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The Toronto World

WEDNESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 10 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,482

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BRITISH ADVANCE TWO MILES IN FLANDERS Two Villages and Numerous Blockhouses Captured by French

1,600 AUSTRIAN TROOPS TAKEN IN ITALIAN NET

Local Engagements Result in Many Captures for the Forces of Cadorna.

AUSTRIANS BEATEN Some Intense Artillery and Infantry Engagements on Bainsizza Plateau.

Rome, via London, Oct. 9.—The following official statement was issued today: "On the evening of Sunday, after an intense bombardment, the enemy renewed his attacks on our advanced positions on the Maselet Costabella. He was stopped by our garrison and shell- ed by our artillery and forced to withdraw, leaving killed or wounded on the field."

"Yesterday, on the whole of the Bainsizza Plateau front, there was artillery activity of rather considerable proportions. At some points there were local infantry engagements during which we captured about 1600 prisoners and five machine guns. "On the Carso Plateau there have been violent artillery duels, reaching their greatest intensity frequently in the Castagnarizza region."

EGYPT'S SULTAN REPORTED DEAD

He Was Chosen by Britain When Protectorate Was Proclaimed.

London, Oct. 9.—The Daily Telegraph says it learns that the Sultan of Egypt died at noon Tuesday.

Hussein Kemal was chosen by Great Britain in 1914 to succeed his uncle, Khedive Abbas Hilmi, as ruler of Egypt, simultaneously with the proclamation of a British protectorate. His father was Khedive from 1868 to 1879. "The British acting high commissioner in Egypt in his letter notifying Hussein Kemal of his appointment, said there was ample evidence that Abbas Hilmi had thrown in his lot with enemies of Great Britain with the result that the "rights over the Egyptian executive exerted by the Sultan of Turkey and the late Khedive are forfeited."

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION ALLEGED BY SISTER

Archbishop Spratt, Mother Frances Regis and Others Named as Defendants in Sensational Case.

Special to The Toronto World. Kingston, Oct. 9.—A big sensation was caused here this afternoon when the announcement was made that a writ had been issued in the supreme court in which the plaintiff is Sister Mary Joseph, and the defendants are Archbishop Spratt, Mother Frances Regis, the sisters of charity of the House of Providence, Dr. Daniel Pheasant and Police Constable John Maylon. The claim is made that in September, 1916, Constable Naylon entered the room of the plaintiff, who for 29 years has been a sister of charity at the House of Providence at St. Mary's-on-the-Lake Orphanage, and that, assisted by three others, an attempt was made to abduct her to the Province of Quebec.

CITY COUNCIL DEFIED BY CALGARY BAKERS

Leaves of a Reduced Weight Are Sold at Unchanged Price.

Calgary, Oct. 9.—Defying the authority of the city council, which refused permission for the change to be made, Calgary bakers today sold at the weight of the loaf from 24 to 20 ounces, and sold it at the same price as the heavier article. The weight of bread is fixed by bylaw. The chief of police is gathering evidence, and it is stated unless he receives contrary instructions from the civic authority will summon the bakers at once for violating the bylaw.

THE ONLY ONE.

Montreal, Oct. 9.—"I am a Nazareite of God, and as such do not believe in nations resorting to arms and fighting one another," said an apparently physically fit individual who appeared today at one of the examination headquarters in connection with the Military Service Act. He said he was seeking exemption, not examination, and he was the only Nazareite in Montreal.

Senate Reading Room 81cc-17-97 SENATE P O OTTAWA



RESULT OF BRITISH GUNFIRE ON A GERMAN OBSERVATION POST.

UNION MINISTRY BELIEVED TO BE DEFINITELY IN SIGHT

Sifton, Calder, Crerar, and Probably Premier Murray of Nova Scotia Will Join Government, it is Expected—Lougheed Slated for New Portfolio.

