

The Hindu Organ.

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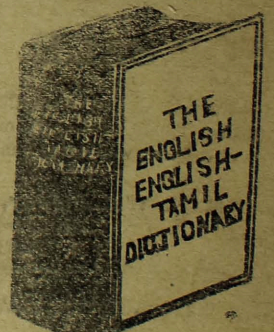
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Up Day Train 7.25 A.M. Colombo
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Day Train 6.5 A.M. Kankasanturai
to Maradana will run only on Mon-
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Up Night Train 7.0 P.M. Colombo
Fort to Kankasanturai will run
only on Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays and Saturdays.

Down Night Train 5.30 P.M. Kanke-
santurai to Colombo Fort will run
only on Tuesdays, Thursdays,
Saturdays and Sundays.

The present 5.40 P.M. local train be-
tween Kankasanturai and Pallai will in
future leave Kankasanturai 4.0 P.M. run
correspondingly early and arrive Pallai
5.0 P.M. For detailed particulars and
times at intermediate stations see bills
exhibited at stations.

Colombo, G. P. GREENE,
March 21st, 1917. General Manager.



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1917.

AN UNMERITED STIGMA ON
JAFFNA CHARACTER.

The "Times of Ceylon" of the 12th
instant quoted a paragraph which we ex-
tract elsewhere from a judgment of Mr.
Paul Pieris, District Judge of Jaffna,
in which the men and women of
Jaffna, are stigmatised as having an "un-
fortunate reputation in regard to truth-
fulness". This paragraph has been copied
the next morning in the morning
dailies of Colombo and wider publicity
has been given to the slander on the fair
name of the people of Jaffna. The effect
of this will be highly disastrous to their
interests and welfare, unless prompt steps
be taken by them to vindicate their hon-
our and reputation as a people who are
not, to say the least, inferior in these
respects to the people in other parts of
the Island. The slur now cast by Mr.
Pieris is on a community the members
of which are, on account of their enter-
prise and sturdy character, called "the
Scotchmen of the East." While the mem-
bers of other indigenous communities in
Ceylon content themselves, in their
idleness and apathy, to remain at home,
showing little or no enterprise, the
Tamils of Jaffna are found holding prom-
inent and responsible positions, in every
profession and walk of life, not only in
all parts of Ceylon, but also in India,
Burmah, the Straits and the Federated
Malay States. They cannot so well suc-
ceed in life, trusted by Governments and
the public alike, in all these places, if,
in addition to "other admirable qualities"
for which Mr. Pieris gives them credit,
they do not possess the most important
of qualities—truthfulness.

We understand from lawyers practising
in the Colombo Courts that cases of the
description mentioned by Mr. Pieris are
not few and far between in those Courts.
It was only a few months ago a Jaffna
gentleman was victimised in the sum of
Rs. 20,000 by some Sinhalese by inducing
him or his agents to lend that amount on
some fictitious landed property. Yet the
District Judge of Colombo did not ques-
tion the reputation for truthfulness of
the Sinhalese, men and women, in his
judgment.

When an individual is slandered by
another individual there is remedy by
instituting an action for libel and the
offender can thus be brought to justice.
But is there no remedy when a whole
community, men and women, are stig-
matised by a District Judge in a judg-
ment widely published, as "having an un-
fortunate reputation in regard to truth-
fulness"?

Members of every community should
not only jealously maintain and vindicate
their own reputation, but more jealously
the reputation of the community to which
they belong. It goes without saying
that the evil effects of the undeserved
slur cast on the people of the North by
the present District Judge of Jaffna and
published broadcast would be incalcul-
able.

OUR LABOUR SUPPLY.

(Communicated.)

Jaffna is mainly an agricultural district,
and agriculture depends largely on labour.
When we consider the question of our
labour supply, the position of Jaffna must
cause great anxiety. It is true that a
few of the sons of our soil go abroad and
make some money and remit the same to
Jaffna, but their percentage to the per-
manent population of Jaffna is quite in-
significant. The permanent population
depend largely on agriculture, which
under the existing circumstances is not a
paying concern, the chief reason being
scarcity of labour. If the present state

of things continue for some time longer,
agriculture will have to be given up, and
Jaffna will be deprived of its main re-
source.

