

French Claim Capture of Two Miles of Trenches in West

of its delivery to civilians, seems to be set with more difficulties than were originally evident. While making it clear that the subject had not been considered formally, officials stated such a procedure could be undertaken by the United States only with the acquiescence of all the belligerents.

CONSENT OF BELLIGERENTS

HAD BEEN OBTAINED

The situation in Belgium and in Germany proper were in this respect held by State Department officials to be analogous. It was revealed, however, that before Minister Whitlock and American organizations were permitted to supervise food distribution in Belgium, the consent of Germany, as well as Great Britain, had been obtained. For a neutral government to assist the civilian population of a belligerent to obtain supplies without the consent of the other belligerents would be neutral, according to American officials.

But while the situation presents many difficulties, officials are still hopeful that an understanding on the question of foodstuffs will be reached which may avert the necessity which Germany declares will ensue for making war on enemy merchant ships.

The British government has made its position clear on the principles under which conditional contraband will not be interfered with when destined to civilians in an enemy country, while the German government has stated that if it can get a food supply for its civilian population, it will receive from its submarine campaign.

These declarations contain no concurrence of views, but officials say that through the good offices of an intermediary a common ground for an understanding may be reached.

In this connection the British supplementary note, replying to the American note and shipping generally, was laid before President Wilson to-day. It contains a lengthy argument on the subject of American shipping, and concludes with observations on the subject of conditional contraband and the decree which forbids the supply of flour in Germany by the government.

FRENCH PRAISES VARIOUS BRANCHES OF HIS ARMY

Writes History of Land Battles Covering Period of November 20 to February 2.

KING'S PRESENCE ENCOURAGES REPORT GIVES DETAILS OF NUMBER OF SMALL INCIDENTS—FLYING CORPS PERFORMS SPLENDID SERVICE. TROOPS ARE EULOGIZED.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, February 16.—What might be termed a history of the land fighting on the Western front, from the time the King, Marshal Sir John French, and covering the period from November 20 to February 2, was made public by the press bureau this afternoon. In this review General French eulogizes the various branches of his army, and says:

"I may mention in particular the fine appearance of Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Divisions, composed principally of the battalions from India. Included in the former division was Princess Patricia's Royal Canadian Regiment. They are a magnificent set of men, and have done excellent work in the trenches."

"I have no reason to modify to any material degree my views of the general military situation as expressed in my dispatch of November 20," the report says.

"A salient feature of the period was the presence of the King, which was the greatest encouragement to the troops. The Prince of Wales joined the staff on November 18."

"During the experiences of heavy fighting, which ended in the last week of November, the French and British forces had become somewhat mixed up, owing to a certain amount of irregularity in the matter of supply and in securing unity of command. By the end of November I was able to concentrate my army in one era and to establish effective reserves."

CONSIDERABLE FALLING OFF IN ARTILLERY FIRE

"By the end of December there was a considerable falling off in the volume of artillery fire against our front by the enemy. Reconnaissance reports showed that a certain amount of artillery had been withdrawn. We judged also that the cavalry, except from one division of the guard, had disappeared. There did not appear to be a great diminution in the infantry holding the trenches."

Continuing, the report gives details of a number of small reconnoitering and patrol incidents. On November 22, the First and Second Divisions of the Fourth Army captured 800 yards of trench held by the Indian corps. The Meerut division made a powerful attack in the night, and by daybreak the line was entirely re-established. The operation was a costly one, involving many casualties. About a hundred men were taken prisoners, including three officers. Then English captured three machine guns and two trench mortars.

On December 27 concentration of the Indian corps was completed by the arrival of the Hibrand Brigade, from Egypt. The enemy on December 5 commenced a strong attack against the Third Corps, but were driven back with heavy losses. The attack was not renewed. The British casualties were slight.

LARGE FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM WEST

"During the early days of December," General French continues, "considerable withdrawals along the whole front involved the French commanders and myself to believe that the enemy had withdrawn considerable forces from the western theatre. Arrangements were made with the French army to commence an attack on the morning of the fourteenth, when a combined heavy artillery bombardment was opened by the French and the Second British Army."

"The Royal Scots Regiment attacked the Petit Bois near the village of Wytschaete. Facing a terrific gunnery they carried a German trench and captured two machine guns and fifty prisoners. The Gordon Highlanders forced the enemy to evacuate the front trench, but were finally compelled to fall back to their original position. The French division on the left was unable to progress. The possession of the western edge of the Petit Bois was, however, retained. Our casualties were seventeen officers and 407 men. The losses of the enemy were very considerable. Large numbers of dead were found in the 'Petit Bois'; a hundred were found in one trench."

