
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: Moderate winds, fair, with a little higher temperature.

VOL. XXIII., No. 70 FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1917

VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN SITUATION ON THE WESTERN FRONT

French and German Troops Engaged in Great Battle

Northern France the Scene of Fierce Conflict---Initial Stage Has Turned in Favor of the French---Have Forced Their Way Across the Ailette River.

The initial phase of the tremendous battle which has opened in northern France, has apparently turned in favor of the French, who are reported to have forced their way across the Ailette river and the Crozat canal at several points. Along these waterways the Germans elected to make their first stand in defence of La Fere, toward which General Nivelle is rushing his advance troops in a desperate effort to break the Hindenburg line before the German defence is consolidated.

Further south the French are attempting to batter their way toward Laon, but between them and their goal lie the great fortresses of Coucy and St. Goban, and the comparatively meagre advances reported from Paris indicate that the issue is still very much in doubt. Some ground has been gained northeast of Soissons, but the fact that the French report having inflicted "very heavy" losses on the Germans is an intimation that the invaders are holding this section in force.

French refugees from the devastated wilderness over which the retreating Germans have passed add their evidence to the accumulating proof that Von Hindenburg's purpose is to give battle on a line running from Lille to Laon. This means that in the event of the French failing to break through at La Fere a further withdrawal of the Germans is due to take place on the British front. The sharp salient running from Arras to Cambrai must be evacuated, and in spite of this presumption, London reports explosions and incendiary fires in the district about Arras. This additional retirement would mean the evacuation of about 500 more square miles of French territory, including the great coal mines around Lens.

The whole question at present appears to be whether the Allies can move their heavy artillery fast enough so as to strike a smashing blow at the Germans before the latter can effectively organize their positions. Military critics in Paris and London believe a few days will decide this.

The Pope, Addressing a Private Consistory, Made No Reference to International Affairs

ROME, March 23, via Paris.—For the first time since the world war began, Pope Benedict, in addressing the private consistory today made no reference to international affairs. Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, who left for France immediately after the consistory, said: "The Vatican continues its attitude of absolute impartiality toward all belligerents, but I must frankly confess that I have seen no sign of lack of interest on the part of the Pope for the Allies. He has always displayed the greatest desire to lessen the horrors of war and ameliorate the conditions of prisoners, as well as to obtain favorable treatment for Belgium."

The Pontiff Hopeful That He Will be Able To Stop the Deportation of Belgian Citizens

"The Pope conducts negotiations for the provisioning of Belgium, obtaining German guarantees not to torpedo steamers taking supplies there, as England required. He obtained the internment in Switzerland of those who have been prisoners for eighteen months and parents of at least three children. He obtained the exchange of prisoners of war between England, France and Turkey. Latest reports caused the Vatican to hope that its insistence against Belgian deportations will be accepted by Germany and all Belgians will return to their homes. The Vatican is arranging to supply Syria and Lebanon where the population is dying of starvation, with provisions conveyed in neutral steamers, mostly Spanish."

GERMAN ATTACK REPULSED.

PARIS, March 23.—A violent attack was made by the Germans last night north of St. Simon, in the region east of Ham. Today's War Office announcement says the Germans gained some ground at the beginning but were counter attacked immediately and driven back as far as Seracourt le Grand, three miles northeast of St. Simon.

GERMANS CLAIM SUCCESS.

BERLIN (via Sayville), March 23.—Heavy losses were inflicted by the Germans yesterday upon French troops who had crossed the Somme-Crozat canal in the vicinity of St. Simon, army headquarters announced today. The French were repulsed and 230 prisoners and several machine guns taken.

TWO YOUNG WOMEN END THEIR LIVES

Portsmouth, N. H., March 22.—Two young women held revolvers at each other's temples and fired, both dropping dead, in a booth at the Portsmouth Cafe tonight. They had previously registered at the Rockingham Hotel as Ethel Stanton and Rose King of Wellesley, Massachusetts.

In a travelling bag left at the hotel by the King girl was found a letter telling of an agreement between the two girls to commit suicide, and asking that they be buried together. The letter, signed "Peggy," was addressed to Mrs. E. I. Spaulding, Newton Centre, Massachusetts. The police communicated with Mrs. Spaulding and learned that "Rose King" was her daughter. Miss Spaulding was a graduate of the Newton High School. She was prominent in athletics, having served as captain of the High School girls' hockey team.

A note addressed to C. S. Malsbury, Cincinnati, was found in the Stanton girl's bag.

The girls, each about 20 years of age, had been in the booth for more than two hours before other diners were startled to hear two shots. They rushed to the booth and found the girls lying dead on the floor.