Jaffna was once supposed to be a place
noted for cheap living, but it is not possi-
ble to say this of Jaffna now. With the
progress of modern civilization, our de-
mands have enormously increased while
our resources are very much reduced.
The money that finds its way into Jaffna
cannot bear comparison with the money
that goes out of Jaffna every year in var-
ious ways; and there is therefore a large
drainage on our capital. This drainage
can only be stopped or reduced if the
agricultural condition of our country is
improved; and to improve the agricultural
condition, we have to improve our labour
supply.

The rate of wages may be said to have
trebled within the last fifty years; and
the same may be said of our demands of
daily life. The ruling rate of wages in
the seventies was only four fanams or
twenty-five cents a day, while at present
it has gone up to 62 or 75 cents and even
higher. This is evident from the fact
that the road tax during those days was
only 1 shilling 8 pence per head, while at
present it has been raised to two rupees.
The labourers fix their own rates, and
land owners are at the mercy of labourers.

One of the reasons for the increased
cost of labour is that there is a general
tendency to despise labour. The present
educational system is partly responsible
for this. It is not that we discourage
education, but the education that we im-
part must be able to impress on the
young mind that labour is not an item to
be despised.

It must also be pointed out in this con-
nection that the Excise system introduced
by Government has largely affected our
labour supply. The working classes con-
sider it more lucrative to extract toddy—
and more respectable too. A toddy draw-
er will not condescend to work in the
fields—and the toddy that he extracts
renders a large number of people unfit
for work.

This is a state of things that demands
the serious consideration of the leaders of
our community who should take early
steps to arrest the progress of what may
be called the *labour disease*.

A labour agency should be established
in Jaffna to introduce Indian labour and
an agricultural association of cultivators
and farmers should be formed on the
lines of the Up-country Planters' Associ-
ation in order to regulate our labour sup-
ply and control the market rate of wages.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—Refreshing showers of
rain fell on Saturday last.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT.—Mr. Hors-
burgh, the Government Agent, returned from
circuit, accompanied by the Chief Mudaliyar
on the 24th instant.

SUBSCRIBERS.—to whom appeals were sent
re their subscriptions, are reminded of the
appeals and requested to remit their dues
promptly.

THE NORTHERN LINE TRAIN SERVICE.—We
publish elsewhere the advertisement re the
above service commencing from March 25

THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT.—Mr. J. S. Nich-
olas, Assistant Superintendent of Excise, Anu-
radhapura, has been appointed to act as
Assistant Superintendent, Kandy, in the
place of Mr. Grenier who has been appointed
a Police Magistrate. He is the eldest son of
P. Nicholas Mudaliyar, Chief Clerk and Extra
Office Assistant, Jaffna Kachcheri.

—Mr. N. S. Sanders, Excise Inspector, has
been appointed to act as Assistant Superin-
tendent of Excise, Anuradhapura.

CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION RESULTS.—It is
reported that the Cambridge Examination
results cannot be expected in Ceylon before
the end of May or early June.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Mr. G.
S. Schneider, who has been appointed to act
as Attorney General during the absence of
the Hon. Sir Anton Bertram, K. C., on leave,
took his oath on Friday, before Mr. Justice
Shaw.

THE CHIEF CENSOR.—Mr. John Scott,
Chief Censor, takes up duties as Principal
Assistant Colonial Secretary by the end of
the month, and Mr. R. N. Thaine who is at
present acting as Police Magistrate of
Colombo will succeed Mr. Scott as Chief
Censor.

AN AT HOME.—Mr. S. G. Watson, Proctor,
Supreme Court, will be "At Home" on the
27th instant from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Victoria

Masonic Hall, Galle Face, in anticipation of
his marriage.

A PUBLIC LECTURE.—At the next meeting
of the Y. M. H. A., Chulipuram, to be held
in the Victoria College Hall, at 4 p.m., on
Thursday the 29th instant, Mr. N. R. Rama-
chandra Iyer, B.A., will deliver a lecture on
"Heat, Light and Sound".