ENEMY'S ADVANCED TRENCHES CAPTURED

"An attack by the Meerut Division on the left on the 19th was at first attended with considerable success. The enemy's advanced trenches were captured, but a counterattack drove the Indians back to their original positions. The Lahore Division captured two rows of trenches, but eventually had to vacate them. On November 30 the enemy bombarded heavily and attacked with infantry the Indian front, driving back the Hibrand brigade and capturing from the Indians a considerable part of the trench. The other British regiments stood firm, and the Indian regiments attempted to recapture the lost trenches. The divisions also two lines of trenches to the north of the village. Our counterattacks reached the enemy's trenches, but was driven back by an enfilade fire. Commander Leitch and Colonel Lemfrance was killed in the main attack."

"By counterattacking the forces were finally pushed in, and they also failed in the northern section of the defensive line. The left flank of the Scottish Highlanders was much exposed, and the Fifth Battalion was shortly left completely in the air by the retirement of the Hibrand brigade."

"The Highlanders and the Indian regiments were heavily attacked throughout the day. The Highlanders suffered heavily, but maintained their position until strong reinforcements of the original position. The Indian troops fought with the utmost steadfastness and gallantry."

"The weather was abnormally bad, precluding operations in the first three weeks of January. On the morning of the 29th of January a thick fog was made on the right of the front corps south of the canal of La Bassee. Early after a severe shelling, violent attack, using scaling ladders on the walls. They were repulsed with

WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

German

BERLIN, February 16 (by wireless).—The German staff to-day gave out this official announcement: "Western theatre.—The attacks of the enemy upon the trenches taken by German troops from the English near St. Eloy were yesterday repulsed; otherwise there have been no important developments in the west."

"Eastern theatre.—The fighting and the pursuits on and beyond the East Prussian frontier are proceeding very favorably. In Poland, north of the Vistula, German troops have occupied Bielek and Plock, after a short engagement. About 1,000 prisoners were taken. South of the Vistula there have been no important developments."

"Foreign newspapers are publishing the most absurd rumors concerning immense German losses in the fighting to the east of Bologno. Russian Poland, which began in February. It can be said that the German losses in these attacks were small in proportion to the successes attained."

French

PARIS, February 16 (2:50 P. M.).—The French War Office issued the following official statement this afternoon: "The British troops recaptured yesterday the two parts of the trench which they had lost the night before between St. Eloy and the Ypres Canal."

"On the front of the French armies the day of February 15 was, on the whole, calm. No infantry actions have been reported, and particularly important successes of our artillery are confirmed."

The War Office official communication issued to-night says that German trenches, three kilometres in extent (about two miles), have been taken in Champagne, northwest of Perthes and north of Beausejour. The text follows: "Along the whole front the day of February 16 has been favorable for us. In Belgium there has been an artillery engagement. A small French squadron has bombarded a German aviation park at Ghistelles. A small British squadron has bombarded Ostend. To the south of Ypres the British army are masters of a number

Russian

PETROGRAD, February 16.—The following official statement from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was made public to-night: "In the region of Augustowo (Northern Poland) our troops on February 15 stubbornly fought numerically superior German forces who were attempting to envelop both our wings. A German column is advancing from Grajewo (across the East Prussian border in Poland from Lyck) to Ossowetz. "Between the Vistula and Skrwka Rivers the enemy has reached the front of Plock-Racionz. "On the Bzura we have repulsed attacks of little spirit by the Germans near the Zylva farm. On the other positions on the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading. "In the Carpathians the situation is virtually unchanged. Our troops have made progress on the left bank of the upper San. We captured several officers and 600 soldiers. We also repulsed successfully stubborn German attacks near Kosluzka and Wyszok. In Bukowina the enemy has captured Nadworna, across the Serth River."