Ottawa, Oct. 9.—Union government seems to be an accomplished fact. When the conference between Sir Robert Borden and the western Liberals broke up at 6 o'clock it was stated that satisfactory progress was being made. Premier Sifton, Hon. J. A. Calder and T. A. Crerar will no doubt join the government. It is also expected that Premier Murray of Nova Scotia will be of their number. A war department is to be created which will have under its charge the welfare of the returned soldiers, military hospitals, vocational training, settlement, and pensions. This new portfolio, it is said, will go to Sir James Lougheed. In that event, Sir Edward Kemp may become secretary of militia. General McBurney succeeding as home minister of militia and defence. Hon. T. W. Crothers will soon retire as minister of labor, and be succeeded by a labor man from British Columbia. In addition to the cabinet, there will be a war council consisting of the prime minister, the minister of militia, the minister of finance and two members of the cabinet without portfolio. It is expected that Premier Murray of Nova Scotia will be a member of the war council. Hon. P. E. Blondin will remain as postmaster-general, and Hon. Albert Severyn as minister of inland revenue. It is also anticipated that Hon. J. D. Hazen will remain as minister of marine and fisheries. The retiring ministers are Messrs. Burrell, Roche and Crerar. The day was mainly occupied with conferences, and a great many contradictory rumors were in evidence. Early this morning N. W. Rowell, K.C. and Sir John Gibson arrived in the city, and gossip at once connected them with the pending negotiations. Mr. Rowell however, declared that he was here on supreme court business, and Sir John was known to be here in connection with the meeting of the board of selection under the Conscription Act. Mr. Rowell, however, called upon some of the western Liberals, and may have brought to them some expression of views from Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Partisan Spirit Roused. Some of the morning papers supporting the government, made a more or less severe attack upon the western Liberals and spoke of the union government movement as doomed to failure. This gave offense to some of the westerners, who were inclined to think that Hon. Arthur Meighen was throwing a monkey wrench into the machinery. Indeed, one of them was credited with saying as much, although he did not mention the name of the secretary of state. On the (Continued on Page 7, Column 4).

ENEMY FORCES INADEQUATE FOR SUPREME TEST OF WAR

Germany's Military Strength Shows a Severe Decrease For the First Time Since the War Began, Is French Official Statement.

Washington, Oct. 9.—Germany's military strength now shows a severe decrease for the first time since the war began, according to a review based upon data of the French general staff, made public here tonight by the French mission. Worn down and driven back by the never-ending pounding of the allies on the western front, the statement says, the Germans have made their supreme military effort, drawing heavily upon their inactive armies in the east and calling out their 1918 and part of their 1919 reserves. "This shows," concludes the statement, "the decisive character attending the operations in 1918, when three great democracies, England, France and America, will unite their entire strength in attacking the enemy in conformity with the only sound principle of war." The commission's statement, issued thru the committee on public information, follows: "Fronts the Same. "Both Franco-German fronts on the Aisne 1917, and Verdun 1918, have already been compared and have been found to be of practically the same length. It has been stated that the German forces occupying them before the attack were equally comparable: 12 and 14 divisions. It is known to-day that during the same period, from May to September, the Germans engaged 25 fresh divisions at Verdun, and that they have been obliged to engage 45 on the Aisne. Furthermore, during an equal period, the French took 583 prisoners at Verdun and 853 on the Aisne. "This comparison included only a small sector of the French front. But it showed a very interesting result due to the increase of the material forces of the allies and the improved French fighting methods since adopted by the other armies, and also, as testified by the German staff itself, apropos of the battle of the Somme, in explaining their defeat: 'To the perfect use of technical methods.' "If the above comparison is extended today to the entire Franco-British front, if you consider that from April 15 to June 15, the enemy engaged 18 divisions against the Anglo-French forces—and finally, if one bears in mind that the successes of the British offensive at Ypres obliged the (Continued on Page 7, Column 4).

DAILY MAIL COMPANY OWES HALF A MILLION

Montreal, Oct. 9.—About \$550,000 is the amount owing by The Daily Mail Publishing Company, Limited, and The Evening News Company Limited, of this city, so it was stated here today in the course of proceedings before Mr. Justice Allard. In the practice division of the superior court, in connection with a meeting of the creditors of the two defunct newspapers, of whom 125 are former employees who claim unpaid salaries. John Wallace was appointed liquidator and five inspectors were appointed. Both The Daily Mail and The News were under one management. The News ceasing publication a few months before The Mail, a morning paper, went on the rocks.

GERMANY PURCHASING HIDES IN ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Oct. 9.—Coincident with the American demand for Argentine dry hides to meet military orders, and renewed British buying as the result of the lifting of the leather embargo, the Germans here are buying heavily, and their competition in the market is helping to increase prices. German brokers say they are buying on German Government orders. They express confidence that the war will end in January or February. Prices of hides have risen 12 per cent. In the past ten days.

POELCAPELLE IS TAKEN BRITISH PRESS BEYOND

Advance Carried Nearly Two Miles to Northwest of Village, All Objectives Are Taken and Number of Prisoners Exceeds One Thousand --French on Front of Mile and a Half, Penetrate to Depth of One and One-Quarter Miles.