NEWSPAPER PROHIBITION.—The Govern-
ment of India have decided to prohibit the
import of old newspapers in bulk. The pro-
hibition will only be applied to consignments
shipped ostensibly for their value as waste
paper for packing and other purposes.

GRAND SOCIAL FUNCTION AT TALAWAKOLLE.
—On Sunday the 18th instant the numerous
friends of Mr. N. Kandiah, late Cashier and
Book-keeper of Talawakolle Engineering
Works Ltd., assembled at the residence of
Mr. J. K. Parippanayagam of Talawakolle
Estate to entertain him at a farewell function
after a residence of 18 (eighteen) years. Mr.
Kandiah was very popular with one and all
and the assembly of his several friends and
relations showed the esteem and high regard
in which he was held among them. After
light refreshments were lavishly served Mr.
S. Kathiravelu, the Station Master, in well
chosen words spoke highly of the sympath-
etic and other good qualities of Mr. Kandiah
and handed him a well filled purse, to all of
which Mr. Kandiah thanked his friends most
cordially. Among those present were noticed
Mr. T. Saravanamuttu, N. Thambyrajah, Samy
Cooke, S. Kathiravelu, K. Mootamby, S. Pon-
niah, Lionel Thambyrajah, V. Ganapathipillai,
Singarayar, Arulampalam, Palapillai, Nalliah,
W. Thuraiappah, K. Candiah and Nagalingam
of Caladonia, S. Bastiampillai, Nicholas Pon-
niah, S. Sellappah, Tillampalam, K. T. Can-
diah, Canagasabai, Ponnampalam, S. Kanaga-
sabayath and a host of others.

A FAREWELL FUNCTION.—A farewell func-
tion took place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday
the 7th February, 1917, at the residence of
Mr. V. Supramaniam, District Dresser,
Bahan, which was well decorated for the pur-
pose with flowers etc. in honour of the de-
parture of Mr. G. V. Ratnam of the Engineer-
ing Department to Ceylon on long leave
after a period of more than six years
service in the F. M. S. Among the friends
present on the occasion, were Messrs.
R. Kandiah, First Clerk, D. E.'s Office,
Ganapathipillai, Station Master, P. Nagalin-
gam, O. I. C. R. malingam, Telegraph Inspect-
or, P. Appucuddy, 2nd Clerk, D. E.'s Office,
V. Subramaniam, District Dresser, J. V.
Mirandah, Overseer, Thamotharampillai
Telegraph Clerk, S. Sanmugam D. E.'s Office
and many others. Mr. Nagalingam nephew
of Mr. Sivaprasadpillai, Notary Public,
Vannarpannai West, occupied the chair.
Speeches were made by several gentlemen
present and Mr. Ratnam suitably returned
thanks. He was seen off the following day
at the Railway Station by a very large num-
ber of friends.

—Cor.

WOLF'S COMET.—Mr. J. E. Evans states
that through pressure of work caused by de-
pletion of staff, this object has not as yet
been looked for at the Observatory. That it
was found on April 24th, 1916, and will not
reach its perihelion point until June 17th of
this year leads one to hope that it will soon
become an object that will be readily perceived
with the naked eye. It is now distant by
about 190,000,000 miles and is merely a tele-
scopic object rising due East about 5 hours
before the sun. About an hour before dawn
it will be well placed for observation.

—The Ceylonese March, 21.

