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VOL. XXIII., No. 65

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

AN UNSUCCESSFUL ZEPPELIN RAID ON LONDON LAST NIGHT

Russia May Adopt Republic- can Form of Government

**All Depends on How the Manifesto is Received by the
Soldiers at the Front---House of Romanoff Has Ruled
For 400 Years---Reported Death of Prince Alexis.**

PETROGRAD, via London, March 17.—Unless improbable events occur, Russia has today become a republic. The outcome depends on how the manifesto of the new government is received by the six million soldiers at the front. It was rumored here tonight that the Grand Duke Alexis, the little son of the late Emperor, was dead.

PETROGRAD, March 16, via London, Mch. 17.—The autocracy which has held Russia in its grip since the beginning of history, fell today. The house of Romanoff, which has ruled the Empire for 400 years, came to an end with the abdication of Nicholas II, perhaps the weakest representative of his line. Following on the heels of this startling development came the rumor tonight of the death of the Emperor's little son, whose abdication was included in that of his father.

Although apparent from the beginning of the revolution that the removal of the monarch was inevitable, the actual fact so suddenly accomplished came as an overwhelming surprise to the population.

Within four hours after the abdication of the Grand Duke Michael, who automatically became regent on the passing of the Emperor, crowds in the streets had secured ladders and began to tear the imperial insignia from the winter palace and the front of buildings on the main thoroughfares. In a short time all emblems of the old empire locally lay in dust.

In anticipation of the news, bigger crowds than ever packed the halls and grounds of the Tauris palace, awaiting official confirmation by the Duma committee of the rumors which had excited the people to fever pitch during the last twenty-four hours. When the tidings at last leaked out from the committee rooms, orators who had been haranguing soldiers and workmen from the balcony of the palace, suddenly interrupted their discourses and shouted the news to the crowds below them.

Entire Authority Now Rests With the

Twelve Members of the Russian Duma

Indescribable confusion seized the vast throng, and a roar of cheers such as never before had been heard in these stately halls continued until the men and women were forced to cease from utter exhaustion. Just what form the new government will assume is indefinite tonight. For the moment entire authority rests with the twelve members of the Duma executive committee and a cabinet headed by Prince Lvoff, who, according to some forecasts, will be president of a new republic. It is believed that in the interim, and until the convocation of a constitutional assembly, power will slowly pass into the hands of the new cabinet, which will then present the anomaly of a new government without a supreme head.

Individuals Out of Touch With the New

Order of Things are Being Rounded Up

Arrests of individuals out of tune with the new order of affairs continue from day to day. Among the latest arrested was the Countess Kleinmichael, a prominent Russian woman, who is well known in court circles and who is suspected of assisting in the dissemination of pro-German propaganda. Hitherto she has enjoyed immunity because of influential connections. The Countess was taken under guard to the Duma building.

M. Soukhominoff, former minister of war, narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of angry soldiers, when his identity became known, as he was being conducted before the Duma committee.

Food Situation Already Showing Improvement.

Yesterday more than sixty trains were despatched over the various railway lines for the purpose of bringing foodstuffs and other necessities to the capital. While it is too early to observe any marked change in the prices of food, it is significant that notices have been posted in several shops of greatly reduced prices. A large number of tea houses have announced that they will supply tea free to soldiers.

TRYING HARD TO AVERT BIG STRIKE

New York, March 17.—For more than six hours, until 3.40 o'clock this morning, the committee from the Council of National Defence labored with the railroad managers and the Brotherhood chiefs without finding a way to prevent the national railroad strike called for seven o'clock tonight. Hope of a settlement was not abandoned, however, for the mediators continued their efforts a few hours later. It is probable that these peace conferences will continue all day.

When the night session ended, none of the conferees would discuss the situation. The mediators, without Samuel Gompers being present, resumed the conferences, meeting the four brotherhood chiefs shortly before 10.30 o'clock. Prior to the resumption of the conference this forenoon, one of the mediators said the situation was devoid of developments.

Neither side had made overtures, he said, and he did not consider the outlook promising at that hour.

Died Suddenly.

Miss Elizabeth S. Waterhouse passed away last night suddenly at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Harry M. Clarke, Regent street. The deceased was aged 55 years and is survived by one brother Charles of Boston and two sisters, Mrs. H. M. Clarke of this city and Mrs. G. Fred Coy, of St. John. The funeral will take place at 1.30 on Sunday afternoon from the residence of Mrs. Clarke. The service will be conducted by Rev. G. C. Warren and interment will be made at the Rural cemetery.