British

LONDON, February 16 (10:20 P. M.).—In the absence of any striking news from the two European battle fronts, public attention in England to-day was centred on the threatened blockade of the British Isles by German submarines and mines in retaliation for Great Britain's act in prohibiting the carrying of food to Germany. "Great Britain received to-day through Ambassador Page, Germany's offer to withdraw her threat of a blockade if the British navy will permit the free movement of foodstuffs to the civil population of Germany. It is not believed here the offer will be accepted. In fact, Great Britain already is preparing to retaliate against Germany by placing under more stringent control ships destined to German ports, and a proclamation momentarily is expected declaring a blockade of the German coast, or, at any rate, the prohibition of foodstuffs destined for Germany. The Cabinet considered this question to-day, and it is understood the decision is awaiting formal confirmation of the Privy Council. VESSELS ARE MOVING AS FREELY AS USUAL

In the meantime British and neutral vessels are moving as freely as usual, except those belonging to a few Dutch lines, which have reduced their number of sailings. Norwegian and Danish insurance companies have given instructions that steamers insured by them shall have their national colors, the names of the ships and the country of their origin painted conspicuously on the sides of all vessels. Holland and Italy, like the United States, have protested to Germany against her sea warfare threat, and have asked Great Britain not to make free use of neutral flags. Similar representations are expected to be made to the two countries to-morrow in a joint note by Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

On the battlefields of Europe military movements of the first importance are taking place, especially in the east. The German offensive, strongly supported by fresh troops, is being pushed with great vigor both along the East Prussian frontier and in Poland north of the lower Vistula. The Russians have evacuated East Prussia, except for a small area near Lyck, and also are apparently falling back in North Poland, for the Germans to-day announced the occupation of Plock and Bielek, which the Russians recaptured from them a short time ago.

STRATEGICAL RETIREMENT TO FORTIFIED LINE

While the Germans seem to have inflicted heavy losses on the retreating Russian armies, military men here and the newspaper correspondents in Petrograd continue to refer to the Muscovite movement as a strategical retirement to the fortified line along the Niemen River, which runs through Kovno, Grodno and Lomza and thence southwestward to the fortress of Novogeorgiewsk.

Heavy fighting continues in the Carpathians and Bukowina. In Bukowina the Russians also are falling back, but they continue to hold the Carpathian passes farther west, and are offering stubborn resistance to the Austro-German offensive in that region. Here the armies are fighting in deep snow, and both sides are suffering severely.

The large number of troops the Germans are using in the east, military observers here believe, will prevent for some time any attempt by the Germans to break the western deadlock.

Although there have been no events of outstanding importance on this front, a long official report of the British operations from November to the beginning of February, issued to-day, shows that there is more or less activity there. The report says there has been a lot of trench fighting, in which the Indians and British territorials have distinguished themselves. General French, in the report, pays high tribute to the Indians. He says the territorials have far more than justified the most sanguine hopes entertained of their value in the field. The report adds that reinforcements are arriving regularly.

FIRST OF PROMISED BIWEEKLY REPORTS

The first of the promised biweekly reports of the doings of the British army in France also was issued to-day. It claims that progress has been made

OFFENSIVE OF GERMANS IS PUSHED WITH VIGOR

Russians Evacuate East Prussia, Except for Small Area Near Lyck.

FALL BACK IN NORTH POLAND

Kaiser's Forces Announce Occupation of Plock and Bielek—Petrograd Refers to Muscovite Movement as Strategical Retirement.

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Canada Asks for Guards on U. S. Side of Border

OTTAWA, ONT., February 16.—The Dominion government has asked the United States to place guards on the American side of the international boundary at highway and rail approaches to Canada. It was learned to-night. The request was made through the British ambassador at Washington.

The recent attempt on the Canadian-Pacific bridge at Vancouver by Werner Hlora and reports of confidential representatives as to the state of feeling of certain Germans and Austrians in the United States have led to the request. It is believed here that the American government will grant Canada's request.

In the region of La Bassee, where the Germans are said to have suffered severe losses, and that the British artillery has shown marked superiority over that of the Germans. There was no further news to-day of the new German offensive in Alsace or the French offensive in the vicinity of St. Mihiel.

The relations between Greece and Turkey apparently are becoming more strained. Although Turkey has offered reparations for the insult to the Greek military attaché at Constantinople, it is reported that the Greek minister has left the legation in charge of a secretary. The Turkish minister also has left Athens. This is believed in some quarters to be the first step in the rupture of diplomatic relations between Greece and Turkey, which are said also to have been affected by the Albanian invasion of Serbia.

The British Parliament to-morrow will debate the motion of the Labor party calling on the government to fix maximum food prices.

NEW ANCHOR LINER ARRIVES

The Tuscania in New York After Maiden Trip from Glasgow.

NEW YORK, February 16.—The new Anchor Line Tuscania arrived to-day on her maiden trip from Glasgow and Liverpool. She was built at Glasgow, and is of 14,000 tons gross register. She brought 353 passengers and more than 3,000 sacks of mail. Thomas Williams, a native of Wales, on his way to Canada, jumped overboard during the voyage and was lost.

