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* In order to ensure changes *
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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Strong northerly *
* to westerly winds, a few local *
* snowflurries, but mostly fair *
* and colder. *

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

ONE FIFTH OF GERMAN LINE REPORTED IN FULL RETREAT

Unarmed American Ships Sunk by German Pirates

**Overt Act Which Precipitates a State of War Has Been
Committed---American Warships May Soon be Dispatch-
ed to Clear Transatlantic Lanes of Submarines.**

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The United States today faced the pressing question of war with Germany over the immediate issue of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchant ships. Technically an armed neutrality still existed, but unofficially it was admitted Germany has committed the "overt act" which precipitates a virtual state of war. The next step beyond the arming of merchantmen, now going forward, is the despatch of warships to clear the transatlantic lanes of submarines.

President Wilson was considering carefully all sources open to him. He might continue arming merchantmen, as at present, until the special session of Congress called for April 16; he might summon Congress to meet immediately to authorize him to take aggressive action against the submarine menace, or he might declare forthwith that a state of war exists. Some officials state he already has ample power for the last course, but that this will be subject to approval by Congress.

Despatches from the various battlefronts took on added interest today as officials realized that the United States is practically certain to become involved in hostilities with Germany.

The War and Navy departments particularly were confronted anew with problems of precisely what plans they shall follow if war comes.

Many Senators and representatives who remained in Washington today expressed the opinion that the German submarines' latest act constitutes a clear cause for war between the United States and Germany.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Eighty-five Americans, comprising a large majority of the crews, were aboard the three American steamers Vigilancia, City of Memphis and Illinois, sunk by German submarines on Saturday and Sunday in the blockade zone. The latest information here is that fourteen men are missing from the Vigilancia, and eight from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois was landed safely.

Crew of the City of Memphis Were Given

Just Fifteen Minutes to Take to the Boats

The City of Memphis left Cardiff, Wales, Friday in ballast, for New York. She encountered the submarine on Saturday evening, and the crew was given fifteen minutes to take to the boats. The vessel was owned by the Ocean Steamship Co., and valued at \$600,000. She left New York Jan. 23 with a cargo of cotton, which was delivered at Havre, France. There were fifty-seven men in her crew.

The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning, according to the survivors' story, and the submarine did not appear. She carried a crew of forty-five men, twenty-one of whom were Americans. Thirty-one of these have been landed at the Scilly Islands.

The Vigilancia Had a Cargo of Provisions

And the Illinois Was an Oil Tank Steamer

The Vigilancia sailed from New York February 28, with a cargo consisting in part of provision, and valued at nearly \$760,000. The ship herself was said to be worth one million dollars. Beyond the fact that the crew was saved, no details had been received here early today regarding the destruction of the Illinois. She was reported merely as having been sunk.

The Illinois was a tank ship owned by the Texas Oil Co. She left port Arthur, Texas, on Feb. 17 for London with a full cargo. There were sixteen Americans on board, including all the officers and eight members of the crew. Her entire crew consisted of thirty-five men. Her home port was New York.

PARADE OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

LONDON, March 19.—Thirty-three thousand troops paraded in the Red Square of Moscow on Sunday, says Reuter's Petrograd correspondent. Many of the regiments were headed by red flags and most of the soldiers and some of the officers wore red boutonnières.

A GERMAN ACCOUNT OF AIR RAID

Berlin, March 19, via London.—An attack on London by Zeppelins lasting one and one-half hours, has been made by Zeppelins, the War Office announced today. Bombs were dropped successfully and the airships returned in safety. The statement also says: "According to French information, the L-39 has been brought down by French anti-aircraft guns near Compeigne, to the northeast of Paris, at an altitude of 3,500 metres."

Ontario Politician Dies in Hospital

Toronto, March 19.—R. R. Gamey, member of the Legislature for Manitoulin, died at the general hospital at 5.30 this morning. He was operated upon last week for an abscess on the lung. Mr. Gamey was a Conservative in politics.

COLLEGE Y. M. C. A.

Officers Elected—Dr. Jones to Represent U. N. S. at Truro.

At a meeting of the University Y. M. C. A. held yesterday afternoon, the financial report for the year was read and the officers for the ensuing year were elected. They are as follows: Hon. President—Prof. Popplestone. President—J. F. McIntosh. Vice-President—W. B. Maine. Treasurer—R. H. Bennett. Secretary—John Popplestone.