THE LATE MR. S. MUDIR VISUVAFFAH.—
As announced in our last issue the death of
this gentleman occurred at Chunnakam at
noon on Thursday the 22nd instant. The
funeral took place the next morning and was
very respectably and largely attended. The
remains were cremated at the Chunnakam
crematorium. The late Mr. Visuvaaffah was
the second son of the late Mr. V. Sinaappa
Mudaliyar, Maniagar, Valikamam North. He
was born in 1864 and was educated at the
Jaffna College, and the Colombo Agricultural
School. He was personal assistant to his
father when the latter was Maniagar and
also Registrar of Marriages, Births and
Deaths till the time of his death. He was a
very religious and charitable gentleman and
took great interest in local public movements.
He was also one of the Directors of the Jaff-
na Hindu College. His simple manners and
amiability are well-known to those who knew
him. His younger brother Mr. Appadurai
(Head Clerk, P. R. O. Jaffna) predeceased
him, and his elder brother Mr. Mootamby
survives him. Mr. M. Ponnudurai of the
P. W. D. and Mr. E. Arumainayagam of the
Sanitary Board Jaffna are his nephews. Mr.
R. Kanagasundaram, Sub Inspector of Schools
Jaffna and Mr. R. Ratnam, Interpreter, Taiping,
are his brothers-in-law. Dr. V. Vaithalingam
Medical Officer, Udappussellawa and Mr. A.
Muttucumaraswami of the G. P. O., Colombo,
are his first cousins. We extend our heartfelt
sympathy to the bereaved widow, the aged
mother, and others who bemoan his loss.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE
BOARDERS' UNION.

This function came off on Saturday last. A
large number of the Directors of the College, the
friends of the institution and the present and past

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE FRENCH FRONT.
A BIG ADVANCE.

London, March 19.
A French *communiqué* reports:—Our light detachments are keeping in close touch with the enemy and continued the advance without stop. We reached the Ham-Nesle Railway East of Nesle at several points, and occupied Guisard, North of Noyon, and advanced our patrols along the national road of St. Quentin. We captured the second German position East of the Oise. We have now liberated about 100 French townships and villages in the last three days. The enemy has shamefully devastated and pillaged many localities. Thousands of inhabitants, whom the Germans were unable to drive away, are coming to welcome us.

ADVANCE ON 100 MILES FRONT.

Events are moving with bewildering rapidity on the Western Front. The Germans are still holding to their formula of withdrawing according to plan, but there is no longer any doubt that a serious breach has been made in Germany's famous wall of steel. The breach extends from Monchy, South-West of Arras, to Noyon Plateau, a distance of about 100 miles as trenches go. All the German Armies in this sector are falling back on the Belgian Frontier. The Allies are now within eight miles of St. Quentin and five miles from Cambrai, both very important centres. The capture of Noyon was a very important tactical and moral achievement, since it breaks the German salient menacing and pointed at Paris.

GERMANS ATTACK AT AVOCOURT.

After a violent bombardment Germans last evening powerfully attacked the Avocourt-Morthomme front. Our barrage and machine gun fire, smashed waves of assault on the greater part of the front before they could reach our lines and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. In the direction of Hill 804 and the edge of Avocourt Wood, where the enemy parties succeeded in penetrating our lines on a front of about 200 metres, lively hand-to-hand fighting occurred, in consequence of which the enemy were partly driven out of our advanced elements. Two enemy aeroplanes were brought down. Our air squadrons bombed factories and foundries at Thionville in the Briey basin, and convoys and marching enemy troops in region Guisard.

TEN NEW VILLAGES OCCUPIED.

London, March 21.
A French *communiqué* reports:—Skirmishes between our Cavalry and detachments of the enemy occurred on the road from Ham to St. Quentin. We brilliantly carried last evening Oustan-de-Saviennes and the village of Jussey East of Ham, despite the keen defence of the garrison. We occupied the general line of the Ailette South of Chaunoy. All the positions reached have been solidly organised. We made considerable progress in the night North and North-East of Soissons on the right and left of the Liron road and have taken ten new villages. We penetrated a German trench North of Chambray Farm on the right bank of the Meuse, which we had previously bombarded. We found there numerous enemy dead.

Somme Canal Crossed.

