaccompanied by any major fighting, proving that General Haig is not yet in touch with the main German force.

With St. Quentin and La Fere practically in the grip of the Allies, the Lille-Laon line appears doomed, and military critics express the opinion that either Field Marshal Von Hindenburg never contemplated a stand here or that he was outgeneralled by the amazingly rapid advance of the French toward La Fere. At present the French seem to have relinquished the initiative to the British, who are driving a wedge in the direction of the important town of La Catelot, ten miles north of St. Quentin, now within five miles of the British outposts. At the same time General Haig is continuing his raids in the Arras sector, the official reports indicating that important operations are on foot in this extreme portion of the battle line.

French activity is mainly in evidence east of Soissons, where a sharp salient has been formed in the German lines, the breaking of which will lay bare the important Craonne plateau, the most formidable barrier to any further advance by General Nivelle's army.

Union of British and Russian Armies in Mesopotamia Soon to be Brought About

In the other theatres of the war interest centres in Mesopotamia, where the Turks have suffered further reverses and the union of the British and Russian armies appears to be on the eve of consummation. An attempt by the reinforced Turks to take the offensive has been crushed, and although the official reports are meagre, the indications are that General Maund is within 50 or 60 miles of his Russian ally.

While the Allied capitals are filled with rumors of a coming great counter-offensive by the Germans, nothing has developed to show where such a blow, if one is contemplated, will fall. The thaw on the eastern front is believed to have removed any danger of German aggression in that direction, and neither Paris nor London pay much attention to Rome reports of a great Austro-German drive in preparation on the Italian front. There are persistent rumors, however, of mighty efforts by Germany to mass reserves back of the fighting lines, and allied observers still predict that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg will try to offset the effect on public opinion of his withdrawal in Picardy by a tremendous blow in some other direction.

Russian Revolutionists Ready to Reply With Bayonet to Greeting from the Germans

LONDON, April 2.—The German Emperor and Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg were bitterly denounced by Deputy Skabloff, vice-president of the council of workmen, soldiers and delegates, during a demonstration in front of the Duma building, according to a Petrograd despatch to Reuter's.

Deputy Skabloff, addressing the thousands of soldiers and civilians who took part in the demonstration, said: "To the hypocritical greeting sent the Russian revolutionists by Wilhelm and Bethmann, we can only reply with the bayonet. We cannot shake hands with the German people until they have rid themselves of the cursed Hohenzollern and Bethmann."

GERMAN LOOTERS AT WORK.

London, April 2.—Despatches from British correspondents on the western front report that the Germans have destroyed a large part of St. Quentin by fire and explosives. They add that the Germans have looted all the treasures from private houses, museums and picture galleries. It is believed, according to the advices, that the cathedral, up to the present time, has not been damaged.

W. H. TAFT RETURNS FROM LENGTHY TOUR

New York, April 2.—Wm. Howard Taft, returning to New York today after what he said was the longest and most strenuous journey he has taken since he left the White House, asserted that the people of the south and southwest are ready for war and that the United States must enter the conflict "wholeheartedly."

Mr. Taft spoke publicly in eleven cities in nine states from Virginia to Missouri in behalf of the programme of the league to enforce peace, and urged upon the people the necessity of preparation for war.

Unless the war continues a year longer, an American army cannot be placed in the trenches of Europe, the former President said, but the government can aid with food supplies, with money and credit and with the navy in suppressing submarines.

New York Now Has The Longest Bridge

New York, April 2.—With the opening of the Hell Gate bridge, the fourth to span the East River here, last night, an all-rail road was established connecting New England with points south and west of the Hudson river. The bridge, which took four years to build, and cost \$27,000,000, links the Pennsylvania and New Haven railroads. It is the longest steel arch bridge in the world, having a span of 1,017 feet between the faces of opposite towers which rise to a height of 250 feet.

PERSONAL.

Mr. William McIntosh, of St. John, is a guest at the Queen.
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Parker are guests at the Queen.
Mr. Edward Dalton, of Newcastle, is registered at the Queen.

