
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: North and east winds, fair today; some local snow or rain at night.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1917

WORLD'S GREATEST BATTLE MAY BE FOUGHT NEAR LA FERRE

French Within Range of St. Quentin and La Fere

Retreating Germans on the Western Front Are Still Offering Some Resistance---British Line Has Been Brought Up on a Level With That of the French.

PARIS, March 22.—The German retreat to the Arras-St. Quentin-La Fere line is now practically complete since the French are now within artillery range of St. Quentin and La Fere. The movement has been carried out by echelons, according to approved principles, one section holding firm while the next fell back. The Allied operations are now concerned with driving in the last of these sections which are still resisting. They are situated respectively south of Arras, southeast and east of Peronne, east of Ham and the valley of the Ailette, and north of Soissons.

Just in the middle of the line, east of Peronne and between the plain of Cambrai to the north and the plain of the Somme to the south, is one of the few positions of defensive value running to the east of Roisel and Vermand. The Germans showed signs of intending to cling to this salient, but it, too, is now gone, the British being close to both Roisel and Vermand.

Another strong section which is still holding out occupies a formidable defensive position formed by the forest of Coucy, but from the signs of destruction in the rear of the defenders, apparently resistance is only being made to secure the retreat to the principal line at St. Goban.

As a result of Wednesday's operations, the British line is now level with the French, which runs along the Crozat canal from St. Simon to Tergnier. At the latter point the French positions are less than two and a half miles from La Fere. Part of the road from Ourscamp to Noyon, which was paved with granite blocks, had been unpaved by the Germans, but in less than a day the French engineer corps had repaired the road.

Before leaving the Germans made a clean sweep of the Noyon banks, sending to Germany securities valued at 18,000,000 francs.

German Report Says That a Real Battle is

Now in Prospect on the Western Front

BERLIN, March 20, by wireless to the Associated Press via Sayville, March 22.—German cavalry is now in touch with French and British mounted troops, which have been in action for several days in the territory evacuated by the Germans, so that for the first time since the fall of 1914 cavalry on both sides is being employed on the western front. This is regarded here as an indication that great events are taking place and that a real battle is in prospect, trench warfare being over for the time being on this part of the front.

The French and British attempted to use cavalry on the Somme last year, as well as at the time of the Champagne offensive, but the employment of these forces in the face of entrenched troops with machine guns resulted in very heavy losses. The present situation is a different one, because neither side is now protected by trenches.

Germans Still Hold Over Seven Thousand

Square Miles of Territory in France

PARIS, March 22.—The total amount of French territory liberated from the German invaders by the Somme offensive up to March 21 is 853 square miles, situated in four departments, Pas de Calais, Oise, Aisne and Somme. It includes 366 towns and villages, the homes of 181,935 Frenchmen. The Germans are still in possession of 7,127 sq. miles of France.

Dr. Henri de Rothschild has given 100,000 francs for the relief of the inhabitants in the liberated sections of Picardy. Dr. Rothschild is a grandson of Nathaniel Rothschilds, founder of the famous banking house. He is well known as a philanthropist and has taken a prominent part in the war against cancer and other invidious diseases.

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT TODAY.

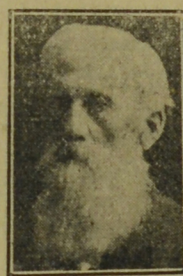
BERLIN, via Sayville, March 22.—Spirited fighting in the sector over which the Germans have been retiring is reported in today's official communication, which mentions no further evacuation of territory. Announcement is made that an airplane piloted by Prince Friedrich Karl, a cousin of Emperor William, has not returned from a raid over the lines between Arras and Peronne, in France.

COUN. ALEX. HAINING

DIED THIS MORNING

Aged Resident of New Maryland Had Long Been Prominent in Municipal Affairs.

Coun. Alexander Haining, of New Maryland, one of the best known residents of York county, died at his home at nine o'clock this morning. He attended the special meeting of the York County Council here a month ago and contracted a severe cold while returning to his home. Complications soon developed, and his illness resulted fatally. News of his death will be heard throughout the county with great regret.



The Late Alex. Haining.

For twelve years past he acted as chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings, devoting a great deal of his time and attention to the work. He was a good councillor and rendered valuable service to the county in that capacity. He was seldom absent from a meeting of the board, and always manifested an intelligent interest in the proceedings. In politics he was a strong Conservative.