London, March 22.
A French *communiqué* says:—North of Ham the situation is unchanged. Our light troops maintained contact with the enemy between Remy and St. Quentin. We forced the passage in the morning East of Ham at two points: on the Somme Canal in the face of vigorous resistance. We cleared the North and East banks of the Canal and drove back the enemy as far as the out-lets of Claesre and Montesson. The enemy flooded this region. The majority of villages before our lines are burning in the region of St. Quentin. We progressed North of Tergnier. There were some skirmishes in the valley of the Ailette. The enemy, who were occupying in force the East bank of the Crozat Canal and the Ailette vigorously bombarded our lines. We made considerable progress North of Soissons, fighting several lively actions. The majority of the reconquered villages were ruined. East of the Meuse the enemy launched several attacks on Calonne trench. All failed.

Stubbornly Defended Points Taken.

London, March 22.
A French *communiqué* reports:—After a lively struggle we succeeded in extending our positions East of St. Quentin Canal in the region North of Tergnier. We drove the enemy from several important points which he had been stubbornly defending. We advanced in the night South of the Oise and North of Soissons and occupied several villages, despite lively enemy counter attacks in the region of Vregny.

Huns' Barbarity at Nesle.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, on March 21st (night), describes a visit to Nesle where he was afforded some of the most striking examples of the Huns' barbarous wantonness. The enemy hurriedly departed two days before they intended. Hence they discontinued the work of pickaxing the buildings and reducing them to mounds of rubble. Streets and bridges were blown up. He instances the treatment of the once beautiful Chateau Edouin which was untouched while the Germans lodged in it; it is now gutted of its contents. Every window pane is broken. The door panels are smashed in. The staircase is splintered. The inhabitants of Nesle had to stand alongside the Commandant. Whenever a civilian failed to salute the Commandant automatically, when answering his name, the Mayor gave three days' imprisonment.

Beyond Ham and Chaunoy.

London, March 20.
A French *communiqué* says:—During the day our troops advanced beyond Ham on the Somme and Chaunoy on the Oise. We hold numerous localities between both. Our Cavalry, operating over several kilometres North of Ham, captured a convoy retiring in the direction of St. Quentin. Our advance at this point attained a depth of 35 kilometres. Our detachments South of Chaunoy reached the line Ailette Soissons and entirely relieved the enemy pressure.

20 MORE VILLAGES FREED.

North East of Crouy our advanced elements progressed along the Manbeuge road. About twenty villages and small towns have been liberated. During the day, before retiring, the enemy laid waste the country. Fruitless trees were cut down and torn up by the roots. The fields were destroyed by mines. Roads and bridges were demolished. Numerous villages were incinerated. The inhabitants, starving and without shelter, were fed by the French troops. There was violent Artillery work in Champagne. We recaptured almost all the trenches on the left bank of the Meuse which the enemy penetrated. The fighting continues.

TERGNIER TAKEN: ST. QUENTIN CANAL CROSSED.

London, March 21.
A French *communiqué* says:—Between the Somme and the Aisne our troops made fresh progress, proceeding to occupy the reconquered zone. Our Cavalry North of the Somme advanced as far as the out-lets of Remy, seven kilometres from St. Quentin, where they gave chase to an enemy Cavalry patrol. North East of Chaunoy our Infantry occupied Tergnier and crossed the St. Quentin Canal. Some lively skirmishes with enemy detachments terminated to our advantage. During several days' pursuit our losses on the whole front were insignificant. Everywhere we found evidence of systematic vandalism, mostly without any Military object. Aviators report that the historic ruins of the Castle Concy were destroyed by an explosion. The Germans evacuating Noyon forcibly carried off fifty girls, of ages between 15 and 25.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

GERMAN RETREAT WIDENS.

London, March 19.
Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters on Monday said:—We continue to Press hard on the heels of the retreating enemy. Our reconnoitring patrols of which there is a considerable force, are frequently meeting Uhlans who are covering the rear guard. The result is much risk fighting, but the main enemy forces decline action. Whatever the enemy's tactical scheme it is certain we forestalled him and are hustling him to a degree that he did not anticipate. The weather is still dry and favourable to open fighting. Every German movement is being watched with cat-like vigilance and all along the line we are prepared to pounce. Our patrols have crossed the Arras-Bapaume road and the Railway at many points; and although we cannot yet claim to dominate these important roads, the Germans are certainly off them. In other words, the great salient has practically gone.