SHARP FIGHTING IN THE REGION OF ST. QUENTIN

French Patrols Found the Enemy Lines Strongly Held---A Number of Prisoners and Machine Guns Captured---Counter Attack Checked.

PARIS, April 2.—French patrols advanced last night to German positions before St. Quentin, which they found to be held in force. South of the Ailette river the French drove the Germans beyond Vauxaillon. The War Office today gave out the following account of these operations:

"In the region of St. Quentin our patrols pushed forward northeast of Dallon and north of Castres, towns three miles from St. Quentin, as far as the enemy lines, which they found to be held strongly.

"In the section south of the Oise there was heavy firing between the advance posts. South of the Ailette our troops followed up their successes and drove the Germans beyond Vauxaillon. Enemy patrols were dispersed by our fire. The number of prisoners taken yesterday reached 120. We also captured five machine guns and other arms.

"In the Champagne several German counter-attacks against the positions which were captured west of Maisons de Champagne were checked by our fire. We repulsed completely attacks on small posts east of Auberive and west of Navarin.

"In Alsace we made a successful surprise attack at Carspach wood and took prisoners. Over the remainder of the front the night passed in quiet.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS AT ALUPKA.

YALTA, the Crimea, via London, April 2.—The Grand Duke Nicholas has arrived at his estate at Alupka, near here. He was accompanied by two government commissioners.

IMPORTANT SESSION OF THE U. S. CONGRESS CONVENED TODAY

Question of Going to War With Germany to be Decided---Telegrams Pouring in to Members From Constituents---Action Soon Expected.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Congress met in extraordinary session today to decide the question of war with Germany.

First came the struggle between Democrats and Republicans over organization of the House. With that completed, Congress will be ready to hear President Wilson's message on the most serious international crisis that has confronted the nation since the civil war.

Sentiment at the Capitol apparently predominated for a declaration of war or a declaration that a state of war exists. Pacifists in both House and Senate were to be heard from, but few believed that opposition would be effective. It seemed likely that the week would be well advanced before such action is taken. Even at the last moment tremendous moral pressure for or against war was being exerted on members of Congress by their constituents, mainly through the medium of telegrams which continued to pour in yesterday and today.

PERSONAL APPEALS FROM PACIFISTS AND ANTI-PACIFISTS COMING FROM ALL QUARTERS

To these were added personal appeals of pacifists and anti-pacifists, who came here in force, each side to combat the arguments of the other.

All signs early today pointed to a rather speedy Democratic victory in the House by the re-election of Champ Clark as speaker over Representative Mann, the Republican candidate, and the resultant dictation of committees by Democrats.

President Wilson's message was written, and his appearance before Congress only awaited official notice that the House had effected organization and that both houses were ready to hear him.

President Wilson's address was sent to the public printer early this morning and he held himself ready to deliver it as soon as the House had organized.

Having already recited to Congress in previous addresses most of the incidents leading up to the present situation, it is understood that the President will now deal with Germany's acts broadly, referring particularly to the present situation in the world, and deal with recommendations to place the United States on a war footing.

THE WAR RESOLUTION.

A resolution to declare war between the German Empire and the United States, as prepared by Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, Republican, says: "That war be and the same is hereby declared between the German Empire and the United States of America, and the President is authorized and directed to use the whole land and naval forces of the United States against the said German Empire, its subjects and dependencies."

AMBASSADOR PENFIELD CALLED TO WASHINGTON

VIENNA, March 31, via London, April 2.—American Ambassador Penfield confirmed the impression here that he expects to return to Vienna as quickly as possible from his forthcoming visit to Washington. He said he might be gone for three months. His residence here will be kept open. The ambassador and Mrs. Penfield will leave on Wednesday or Thursday. The news of Mr. Penfield's pending departure made a great stir here, but the first impression was offset by a statement from the Ambassador to the press that his trip to Washington was to be made on account of President Wilson's wish to consult him in regard to the general situation in Europe.

The State Department's message to Mr. Penfield says that during his absence Joseph C. Grew, consul of the embassy, will be in charge. At the foreign office it was learned that no significance was attached to Mr. Penfield's visit to Washington other than given by the ambassador himself.