LONDON, Oct. 9.—The British troops have effected the complete capture of Poelcapelle and advanced nearly two miles to the northwest of that village in their drive in Flanders today. According to reports from Field-Marshal Haig to-night, the British operations were very successful. All objectives have been already exceeded 1000. A Paris despatch says: The capture of the Villages of St. Jean de Mangelaere and Veldhoek, with numerous blockhouses, is reported in the French official communication of to-night dealing with the operations Tuesday in Flanders. The total advance of the French reached to a depth of one and one-quarter miles, to the southern outskirts of the Houthulst Wood, and on a front of more than a mile and one half. French Dash Irresistible. The text of the British official statement reads: "A heavy rain fell continuously during the afternoon and evening of yesterday, causing the ground to become soggy and very difficult for the passage of the troops. "Notwithstanding the stormy weather and the water-logged condition of the ground, our troops succeeded in launching an attack at 5:30 o'clock this morning, in conjunction with the French on our left, with very successful results. "The front of the attack extended from a point southeast of Broodsinde to Jansbeek, one mile north of Big-ten, to the extreme right the Australian troops moved forward over the crest of the ridge east and northeast of Broodsinde, securing all their objectives. "On the right centre a third line territorial division, comprising Manchester, East Lancashire and Lan- cheshire Fusilier regiments, advanced one mile northward along the ridge in the direction of Paaschendaale, capturing all its objectives under most trying and difficult circumstances, with great determination and gallantry. "In the centre between the main ridge and Poelcapelle, a considerable advance was made, which includes the capture of many fortified farms and concentrated redoubts. "On the left, centre we have completed the capture of Poelcapelle. "On the extreme left of the British attack, English, Welsh and Irish troops and the Guards have taken all their objectives and gained the outskirts of the Forest of Houthulst, nearly two miles north-northeast of Poelcapelle. "On our left flank the French crossed the Broeboom stream, which is in the forest of Houthulst, capturing all (Continued on Page 2, Column 6).

their objectives, including several hamlets and many fortified localities. "More than a thousand prisoners already have passed into the collecting stations. "Aviation: The weather was even more unfavorable for flying on Monday than on previous days. Much work was done, however, in aerial reconnaissance and some artillery work was carried out. Two enemy machines were driven down out of control. Ground targets also were attacked with machine gun fire. Two of our airplanes are missing. "The French official statement to-night says: "In Belgium an attack launched by us this morning was carried out with particular brilliance. After having crossed the marshy Promeeke Brook, our troops captured with admirable spirit, along a front of two kilometers, the enemy defences, despite the bad terrain and atmospheric conditions. "The Village of St. Jean de Mangelaere and Veldhoek, as well as numerous farms turned into blockhouses, fell into our hands. "Our advance, which reached a mean depth of two kilometers, has brought us to the outskirts of the Houthulst Forest. "Our airplanes, despite the wind, which blew a tempest, co-operated actively in the attack, using their machine guns at a low height against the enemy infantry, and assuring communication with other arms. "More Than 300 Prisoners. "The number of prisoners so far counted exceeds 1000, of which 12 are officers. "On the Aisne front the artillery action at times was violent, in the region of La Royere Farm and along the whole Ailles-Craonne sector. "Belgian communication: Yesterday our artillery shelled enemy batteries and observatories, as well as enemy works near Dixmude. During the course of the night we strongly shelled the German batteries, with the object of co-operating in the attacks then in preparation. The attacks were launched this morning by our allies. The resistance of the enemy was feeble. Today we shelled the enemy organizations at Dixmude and concentrated several batteries in action, as well as the enemy communications. Our 75's cannonaded the Germans before the French offensive on our right. "Big Attack at Dawn. "Another big attack was begun at dawn today against the German positions to the east and north of Ypres by both the British and French armies and had met with great success in the first few hours of the fighting. At many places the allied forces penetrated their way forward to a depth of twelve hundred yards or more within the enemy territory, and reports in-