GREATEST CELEBRITY SINCE THE MARNE.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters shows that the British advance is the result of a very wide extension of the German retreat on the Northern and Southern pivots. The forward move now represents nearly one third of our whole line. The enemy are falling back at a rate probably unprecedented since the days succeeding the battle of the Marne. Bapaume was found less damaged than was expected. The dastardly act of poisoning the wells by the Germans is again being committed. The despatch concludes: I have just been informed that the British Cavalry have ridden in pursuit of the enemy North of Bapaume.

NEW BRITISH LINE.

London, March 20.
Reuter's Headquarters' correspondent, telegraphing today, says that the slowing down of the retreat is probably owing to the equinoctial gales roaring over Northern France. There have also been rain squalls, but insufficient to make the ground bad. Despite the tempestuousness we made considerable progress. Followed roughly from South of Arras our front runs through or in front of the following places:—Baurains, Mercatel, Boirey, Boirey-Bequerelle, Boyelles, St. Leger, Moiry, Vaulx-Vraucourt, Beugny, Haplingcourt, Barastre, Bus, Lechelle, Erimcourt, Moislains, Peronne, Dight, St. Christ, Iaconne, Canzy to the neighbourhood of Hamon Eastward of the bend of the Somme. Our Cavalry and Infantry patrols everywhere were active East of this line. We hold the line of the Somme in strength from Peronne Southward to Canzy. In several sectors between Arras and Bapaume our Cavalry maintained touch with the enemy all day yesterday. There was a good deal of skirmishing but no heavy fighting.

RAPID ADVANCE E. OF PERONNE.

London, March 21.
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—We advanced rapidly South Eastward and Eastward of Peronne, reaching points ten miles Eastward of the Somme. We occupied another forty villages in this area. The enemy were developing considerable resistance at a number of places between Nurlu and Arras, but the rear guards were steadily expelled from their positions. Progress continues. We carried out successful raids Eastward of Arras and North Eastward of Neuville-St. Vaast. We repulsed a raiding party Eastward of the latter. The enemy blew up a mine South-Eastward of Ypres, damaging their own trenches.

EIGHT MILES AND 40 VILLAGES.

London, March 20.
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—The pursuit continued, our Cavalry advanced guards driving back the rear guards. Ground was gained to a depth of from two to eight miles. Forty more villages were taken. Our trenches were raided in the neighbourhoods of Loos and Ypres. A few British are missing. Our aeroplanes, co-operating with the Infantry, did much valuable work.

WHERE WILL ENEMY STAND BE MADE?

The question of where the Germans will make their stand against their pursuers is still unsolved, but indications seem to point to a line covering Cambrai-St. Quentin-La Fere Laon. Cambrai is the centre of distribution of a wide district with well equipped factories and warehouses; also a great Railway junction for six lines equipped for the heaviest traffic, while numerous roads meet in the town. The loss of Cambrai would be a serious blow, affecting even the German forces at Lille and Ypres, as it would not only cut the great feeder line from Cologne through Maubeuge, but likewise would sever the line Me-z Sedan-Lille Oudenard running parallel to the old front. Bapaume Ridge was the last natural obstacle covering Cambrai. Masses of level agricultural country offering no marked Military position now

face the British, but this does not imply that fortifications do not exist. St. Quentin likewise stands on one of the main arteries of Europe with large canal traffic beside Railway links from Champagne Front with the North West. The whole district is a veritable network of Railways.

44 MORE VILLAGES CLEARED: A NEW LINE.

London, March 21.
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—Despite less favourable weather considerable progress was made on the greater part of the front of our advance Southward of Arras and a further fourteen villages were cleared of the enemy. We have now passed the general line Canzy-Estrees-en-Chaussée-Nurlu-Velu-St. Leger. We drove off a counter attack Southward of Arras and raided North-Eastward of Neuville-St. Vaast, bringing back prisoners. Our aeroplanes bombed with good results an important ammunition depot. During air fights a German machine was brought down in flames. Two were driven down. Three of ours are missing.

