

FRENCH TROOPS CONTINUE THEIR BRILLIANT ADVANCE

French Pushing Forward Steadily at St Quentin

Great Battle Raging With Unabated Fury---Honors Thus Far Have Been With the French---Firmly Hold All Ground Taken From the Enemy.

PARIS, March 26.—The battle of St. Quentin continues to rage with M. Harris, Gabarous, N. S.; A. J. Mo unabated fury. The honors of the last twenty-four hours' fighting have been with the French, who are pushing forward steadily, taking all the Sydney Mines, C. B. precautions that the nature of the operations calls for, and in the face of bellton, N. B. desperate resistance by the German forces.

The advance is necessarily slow, owing to the character of the ground. St. Quentin is protected on the northwest of the Omignon river, which, although only a brook, like most of the Somme tributaries, runs through a broad valley full of swamps and clumps of trees which greatly increase its defensive value. To the west the approaches to the city are over a bare, flat plain devoid of any natural obstacle, and with but few villages. Here A Year in the Pen the French advance is naturally most rapid, but the plain narrows and ends in a sharp point at St. Quentin. At Savy, the most favorably point, the Germans have built their main defensive line.

Notwithstanding the bad weather and difficult shape of the ground, the French continued last night to advance south of the Oise. The War \$1, was passed in the Federal court Office announces that the French patrols reached Folembray, south of the forest of Coucy. The statement follows: "Between the Somme and the Oise the Germans made repeated attacks during the night on the front between Essigny and Benay. All these attempts were checked by our fire or repulsed by our counter-attacks. Serious losses were inflicted on the ene- Public Hospital that the condition of my and we maintained completely the positions captured yesterday."

President Wilson Has Issued Orders to

Place United States on a War Footing WASHINGTON, March 26.-Naval recruiting officers all through the country, under orders from President Wilson today redoubled their efforts to bring the navy up to its full authorized strength of 87,000 enlisted men. Meantime, about twelve regiments of National Guards troops in various states were re-assembling to act as national police in important dis-

Ottawa, March 26 .- Casualties among Maritime men are reported as fol-

IN CASUALTY LIST

MARITIME MEN

Infantry. Killed in action-D. McDonald, Avon Antigonish Co., N. S. Died of wounds-H. Morrison, Eller lie, P. E. I.

Seriously ill-Lieut. Allan Hughes Digby, N. S. Previously reported missing, now re

maining on duty-J. A. McDougall Marion Bridge, C. B.; J. A. McIntyre Glace Bay, N.S.; J. M. McNeil, Iona N. S.; J. J. Surry, Sydney Mines, N.S. Donell, Inverness, N. S.: J. H. McInnis New Waterford, N. S.; H. Dicksor

Dangerously ill-A. Johnson, Camp Missing, believed killed-A. P. Nich-

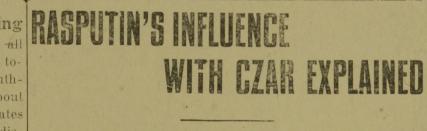
lson, Head of Montague, P. E. I. Mounted Rifles.

Presumed to have died-L. McLellan, Summerside, P. E. I.; J. Hatheway, Millville, N. B.; J. A. Haworth St. John.

For a German Spy

New York, March 26 .- Sentence of a ear and a day in the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, and a fine of here today on George Vuax Bacon, an American newspaper man, who plead ed guilty to going to England as a spy or Germany.

Slightly Improved. It is reported today from Victoria Deputy Sheriff John F. Timmins slightly improved.



PEOPLE IN FRENCH TOWNS JOYOUS OVER **RETURN OF LIBERTY**

Countless Flags Fluttered in the Sunshine From Ruined Houses---Soldiers Listen to Graphic Stories From the Natives, of German Barbarity.

(Staff Correspondent of Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 25 (via London, March 26) .- The shattered French towns evacuated by the Germans celebrated today their first Sunday of liberty in two and a half years. It was a brave showing they made. Countless French flags fluttered in the sunshine from both ruined and half-ruined homes, and the women, old men and children who had passed through such a long ordeal of captivity, strolled through the uptorn streets dressed in the best clothes they could muster. The unconquerable French genius for dress revealed itself even in such pathetic bits of finery as the women could find.

Here and there groups of the poilus gathered to listen to the graphic stories of the natives concerning their experiences under German rule. The villagers dwelt particularly on the time of terror which immediately preceded the departure of their enemies.

Many French Peasants Have Returned to Sites of Their Former Homes for Shelter

All civilians were herded in certain buildings from which they heard explosions and saw the fires which testified that their littles homes were being destroyed. The towns where the inhabitants of the region were concentrated by the Germans were only half-razed, while the outlying villages were completely burned down. In this way about half of a town was spared to about ten villages compeltely destroyed.

