

## FRENCH AND BRITISH TROOPS ARE STILL DRIVING THE HUNS

### General Nivelle's Troops Are Beating Back the Huns

#### Part of the Coucy-St. Gobain Forests Have Been Completely Cleared of the Invaders---No Material Change On Northern Section of the Line.

The southern wing of the retreating German army is slowly retiring along a ten mile front under the furious onslaughts of the French. The first section of the great Coucy-St. Gobain forests has been completely rid of the invaders, and General Nivelle's troops are now face to face with the last formidable natural barrier which lies between them and Laon, the plateau of St. Gobain. This densely wooded plateau lies between the Oise and the Ailette and is about 10,000 acres in extent, rising from about 80 to 200 feet in height. No railways or high roads traverse it, but an important railroad sweeps around its southern border and runs north to Chauny. This road is in the hands of the French up to within about three miles of Anizy, which is ten miles west of Laon.

To the north the French are about two miles from the town of St. Gobain, the centre of the most famous glass factories in Europe. St. Gobain is thirteen miles northwest of Laon. No change has taken place in the neighborhood of St. Quentin, where the Germans are still making desperate efforts to wrest from the French the Essigny-Benay plateau, undisputed possession of which will, according to the military critics render the fall of the city inevitable and a further retreat of the Germans.

Furthermore, the British have made some slight progress, but no material change in the situation has taken place. Bad weather is reported to be seriously interfering with operations on this portion of the front.

Sporadic fighting has occurred in several of the other theatres, but nothing to indicate the commencement of major operations.

#### The Huns Now Threaten Italy With the Fate Which Befel Roumania and Serbia

ROME, via Paris, March 28.—The predicted great offensive against Italy by the Central Powers continues to be the chief topic of discussion in military and political circles. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is credited with aiming at an invasion of France across a prostrate Italy. In this connection, General Di Rossi, commander of the Montenegrin troops serving with the Italian army, writes: "A terrible and desperate attack is in preparation against our lines. Every one foresees it and even the enemy announces it in order to intimidate us by threatening Italy with the fate of Roumania and Serbia."

#### French Troops Continue to Make Progress And Have Captured Important Positions

PARIS, March 28.—The advance of the French in the region north of Soissons was continued during the night. Progress was made north of the Ailette river and east of the Leuilly and Neuville-sur-Margival line, where important positions were captured. These gains are recorded in today's official report, which also indicates unusual activity further east. The artillery of both the French and the Germans kept up a violent fire yesterday and during the night on the front between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. Heavy artillery fighting is in progress in the region east of the lower forest of Coucy.

#### AN IMPORTANT VISIT.

LONDON, March 28.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Amsterdam says: In Berlin political circles great importance is attached to a visit of the Austrian foreign minister to the German capital, which coincides with the visit of Enver Pasha, the Turkish minister for war, who arrived Sunday evening. It is persistently rumored in some circles that these visits are associated with new peace suggestions.

### NO MORE OVERSEAS COMMISSIONS

Ottawa, March 28.—The announcement that in future no more commissions will be granted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in Canada brings to a head a situation which has been developing for some time in connection with the large surplus of commissioned officers in Canada. There are estimated to be 400 surplus artillery officers alone, and in other lines there are also many with commissions, but no appointments.

### ROOSEVELT'S OFFER HAS BEEN REJECTED

New York, March 28.—The New York Sun this morning says: "Rumors have reached here that Colonel Roosevelt's offer to President Wilson of a fully manned and armed division has been rejected."

As the Colonel now is devil-fish fishing in Florida, no confirmation of the report could be obtained. When the news was conveyed to men known to have enlisted in the division, many of them said the Colonel would be urged to take his command to the European battle front by way of Canada. They are hopeful their commander's live of a fight will compel him to accept the suggestion if he feels that his action will not imperil his country.

From what can be learned of the division, it has at the present time between 60,000 and 75,000 men enrolled, all pledged to follow the leadership of the former president. The regimental colonels have been named, and the outfit has been almost completely officered. It is asserted by those who have knowledge of the enterprise that the entire force could be mobilized within four days.

### Accused of Murder; Committed Suicide

Brockville, Ont., March 28.—Arthur Free, who was on Monday committed to stand trial for the murder of Mrs. Hattie Hill at Seely's Bay, on March 2nd, committed suicide by hanging himself to the bars of his cell with a bed sheet during the night in the county jail here.

Attorney General Baxter is a guest at the Barker. Hon. Dr. aLadry, ex-M. P. P., is at the Barker House.