GERMANS FALLING BACK FASTER.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing this afternoon, says:—Squalls continued all night long, adding to the discomfort of the campaigning, but not affecting the ground, which remains practicable for the movement of horse, foot and guns. The Germans are leaving many civilian inhabitants, whose joy at their liberation is pathetic. This evening they were falling back faster and making less resistance between Ham and Peronne, but Northwards their retirement was more stubborn. Here our advancing troops frequently met with machine gun fire by the rear guards. It appears that the pivot of the great German swing has now reached Arras. South of Peronne our patrols are entering smoking villages seven miles East of the river. I am informed from an unimpeachable source that certain German Cavalry regiments were ordered to leave their horse dung near the wells. The inference is obvious.

STORMS CHECK ADVANCE: ENEMY RESISTANCE INCREASING.

London, March 22.
F. M. Sir J. D. Haig reports:—The enemy's resistance is increasing on the whole front Westward of St. Quentin to Southward of Arras. Heavy snowstorms impeded our advance. We carried out a successful raid North-Eastward of Arras. The enemy, counter-attacking across the open, had severe casualties. A small party raided our trenches Northward of Ypres and were driven out by machine guns. We dispersed another South Westward of Lens.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

STIRRING SCENES AT THE ADMIRALTY.

London, March 19.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd tells a graphic story of the fighting at the Admiralty, the last stronghold of the troops of the old regime. At the first sign of the Revolutionary movement the Army of Khabaloff, the General Officer Commanding at Petrograd, overriding the opposition of the Naval authorities, ordered a strong force of all arms to occupy the Admiralty. Fourteen cannon and twelve machine-guns were posted at the main entrance. The Revolutionaries began the siege on the following morning. There was a duel of machine-guns and rifles throughout the day and night. The superior number of Revolutionaries resulted in the gradual exhaustion of the defenders. The Minister of Marine was notified at daybreak that unless the Admiralty capitulated within twenty minutes it would be seized by the heavy guns from the Peter and Paul Fortress across the Neva, manned by the Guardsmen. Khabaloff was persuaded to withdraw his troops wing to representations that much invaluable apparatus might be destroyed. Khabaloff ordered "cease fire" and the garrison surrendered. Khabaloff and his Staff were arrested after the evacuation. The mob started pillaging. Rodzianko sent a Guard at the Admirals' request. The gates and doors were placarded: "Protected by the Duma."

Steps were taken to protect the Royal Palace at Tsarskoelsk, when the news of the revolution was received. Machine guns and armoured cars concentrated there. The Guards joined the revolutionary soldiers in due course, but a few officers and soldiers were still within the Palace buildings. The Tsaritsa asked these not to fire and then addressed the revolutionary officers: "I am now only a Sister of Mercy, with my children." The Tsarevitch and his sisters are suffering from measles.

33,000 TROOPS PARADE AT MOSCOW.

Moscow.—During the parade of 33,000 troops, many Regiments prominently displayed red flags. Most of the soldiers and some officers wore red favours.

POLICE AND FOOD MEASURES.

Petrograd.—The detective and gendarmic services are being reorganised and ex-Members are being sent to the front. The reactionary Metropolitan in Petrograd and Moscow have been compulsorily restored. The Presidents of the Zemstvos or Mayors are replacing the Provincial Governors in the management of the food supplies.

LIBERTY FOR FINLAND AT LAST.

Petrograd.—M. Korenki has ordered the Tobolsk District Court immediately to release M. Svinhayur, ex-President of the Finnish Diet, and arrange for his journey to Petrograd. The Cabinet will shortly discuss the issuing of a Manifesto concerning Finnish liberties. *Pourparlers* are proceeding with Baron Rosen, ex-Ambassador to Washington, with a view to his appointment as Governor General.

BLACK SEA FLEET ADHERES TO NEW REGIME.

London, March 21.
Petrograd.—The Black Sea Fleet has adhered to the new regime. The ex-Minister of Finance, Mr. Bark, has been released. It is proposed to raise a great "Liberty" loan.