Despite the devastation and ruin, many French peasants returned today to the sites of their former homes, seeking temporary shelter and bringing bits of furniture with which to begin life anew. They were not downcast, but cheerful

tricts. Arrangements also were being made to create on May 1st two new military departments on the Atlantic coast.

All three steps were in accordance with orders issued yesterday by the President to put the nation on a war footing. About 20,000 men will have to be enrolled at once in order to bring the navy up to the required strength. The men will be used to man the reesrve ships.

Wilhelmshaven, One of Germany's Chief

Naval Stations, is Closed to the Public LONDON, March 26.-A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Amsterdam says Wilhelmshaven newspapers announce that the harbor of Wilhelmshaven will be closed to the public for the next fortnight, and that a special permit from the Admiralty board will be necessary for admission to the docks. The reason for the order is not given, the correspondent adds. Wilhelmshaven is one of Germany's strongest naval stations. It is situated on Jahde Bay, 33 miles northwest of Bremen.

REVOLT AGAINST BULGARIANS.

LONDON, March 26 .- Reuter's' Corfu correspondent says the Serbian press bureau has issuel a statement to the effect in food brought to Prince Alexis. that the inhabitants of Eastern Serbia are revolting against the Bulgarians and are organizing bands which are operating health of the young heir apparent grew steadily worse, until in the mountains and forests. The bureau's statement says Rasputin was summoned back to the court, when the powders the action of the Serbians is due to forced recruitng, wholesale requisitions and inhuman treatment by the Bulgarians.

FIVE GERMAN AIRPLANES SHOT DOWN.

tiles on factories at Thienville, and in the basin of Briey. a successor to him.

Russian Paper Says He Made Him Believe That the Health of Heir Apparent was in His Keeping- and lavishly decorated with tri-colors as a welcome to the Poisonous Powders Played an Important Part.

PETROGRAD, March 25, via London, March 26 .- The superstitious belief that the health and even the life of Grand Duke Alexis, the young heir apparent, depended on the prebuke Alexis, the young heir apparent, depended on the pre-sence of Gregory Rasputin, the mystic monk—a notion which RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE is generally known to have accounted for Rasputin's tremendous influence over the Imperial family-is explained in the following extraordinary manner by the Russky Slovo.

Poison was Used.

Rasputin, according to this paper, stated in confidence to ous powders from the physician and contrived to place them Persian frontier on the east.

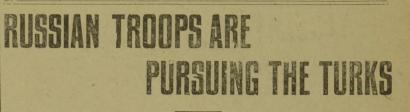
The result was that during Rasputin's absence the delicate were stopped and Aexis became immediately better.

Prophecy Came True.

Rasputin always announced that forty days after his death

and almost gay in the enjoyment of their liberty.

In Roye a triumphal arch was constructed of evergreens home-comers. In the distance could be heard the reverberating reports of the big guns, but the ceaseless booming was ignored by the people in the liberated zone, who seemed to think that the war must be over.



LONDON, March 26.- Russian detachments in Persia, friends at convivial moments that he was able to fortify this pursuing the Turks, have crossed the border into the Turkish superstition with the help of Madame Virubova, lady-in-wait- Vilayet of Mosul, according to an official announcement as ing to the Empress, and M. Badmaef, court physic:an, until the forwarded in a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. The Turk-Empress was absolutely convinced that the life of her son de- ish vilayet of Mosul has an area of about 35,000 square miles pended on the monk. Whenever Raspulin was absent for any and a population estimated at 350,000. It takes in the region length of time from the court, Madame Virubova, according to north of the vilayet of Bagdad and west of the Persian border, the monk's story, as given by the newspaper, obtained poison- the Bagdad vilayet bounding it in part on the south and the

ARMED SHIP CROSSED SAFELY.

WASHINGTON, March 26.-The American liner St. Louis the first armed ship to cross the Atlantic, has arrived safely at her destination, Secretary of the Navy Daniels announces.

U. S. PREPARING FOR WAR.

WASHINGTON, March 26.-Twenty additional complete PARIS, March 26.—Five German airplanes were brought Alexis would fall ill. This prophecy came true with startling infantry regiments and five additional separate battalions of down yesterday by our pilots. Two were destroyed by Adju- accuracy, being caused, the newspaper declares, by Madame National Guard troops have been ordered into the Federal sertant Ortoli, bringing up to eight the number of enemy ma- Virubova administering another powder, to the little Grand vice for the protection of property in the event of possibility of chines brought down thus far by this officer. One of our aer-ial squadrons last night dropped 4,000 kilograms of projeclar orders made public yesterday.