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CHILDREN'S SCHOOL SHOES \$1

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GHENT TREATY DAY

"Celebrates a century of peace among English-speaking peoples." It is also significant to note that FEBRUARY 17th marks the birthday of the

Old Dominion Trust Company

the strongest Trust Company in the South Atlantic States, and which serves to secure "peace" in the homes of those whose WILLS it has prepared and which are in safe keeping in its vaults.

A Strong Management, Financial Strength and a Service That Safeguards Every Interest of Its Depositors.

These qualities combined in a marked degree have secured for the Old Dominion Trust Company the confidence of the people.

The men who direct its affairs stand for all that is best in the business life of Richmond. They have been eminently successful in the management of their own affairs, and some of the greatest business successes of Richmond have been brought about by the energy and foresight of those who are now giving their valuable experience to the management of the Old Dominion Trust Company. This combined "experience" is being devoted to the service of depositors and patrons. These services assure superior advantages to those for whom we act as

Administrator, Executor, Guardian, Conservator, Assignee, Receiver or Trustee.

In appointing the Old Dominion Trust Company you eliminate accident, temptation, indifference, carelessness—because every act is reduced to a reliable system by men who know how.

Our location is convenient; requires little effort to call, and the welcome you will find is cordial and sincere. We will be glad to meet you and make all details clear.

Old Dominion Trust Company
The Strongest Trust Company in the South Atlantic States
Main Street at Ninth Richmond Virginia

Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$1,000,000.
Three per cent on balances, compounded.

BANISH SCROFULA

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cleanses the Blood, Skin Troubles Vanish.

Scrofula eruptions on the face and body are both annoying and disfiguring. Many a complexion would be perfect if it were not present! This disease shows itself in other ways, as bunches in the neck, inflamed eyelids, sore ears, wasting of the muscles, a form of dyspepsia, and general debility.

Ask your druggist for Hood's Sarsaparilla. This great medicine completely eradicates scrofula. It purifies and enriches the blood, removes humors, and builds up the whole system. It has stood the test of forty years, and has received thousands of testimonials of the entire satisfaction it has given.

Scrofula is either inherited or acquired. Better be sure you are quite free from it. Get Hood's Sarsaparilla and begin taking it to-day.



Tie up to our shoe store if the comfort of your feet is worth while.

Our shoe man has feet of his own—they're his tender point—his strong point is shoe knowledge.

Take him into your confidence.

The Berry Shoe, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00.

The Hanan, \$7.00 and \$7.50.

Amongst them are the new Spring Tan Shoes at \$5.00.

Shoes for boys, too!

C. H. Derry

THE SAVINGS BANK OF RICHMOND
1117 E. MAIN ST.

The money in the Savings Bank is always ready. This cannot be said of any other investment.

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Cor. Fifth and Broad Streets.

DARING AIR RAID ON BELGIAN TOWNS

(Continued from First Page.)

bruges, the main object of the raid, was clear.

Over Middelkerke the British flyers poured a rain of projectiles upon the German batteries set up in the dunes outside the town. Following the line of wagon road toward Ghistelles, a German wagon train was attacked. Evidently satisfied that the French were taking care of the German flyers at Ghistelles, the British swept on to Zebrugge.

Here they took up the work where they had left off on the previous raid. The mole, where the German submarines are reported to be assembling, and where several German batteries are mounted, was attacked. The air-men turned their attention to further damaging the locks of the canal which connected the port with Bruges. Their object was to widen the breach already opened.

TRAWLERS BOMBARDED AND SEVERAL DAMAGED

Trawlers, used by the Germans in mining operations, anchored in considerable number outside of Zebrugge, were bombarded, and one report from the Holland frontier says several of them were damaged. The admiralty statement gives no details of the damage inflicted, but says the reported result of the raid is "good."

SHIP BILL PASSES HOUSE, 215 TO 121

(Continued from First Page.)

parent that a vote probably could not be reached before midnight.

Representatives Humphrey, of Washington; Moore, of Pennsylvania; Madden, of Illinois, and many other Republicans spoke against the measure, and Representatives Adamson, of Georgia; Small, of North Carolina; Eagle, of Texas; McKeller, of Tennessee, and other Democrats supported it.

The tactics of the Republicans, threatening to drag out the roll calling indefinitely, the Democratic leaders at midnight brought in a second special rule to limit the number of yeas and nay votes to five.

Before Chairman Henry could get the floor and offer his new rule, Representative Mann forced a vote on the first section of the Gore bill, after securing a ruling that each section must be voted on separately, and another roll call was begun.