The War Loan A Great Success

Ottawa, March 23.—With every indication of an unprecedented success, the lists will close tonight for Canada's third domestic loan of \$150,000,000.

The loan is fully subscribed, and will be extensively over-subscribed, but to what extent cannot, of course, be known until all the returns are in. It may exceed \$225,000,000.

Mr. E. Faulds, of Toronto, is a guest at the Queen.

Mr. C. W. Slipp, of St. John, is in the city.

Mr. Fred F. Esher, of Toronto, is at the Barker House.

CANADIANS HOPE TO BE HOME BY CHRISTMAS

Great Events Now Transpiring on the Western Front are Making our Boys Optimistic---Canadian Line Has Not Yet Moved Forward.

(By Stewart Lyon, correspondent Canadian Press.) Canadian Headquarters in France, March 22.—Evidence was supplied this morning by the enemy on the Canadian front that the general retirement south of Arras has not yet extended to the region held by the Canadians. The German guns, which have been returning a spasmodic fire to the increasing volume of our fire, suddenly opened up with great vigor yesterday. After artillery preparation a raiding attack was made in the early dawn on the Canadians, who had taken a number of prisoners in a raid the previous evening.

The Canadians were ready for the enemy, and a heavy fire was at once directed on the attacking force, which sustained considerable losses without at any point penetrating our lines.

The nature of the enemy's barrage is considered as evidence that his artillery is still in position along this part of the front. Prisoners recently taken profess entire ignorance of any measures looking to a withdrawal.

The great events transpiring south of Arras have made most people optimistic, and once more there is talk about "next Christmas in Canada."

Substantial Donation.

The net proceeds of the "at home" given last week by the Ministering Circle of the King's Daughters were \$149.10. The at home was for the Children's Aid Society, and to that society the Ministering Circle has been able to hand over \$150.

PERSONAL

Mr. H. Angus, of Toronto, is at the Queen.

Mr. A. B. Fortier, of Toronto, is registered at the Queen.

Capt. Robinson Black, organizer and inspector of cadets for Military District No. 6, is at the Queen.

AMERICAN STEAMER TORPEDOED WITH A BIG LOSS OF LIFE

The Healdton Sunk by Pirates in North Sea---Thirty-Four Members of the Crew Either Killed by Torpedo or Subsequently Drowned.

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 23.—The Handelsblad says there are only six Americans among the survivors of the torpedoed American steamer Healdton.

LONDON, March 23.—A Rotterdam despatch to the Daily Telegraph says that it is reported there that thirty-four members of the crew of the American steamship Healdton were either killed when the vessel was attacked, or drowned subsequently. A torpedo, which penetrated the engine room, is said to have been responsible for the death of thirteen of the men.

A Reuter's despatch from the Hague says that Capt. Christopher, commander of the Healdton, is among the survivors. The despatch says a Healdton lifeboat with seven occupants was picked up by a Dutch destroyer.

The foregoing despatch may be possibly another version of an Amsterdam despatch received last night stating that a boat with seven Healdton survivors had reached the Dutch island of Terschelling, in the North Sea. Conflicting reports in regard to the numbers of those who lost their lives when the Healdton was sunk by a submarine vary from 14 to 34.

Cannot Cause Any Change in American Relations, as a State of War Now Exists

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The sinking by a German submarine of the American steamer Healdton, with the probable loss of a score or more of her crew, many of whom were Americans, while another grave addition to the long list of German aggressions against the commerce of this country, cannot cause any immediate change in the situation between the United States and Germany, it was said here today. A virtual state of war already exists, government officials believe, and they are doing everything possible to prepare the nation to meet that condition.

The destruction of the Healdton, however, will be included by President Wilson in his summary of German attacks on American commerce when he goes before Congress, which meets in extraordinary session on April 2.

CZAR AND EMPRESS OF RUSSIA ARE INTERNED

Are Being Held as Prisoners in Alexanderovsky Palace--The Deposed Ruler Reached Tzarskoe Today by Special Train.

TSARSKOE-SELO, Russia, March 23.—On his arrival here today in the custody of four members of the Duma, Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed Emperor, was turned over immediately to the Tzarskoe-Sela commander and taken to the Alexanderovsky palace, where the former Empress Alexandra was already interned. The special train carrying the former ruler arrived at 1.30 o'clock on the branch line outside Alexandrovsky Park. On leaving the train, Nicholas entered an automobile, accompanied by his adjutant, Prince Dolgoroukoff, the only courtier of the first rank who accompanied him, and by four Duma commissioners. They were driven to the palace.

Nicholas was met at the door in the left wing of the palace by Count Benkeldorff, who was his marshal of the court, and is now under arrest. The former ruler held himself erect, looking calm and indifferent, although he stepped from the automobile with nervous haste.