### AMERICAN FARMERS ARE WANTED IN ENGLAND

#### Sir Arthur Lee Hopes to Secure Five Thousand Of Them---American Tractor Ploughs to be Purchased---Canadian Labor to Assist.

LONDON, March 28.—"Five thousand skilled American farmers on English soil would go a long way toward combatting Germany's plan to starve us into submission through her submarines," Sir Arthur Lee, head of the newly formed food production department, told the Associated Press correspondent.

"I told you recently," Sir Arthur continued, "that we intended to bring from America some two thousand tractor ploughs for night plowing. We need the skilled American farmers to supplement them."

Sir Arthur Lee was British military attaché with the United States army during the Spanish-American war, and later was military attaché at the British embassy in Washington. He has seen service in the present war. His present post is an outgrowth of the intensified submarine warfare begun on February 1st. Sir Arthur is charged with the gigantic task of making every available foot of soil produce its maximum amount.

"I hope that we may be able to attract to these shores at least five thousand skilled farmers from the United States," said Sir Arthur. "We will, of course, get some skilled agricultural help from Canada—from the great Northwest—and we are already benefiting to some extent by the labor of Canadian farmers who have come over to fight for us. But we cannot have too many. Skilled farm labor is our crying need at this supreme moment in our struggle."

#### BRITAIN'S WAR PRISONERS.

LONDON, March 28.—Great Britain holds more than 71,000 prisoners of war, of whom 55,379 are Germans, while Germany has 32,500 British prisoners of war. Very few Britons are held as prisoners outside of Germany. Proposals for exchanges of prisoners have been considerably advanced with Turkey, but Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary have not replied to British suggestions.

### A BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK BY HUNS WITHOUT WARNING

#### Another Barbarous Act Laid at the Door Of German Pirates---Passengers Were Safely Landed on the Shores of an Unnamed Estuary.

LONDON, March 28.—The survivors of the British hospital ship Austurias were landed at a village on the shore of an unnamed estuary. The villagers were aroused early in the morning by the noise of motor boats and other craft speeding to and fro, and hastened to the assistance of the refugees.

As many of the survivors as possible were supplied with clothes and wraps, but the village wardrobes were soon exhausted, and quilts and blankets were called into service.

The refugees said that the torpedo which sank the hospital ship struck near the stern and almost missed. One of the woman nurses on board, who was attached to the British field hospital in Serbia, said:

"We had no warning of any kind and we thought that an hospital ship would be sacred even to the Germans. Of course we had heard threats to the contrary, but the thing seemed so utterly barbarous that I dismissed it from my mind. We sailed through the Bay of Biscay without fear and without trying to avoid destruction. The Tusturias was attacked while she was blazing with light and easy to identify."

### IMPORTANT DEBATE IS ON IN THE BRITISH HOUSE

#### A Certain Measure of Woman Suffrage May be Proposed---Old Country Elections May be Held on the Same Day in Future.

LONDON, March 28.—An important debate is set for the House of Commons today in reference to a referendum of the parliamentary franchise. A conference held recently, which was presided over by the Speaker, recommended the following programme: A certain measure of woman suffrage, six months residence or the occupation of business premises to be the only qualification for voting; re-distribution of seats, proportional representation in large urban areas, all elections to be held on one day. Former Premier Asquith will move today for prompt legislation to give effect to these recommendations. Premier Lloyd George is expected to support the motion and to indicate the government's approval of woman suffrage.

Champions of woman's suffrage are exuberantly hopeful that their cause is won. There is, however, much difference of opinion in the House on this, and one of the other features of the proposed reforms. Arnold Ward, son of the novelist, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, is prepared to move an amendment declining to consider such a controversial subject as woman's suffrage during the war.

#### THE KAISER HAS DIABETES.

NEW YORK, March 28.—A news agency despatch from Berne today says: Kaiser William is suffering from a mild form of diabetes, and is undergoing treatment at Hamburg, according to wireless despatches received here today. His physicians were said to have given assurances that with a careful regime of treatment they can effect a cure, but worry is said to be retarding the Emperor's recovery.

### MURDER AND SUICIDE AT WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Man., March 28.—Running amuck and brandishing a 38 calibre revolver at a meeting of Lodge No. 223, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, in the Travellers' Building last night, Anton Lofy, of 823 Dufferin avenue, shot and wounded E. H. Cook, of Moose Jaw, and Wm. R. Todd, of Winnipeg, officers of the organization, and afterwards committed suicide. It appears that Lofy was once discharged from the service of the C. P. R. as a brakeman.