Flag Incident.

Instructions that flags on public buildings are to be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to the late Duchess of Connaught, and the fact that St. Patrick's Day usually is observed by flying flags at full mast, caused a clash today. The result in Fredericton was that some flags were at half-mast and some at full-mast.

RETREAT OF THE HUNS GIVES ZEST TO WAR OPERATIONS IN WEST

Enemy Field Fortresses Which Cost Thousands of Lives to Defend, Now Yield Easily---Superb Work of the British Artillery Described.

(Staff Correspondence of Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 16, via London, March 17.—The retreat of the Germans in Ancre and in the Somme region continues to give the zest of movement to the war in the west, and a trip nowadays along the ever-extending new British lines reveals a picture the like of which has not been seen on this front for more than two years.

Substantial progress was made by the Allies in the battles of the Somme last summer and autumn, but after the initial forward sweep the fighting became so bitter and the resistance so dogged, that the advance could be counted almost by feet if not at times by inches.

Big Gun Crew Exemplify the High Morale Which is Characteristic of British Army

Recently the onward movement has been reckoned in miles and it is strange to see field fortresses that last year cost thousands of German lives to defend, now yield within a few hours after the British "heavies" have begun to pour out their torrent of high explosives. It is interesting to stand behind a battery of British howitzers and watch the gun crews in action. The men show the high morale which is in evidence throughout the British army. They whistle and sing and bandy grim jests as they work. As the firing button is pressed, the crew jumps back for a moment from the gun carriage, but have leaped again to their allotted posts before the easy acting recoil has returned the mammoth weapon to its original position. It is easy to distinguish the scream of a departing projectile from one which is being sent in return by the Germans, and the onlookers can watch without difficulty the black base of a British shell as it travels in a long loop toward its destination.

Forward Movement of the British Army Has Brought Into Play All the Machinery of War

The forward movement of the British on one side of a front has brought into play all the machinery of motion in warfare. Roads seem to spring up over night in most unexpected places. Railways have audaciously flung themselves forward, regardless of mud and shell holes, and with a completeness which even includes most pretentious sign posts bearing the names of French villages which exist now only as geographical remnants. It is also a revelation of the intensely practical side of modern war to see a six-inch water main stretching itself into territory but recently occupied by the Germans.

ZEPPELIN RAID OVER LONDON LAST NIGHT

LONDON, March 17.—The air raid last night was the first visit of Zeppelins in many months, and it seemed to have been expected, as it failed to cause any excitement even among the home-going theatre-goers. The raiders were favored by a dark and moonless night.

The foregoing despatch indicates that London was attacked by Zeppelins. At half-past twelve last night an official communication was issued in London stating that an air raid had taken place over the southeastern counties of England and was still in progress. A further communication, it was said, would be issued in the morning, but this is presumably held up by the censor. The last Zeppelin raid on England occurred on November 27, when the raiding airships were shot down by the British off the north coast.

Zeppelin Shot Down in France.

PARIS, March 17.—A Zeppelin has been shot down in flames near Compeigne. All of its crew were lost. The Zeppelin was reached by anti-aircraft at a height of probably three miles. Compeigne is 45 miles northeast of Paris and is close to the battle front, which the Zeppelin must have crossed.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON THE CANADIAN FRONT

**Shells Being Freely used and Enemy Losses Thought
To be Heavy---An Incident Relating to General
Smuts.**

(By Stewart Lyon.)

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, March 16.—The reports in the British press that Field Marshal Von Falkenhayn and staff have arrived in Belgium and located at Tirmont, has aroused great interest among the Canadian soldiers. Comparative calm still prevails along the Canadian front, broken by artillery activity at nights, when it is intended to drive off enemy working parties in these exchanges.

The Canadians are using shells much more freely than the enemy, whose losses must be heavy. The casualties along the Canadian lines of late have been exceptionally small.

The arrival of General Smuts in England and his statement to the British people is regarded as splendid and of especial interest to the Canadians who fought in South Africa. An officer at the front most thankfully said today: "My poor shooting preserved the life of General Smuts to the service of the British Empire. When in South Africa I helped to disperse a command under an officer who rode a white horse. I took two shots at him, but missed with both. Afterwards I learned that the rider of the white horse was Smuts."

Germans Fall Back.

BERLIN, via Sayville, March 17.—A further retirement of the German forces on the western front, between Silly and St. Pierre Vaast wood, and also between Beauvraignes and Lassigny, was announced today by the War Office.