Chairman of New Students' Committee—S. T. McCavour.

Dr. Jones was re-elected to represent the University in the Intercollegiate Council. The officers and Dr. Jones will leave this week to attend the conference of the Intercollegiate Student Association to be held at Truro, N. S., opening on Friday, the 23rd. The representatives will vote on the constitution of the organization, which was framed last year.

Mr. A. K. Grimmer, of St. Andrews, is registered at the Queen.

FRENCH ON TRAIL OF THE RETREATING GERMANS

**One Hundred Villages Have Been Reoccupied by
The French Within Three Days---A Warm Wel-
come From the Populace.**

Paris, March 19.—The French, closely following the retiring Germans, re-occupied Guiscard last night and at several points reached the railroad from Ham to Nesle, the War Office announces. Troops were pushed along the national road to St. Quentin. East of Nesle the second German position was captured. The statement says 100 villages have been re-occupied by the French in three days. Many of these towns had been devastated. Thousands of persons, whom the Germans were unable to send to the rear, came forward to greet the French.

On the Verdun front the Germans made a heavy attack between Avocourt and Dead Man's Hill, after artillery preparations. They penetrated the French lines on a front of 250 yards, but were ejected from part of this position after violent hand-to-hand fighting.

RUSSIANS ALSO MAKE PROGRESS.

PETROGRAD, via London, March 19.—Further progress by the Russians in Persia who have now reached the vicinity of the Turkish border is reported today by the War Office.

CHINESE TROOPS TAKE A HAND.

PEKIN, March 19.—Chinese troops have occupied without opposition the German concessions at Tien Tsin and Hankow. The Dutch have taken over the German consulates.

COMMENT OF LONDON PRESS ON GREAT VIC- TORY IS MODERATE

**Retirement of Germans was Forced but
They Are Not Yet on the Run---
Peronne Was Occupied by the British**

PARIS, March 19.—The German line at last accounts were in full retreat over a section which represents almost one-fifth of the vast front from Switzerland to the sea, closely pressed by the French and British.

French troops, advancing with the precision of a machine along a forty mile front, have recaptured important towns and many square miles of territory, accomplishing this at small cost to themselves, so carefully has every detail of the advance been thought out.

LONDON, March 19.—The newspapers generally take a fairly sober view of the German retreat on the western front, and while insisting that the retirement has been forced, refrain from making any claim that the Germans are on the run.

That the same viewpoint is held at the front is indicated in one despatch which quotes an unnamed "distinguished staff officer" as deprecating the idea that the retreat had become a helpless flight. At the same time this officer is quoted as saying: Things have suddenly become too big and too active to keep pace with."

Little known of Work of British Cavalry,

Except That It's Over the Hills and Far Away

While newspaper comment is moderate in tone, the retreat is described as unprecedented except by the period following the battle of the Marne, and it is emphasized that there is nothing yet to indicate where the German line will be halted. One correspondent writes that it would be easier now to say where the German line between Arras and Roye is not than where it is. He says that it is dissolved and has not yet settled anywhere definitely.

The correspondents tell but little of the work of the British cavalry. "They are over the hills and far away," says one. "The Germans have a cavalry screen behind their rear guard reconnoitering the roads in an attempt to ascertain the volume of the British advance."

Black Ruins and Devastation Follow in the

Wake of the Rereating German Forces

One feature of the operations generally remarked upon is that the British advance south from Bapaume has produced no important fighting. Peronne itself was occupied without a single British casualty. The place is said to have been thoroughly looted, but although many buildings were fired, a great number are undamaged, and Peronne, unlike Bapaume, is still a town. Further north, however, the destruction is complete and it is declared that at least three hundred villages were burned to cinders. The small town of Athies is described as a flaming torch visible for miles around, and many villages in the section are still burning.

"In all this great tract of France which the enemy has been forced to abandon," says one correspondent, "there is no beauty, no homes, no farms, only black ruins and devastation everywhere. There was never a moment in the war when the French inhabitants felt such a fury of rage against the German quality of cold and logical plunder and destruction."

BIG STRIP OF TERRITORY RECOVERED FROM GERMANS

PARIS, March 19.—Tomorrow or the day after, two entire French departments, those of the Oise and the Aisne, will be liberated from the German invasion, according to reports from the front. The total territory now regained is roughly calculated at 620 square miles. The nature of the ground over which the Germans retreated was almost all against them, and

(Continued on page 5.)