dicating that everything was successful were received, despite the bad condition of the ground due to the past few days' rain. "On the north the French had surged across at the Postбек and Broenбек Rivers in the direction of Houthulst Forest, and at an early hour were reported to be fighting around Mangelaere, about 1500 yards beyond their original front lines. By 8:30 o'clock they had secured several hundred prisoners. "Fight in Poelcapelle. "Further to the south the British had pushed the Germans back to Poelcapelle, and were fighting well in the eastern outskirts of the city near a big brewery. The British troops on the Graevenstafel Ridge had carried their drive forward to this Passchendaale Ridge and were resting about 1000 yards southwest of the Town of Paaschendaale. "Between the Ypres-Roulers railway and the Village of Broodsinde the assaulting forces had pushed forward for a considerable distance down the eastern slopes of Broodsinde Ridge, onto the lower ground, East of Ypres, in the zone embracing Reutel and Polderhoek where there has been such bitter fighting recently, the British were carrying out strong operations, and it was reported that success had been achieved here also. "British Surround Wood. "Just north of Broodsinde, at Daisy-wort, the Germans were holding out strongly. The British had pushed forward and surrounded the wood and not fighting was proceeding. The British also met with strong resistance at Polderhoek, where they were engaged in this position early in the attack, but were forced by heavy machine gun fire to withdraw a little for the moment. At the latest report they had again made an advance. "Messrs reports received just as this despatch was filed say that the Germans were counter-attacking heavily astride the Ypres-Roulers railway. "The air service is doing fine work notwithstanding the gale of wind which is blowing. Six German airplanes which ventured over the British lines at a height of 9,000 feet were engaged in battle by British airmen, and a spectacular fight is proceeding. "Numbers of Prisoners. "Prisoners were being brought back in large numbers since the fighting began. The battle opened at 5:30, under a clear sky, but the ground had been turned into a morass in many places by the recent heavy rains. It was especially difficult for operations along the northern section of the attack where there are so many rivers which are bordered with marshy ground. The gunfire from both the British and French armies was terrific at the hour of the attack and preliminary bombardment had been intense for days. The German (Continued on Page 2, Column 6).

FRENCH ADVANCE HALF-MILE ACHIEVING BRILLIANT VICTORY

Amid Terrific Rain of Artillery Fire, Troops in Conjunction With the British, Sweep on to Position Commanding Western Border of Forest of Houthulst, Taking Many Prisoners and Guns.

and found everything and everybody ready for the difficult work of the morrow. "The underfoot conditions were very bad, and the atmosphere resembled a shower bath. "All around shell holes were filled to their brims with water, and the only protection of the French troops was the soaked sandbags piled up. Here the French had awaited the orders to go over. They went forward with great rapidity when the orders came, circling the shell holes and the deepest mud. "They knew, however, that the success of future operations depended upon their actions today. When they reached their first objectives today they huddled together in the shell casings, trench building being impossible. "Germans at Disadvantage. "Good luck had made the advance coincide with the period when the Germans were changing the troops occupying their front lines. A German division was just handing over the lines to the Russian front. The French, with wonderful dash, were upon them before they realized the situation and killed many of them. "There was a short respite before the next forward movement was undertaken in co-operation with the British,

who were advancing simultaneously on the French right. "Slithering along over the broken and muddy ground the French troops made their way quickly towards Mangelaere, which soon fell into their possession. The whole scheme of operations for the day had been carried out long before noon. The infantry advance was greatly assisted by the daring of the aviators, who would not permit weather conditions, which presented the greatest danger for the recording the artillery preparation, to slow down the men and material captured. "The result of the day's fighting, in addition to the men and material captured, is that the forest of Houthulst, which comprises four or five miles of future wooded ground, is now flanked on both sides. As far as can be learned the German communications are cut and large numbers of machine guns, but the Germans must find extraordinary difficulty in keeping the French troops away from the moment the French troops are occupied in consolidating the ground won, which, although small in extent, represents an invaluable gain, as it denies the Germans of their points of (Continued on Page 2, Column 6).

With the French Armies in Flanders, Oct. 9.—(By the Associated Press).—Amid one of the most terrific hurricanes of artillery fire, the French army, co-operating in conjunction with the British early this morning, won a brilliant victory which carried the troops forward to a depth of half a mile along a front of about a mile stretching from Drealbank to Wyden-dreent. More than three hundred prisoners and a number of cannon and machine guns fell into the hands of the French, and their advance took them to a position where they commanded the western border of the forest of Houthulst. "The movement was a pivoting one, and, as a result, virtually all the observatories dominating the vast Flanders plain are now in the hands of the allies. "The attack was preceded by a howling wind storm, accompanied by a drizzling rain, which made the ground a quagmire. The correspondent passed over the French side of the battlefield in the evening preceding the attack

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 7, COLUMN 11. REASONABLE HATS FOR MEN. Winter hats for men, substantial weight hard and soft felt; the made-in-England kind that have style and material. Best assorted stock of English hats in Canada. Dineen's 1200 Yonge street.