The late Mr. Haining is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Brewer, of Gibson, and the Misses Della and Jean Haining, at home. One brother, Mr. William Haining, lives at Charters Settlement.

Mr. P. J. Veniot, of Bathurst, arrived in the city last night. He is at the Queen.

Mr. H. J. McLean, of St. George, is registered at the Queen.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

ORDERS THE ARREST OF THE CZAR AND EMPRESS

General Alexioff Has Been Charged With the Duty of Guarding Them---Russian Paper Says Court Clique Was Nest of German Spies.

PETROGRAD, via London, March 22.—An order for the arrest of Nicholas Romanoff and Alexandra Feodorovna, former Emperor and Empress of Russia, has been issued by the Provisional Government. General Alexieff has been charged with the duty of guarding the prisoners until members of the Duma arrive with an escort to take them to Tsarskoe-Selo.

Declares That the Crimes of Treason and

Espionage Had a Nest in the Royal Palace

PETROGRAD, March 21, via London, March 22.—The Russkia Volia in a long unsigned article, exposes what it terms the treason of the "court clique" and alleges that the Tsarskoe-Selo was a "nest of German spies." The paper says that a special committee has been appointed to investigate "crimes of former ministers during the last Bacchanalian nightmare years of dynasty on which Rasputin put the final touches."

The article says in part: "The first crime was treason and espionage and had its nest in the palace. The court was partly and chiefly German and the pitiful role of Sturmer in his efforts to draw Russia toward a separate peace was known everywhere. The press of our Allies accused Russia of giving Germany Russian military secrets. Alexieff Khvostoff, who was dismissed as Minister of the Interior because he aimed to divorce Nicholas and Alexandra and kill Rasputin, declared to friends that he has documents showing the connection between the court and Berlin, and that Rasputin was surrounded by German spies who were sending out military secrets received from the drunken monk."

England's Offer to Give Half a Million

Rifles to the Russian Army was Refused

"Khvostoff, himself one of the band of dark forces, did nothing to hinder the treason at Tsarskoe-Selo. We know from the letter of General Buchkoff, Minister of War, to Gen. Alexieff, that Sturmer and Belaieff refused England's offer to give half a million rifles to the Russian army. Similar facts have been collected by the defence committee of the Imperial Duma. We know the consequence of Genral Soukhomlinoff's doings when he was only Governor of Kiev, and when he surrounded himself with spies. His nearest friend was the commander of the Austrian spy organization. Our military secret service knew, but could do nothing. The result of his treason was a Russian defeat, costing millions of lives."

"What are we to do now? Allow Nicholas to live in beautiful Livadia, among the flowers he was so fond of and among the conditions of freedom he always denied to others? Allow him to do this so that he may organize other dark forces for the re-establishment of the Romanoffs?"

SCHEME TO PREVENT WAR BETWEEN U. S. AND GEMANY

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Offers of mediation, to prevent actual war between the United States and Germany, are expected among the next developments. Administrations officials heard today that a European neutral was contemplating such a plan, and they frankly regarded it as another effort backed by Germany to divide sentiment in Congress and embarrass the President. It was declared authoritatively today that no proposals of mediation or for discussion will be considered unless Germany first abandons the campaign of ruthlessness.

HAS GREAT BATTLE BEGUN ON THE WESTERN FRONT?

Germans are Making a Stand on a Twenty-mile Front--General Nivelle May Have Out-Manoeuvred Von Hindenburg.

French troops are in contact with the main German army, and what may prove to be the initial stage of the greatest battle of history has opened before the gates of La Fere.

For the first time since the great German retreat began, patrol and rear guard fighting has given way to the thrust of artillery and the clash of major forces. The Germans are making a stand in a line running north and south of La Fere, from St. Simon to the forest of the Coucy, a distance roughly estimated at about twenty miles.

Speedy Advance of the French.

The position selected by the Germans is protected by the Crozat canal and the Ailette river, a tributary of the Oise, but in this line the French have driven a great wedge directly in front of La Fere and reaching to within two miles of that important town. On this wedge is based the hopes of French military critics that Gen. Nivelle has out-manoeuvred Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, and that La Fere is dominated and with it the whole of the famous Hindenburg line.

Paris believes that the extraordinary speed with which the French have advanced has disconcerted the German plans and renders probable a continuation of the retirement to the Belgian front.

The official Berlin reports throw no importance on the situation, but it seems certain that a few days or hours must decide the fate of La Fere. The situation on the British front is somewhat more obscure, owing to the rather vague character of the British official reports.