EFFORT TO BRING ENGLAND TO TERMS THROUGH FORCE

(Continued from First Page.)

this reason a strong warning was issued.

"In addition, the English coast has been mined by the British themselves for protective reasons, and would be mined by the Germans as an act of offensive warfare. Ships were, therefore, in danger from mines."

NAMES CONDITION ON WHICH MATTER WILL BE DROPPED

"In spite of the great effect, the admiralty staff feel the use of the submarine will have in bringing the war to a rapid close, the admiralty do not wish to put it into effect to the detriment of neutral commerce and the rights of nations on the high seas. They, therefore, have stated that if Great Britain will abide by the Declaration of London, or by the treaty of Paris, whereby food supplies for the civil population can be freely brought into Germany, the whole matter of a submarine blockade will be dropped by Germany."

ADMIRAL BEHNCKE CALLED COMMANDER

Cherrard's attention to the fact that when Great Britain closed the North Sea she did not give free passage to American ships bound for the neutral country of Holland, but compelled the ships to pass through certain channels, take an English pilot, and undergo a search for contraband of war at the hands of officers of British warships.

Admiral Behncke then said that Germany was prepared to suggest to the United States an even freer and safer method of passage for American ships bound either through the channel or to English ports, namely, that several American warships should wait in some port on the southwest coast of Ireland, and, when communicated with by wireless by an American merchantman, one should proceed to the place indicated, and convey the merchantman through that port to the sea which Germany, following the example of Great Britain, has declared to be dangerous.

SHIPS UNDER CONVOY NOT SUBJECT TO SEARCH

"Of course," said the admiral, "ships under convoy, by the rules of international law, are not subject to search, but the country to which they belong is, upon its honor, as it were, to see that they do not carry contraband of war."

"American warships have distinctive masts, and, either by night or day, they and vessels convoyed would be respected by a safe method to follow for American ships which desire to enter those portions of the seas proclaimed dangerous by Germany, and differ only from the rule adopted by Great Britain with reference to American ships passing through the channel of the American ship, instead of being compelled to take a British pilot and be searched

heavy losses. Over 200 killed were found. Our casualties were inconsiderable.

"On February 1 some of the Coldstream Guards at Culneigh were driven out of their trenches at 2 A. M., and made a stand twenty yards to the east. They held this position until morning. The ground was finally recaptured by the aid of reinforcements, and at the same time we took another German trench, two machine guns and thirty-two prisoners."

"The flying corps has performed splendid service. It has flown in miles, a number of aerial combats have been fought, and various successful raids carried out. The enemy's machines invariably retreat when chased. Five have been brought to the ground. The yeomanry and territorial troops are highly praised. The report concludes: "The troops composing the army in France have been subjected to as severe a trial as it is possible to suppose upon any body of men. Nevertheless their spirit remains high and their confidence undaunted."

General French adds that reinforcements are arriving from England with promptitude and rapidity.

RAYMOND DU PUY PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIAN RAILWAY

NEW YORK, February 16.—Raymond Du Puy was to-day promoted from the vice-presidency to the presidency of the Virginian Railway, according to reports received here this evening, while Mr. Hotchkiss was made chairman of the board.

NORFOLK, VA., February 16.—Announcement that Raymond Dupuy, since the death of H. H. Rogers executive head of the Virginian Railway, had been elevated to the presidency of that road, has not been made in Norfolk, although Mr. Dupuy's election occurred in New York two days ago.

Mr. Dupuy has served the Virginian as vice-president and general manager, and the road has had no president. Reports have been circulated here that interests in New York seeking to gain control of the Virginian planned to put in a man of their own selection as president and push to completion the extension of the Virginian to the Great Lakes and a through Western connection.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIAN IN NEW YORK ALSO ELECTED C. W. HOTCHKISS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. MR. HOTCHKISS IS EX-GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CHICAGO, INDIAN AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

Pending official announcement of the road's plans, none of the Virginian officials in Norfolk to-night would discuss the election of the board.

YOUR WILL AND THIS Trust Company

MANY a mountain o' trouble turns out to be a mole hill after all when viewed calmly through the haze o' pipe smoke.

Retreat for

Expell all Mephitic Tendencies

All our "imaginary" troubles and most of the real ones find it hard to withstand the cheerful influence of a pipe of VELVET. The Smoothest Smoking Tobacco. 16c tins and 5c metal-lined bags.

Expell all Mephitic Tendencies