The Tsar is at Mogilev on the Dnieper where the Dowager Empress visited him. The Dowager Empress has now returned to Kiev, whither she withdrew some time ago in consequence of her son not heeding her warning.

HISTORIC STORY OF THE ABDICATION.

TSAR'S DECISION TO GRANT RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT TOO LATE.

Reuter's Petrograd correspondent sends General Rusky's historic story of the abdication of the Tsar. He M. justy arrived at Vskoff in the even-

ing of March 14th and told General Rusky at 2 A. M. on the 15th that he had decided to grant responsible Government. A Manifesto to this effect lay on the table. An hour later General Rusky had a lengthy intercourse telegraphically with M. Rodzianko, who said the Tsar must abdicate. General Rusky meantime received messages from the Grand Duke Nicholas and leading Commanders advising similarly. Rusky conveyed to the Tsar their instructions and urged their acceptance in the interest of Russia and victory over the enemy. The Tsar declared his readiness but requested the presence of M. Rodzianko, who wired that he was unable to leave Petrograd. During the afternoon the Tsar summoned M. Rusky and handed a telegram of abdication for transmission to Petrograd. M. Rusky delayed despatching the telegram in consequence of learning of the impending arrival of one of the new Ministers, a Conservative Deputy, at which the Tsar appeared hopeful of a change in the situation. The envoys arrived at 10 P. M. and reported events. The Tsar was most impressed by the defection of the bodyguard and then stated that he intended to abdicate in favour of the Grand Duke Michael. He drafted the new document in ten minutes. Tense silence ensued while the typewritten abdication was being prepared. The Tsar signed and Baron Fredericks, Aide de Camp, countersigned. Half-an-hour later the Tsar by train left for Headquarters. The abdication was closely typed on a telegram form.

AMNESTY AND FINANCE MEASURES.

FINNISH DIET TO MEET.

Petrograd.—The Provisional Government has proclaimed a general political amnesty and also confirmed the Constitution of Finland and provided for an early convocation of the Finnish Diet and Government. It increased by two milliards of roubles the amount of notes that the State Bank may issue in War.

AMERICA AND GERMANY.

London, March 20.
Washington.—President Wilson has authorised the expenditure of £115,000,000 to speed up the Naval construction and purchase of auxiliary craft. 374 additional Naval officers will be secured by drafts from the Naval Academy.

16 OF "CITY OF MEMPHIS" CREW LANDED.

London, March 19.
16 of the crew of the "City of Memphis" have been landed. They state the ship was torpedoed on Saturday evening by two submarines. The steamer had no cargo.

CAPTAIN AND NINE MISSING.

London, March 20.
The Captain and nine of the crew of the "City of Memphis" are still missing.

TWO BELGIAN RELIEF VESSELS SHELLED.

London, March 20.
Amsterdam.—Two of the five Belgian relief vessels, provided with German safe conducts, have been shelled by a German submarine. Seven persons were killed.

DUTCH BOAT ALSO FIRED ON.

Stavanger.—The Dutch steamer "Selen," from Rotterdam for New York in blast, flying the relief flag, reports that she was attacked by a submarine. A boat was lowered, containing eight men. All were killed. The "Selen" put on full speed and escaped.

SINKINGS.

London, March 20.
An Italian Naval *communiqué* says:—448 vessels, of tonnage 429,060, entered Italian ports in the week ending March 15th, while 457, of tonnage 461,795, left. Only one small sailing ship and one steamer were sunk.

RIOTING IN BERLIN.

London, March 21.
Amsterdam.—A telegram from Oiderzell on the Dutch-German frontier says there are persistent rumours of great rioting in Berlin, whither the Eastern frontier regiments have gone to maintain order.

LORD FISHER'S WARNING.

London, March 21.
In the House of Lords Lord Fisher stated:—"When the country is in great jeopardy it is not the time to tarnish great reputations, asperse the dead and discover our weaknesses to the enemy. Therefore I shall not discuss the Dardanelles Commission's Report. I shall await the end of the War, when all the truth can be made known".
—The Ceylon Observer.

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