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Readin Room 17mar18

FRIDAY MORNING MARCH 22 1918-FOURTEEN PAGES

The Toronto World

British Withstand Furious Attacks on Fifty-Mile Front From Croisilles to LaFere By Masses of Picked Troops Who Are Mowed Down Without Reaching Objectives --- Struggle Still Continues

P F N .

ACTLY twenty-five months after the Germans began the historic battle of Verdun, the thunder of their guns deepened into a tempest five hours. Then Germans, favored by the wind, moved forward under cover of a nail of smoke which hid the assaulting columns from the eyes of the Bri-TACTLY twenty-five months after the Germans began the historic five hours. Then German infantry stormed out to make the first great as- penetrated a considerable distance. Near Rheims, too, the French were of fire along the British front in northern France and they began pall of smoke which hid the assaulting columns from the eyes of the British holding the front lines.

what may be the greatest battle of the war, a struggle which may lead to beaults which will shape the destinies of millions of people over coming

GRAND OFFENSIVE

Describing the battle, Andrew Bonar Law informed the house of com- the time being as mere diversions from the principal attack, which has been mons that lightly held portions of the British line had been withdrawn, but loosed against the British. They would serve to keep French forces at said that there was no need for alarm on the part of the country. The Verdun and Rheims from being transferred to the British sector, if that part

The attack was made on a scale hitherto unknown during this war of Associated Press correspondent at the British front reports that an attack of the battle line should show any signs of bending back. major offensives. It was over a front of fifty miles. Official reports are there had been expected and that great preparations had been made to The Germans have called upon the Austrian army for assistance in very brief, but correspondents at the scene tell of the terrific storm of meet it. The Berlin official report says that the Germans have penetrated their effort to carry the battle to the entents allies, for the official retillery fire that burst over the lines held by Field Marshal Haig's men. into some British positions. ports from Berlin say that Austro-Hungarian artillery is engaged along

HAIG'S OFFICIAL REPORT

man losses are declared to have been exceptionally heavy. On no part

HAS BEEN STARTED F^{IELD} Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France describes the German offensive as comprising an intense bombard-ment by the artillery and a powerful infantry attack on a former

Attack By German Infantry Was Pre- of the long front of the attack did the Germans attain their objective. The text of the statement reads:

ceded By Heavy Bombardment That Rocked Countryside, But British Were Prepared and Enemy's Objective Was

Nor were the German efforts concentrated on the front held by the the western front. It is probable that the great Austrian howitzers, Debenture Holders of Do-The bombardment began at five o'clock Thursday morning, just before early spring dawn was breaking over eastern France. Shells of large British. Early Thursday morning the Germans assaulted the French lines or Skodas, have been used against the strongest sectors of the British d small calibre were rained upon the lines held by the British for about near the Village of Ornes, to the northeast of Verdun, and claim to have lines.

minion Permanent Loan Company Meet.

WHU ARF NFAT

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VOL. XXXVIII.-No. 13,645 TWO CENTS

STORY OF OPERATIONS

Liquidator Tells of What His Investigations Have Brought Out.

NUTSHELL. Liabilities \$4,298,714-Assets \$4,770,-Assets include book value of Rail-way Mortgage, which is placed at \$4,389,000, but may not bring \$2,000,-

Savings deposits involved—\$208,000 Debentures (Hability)—\$2,555,312. Corporation closed—Feb. 11, 1918. Depositors and debenture holder may get 80 cents on dollar.

Stockholders get nothing. Cause of crash-Poor security for

settle the result of the war, the English people preserve the same quiet Three years to make adjustments Sue estates of J. R. Stratton, Chris. calm they have worn for the past four years. There are no signs of unusual excitement or nervousness in London, no crowds outside the newspaper Kloepfer, D. W. Karn, T. P. Coffee, for the recovery of \$2,000,000. F. M. Holland, manager, under ar-

Prepared and Enemy's Objective Was Not Attained, Says General Haig. BITISH Army Headquarters in France, March 21.—The Germans this forenoon launched a heavy attack against the British lines over a wide front in and near the Cambrai sector, and the assault bears all earmarks of being the beginning of the enemy's much heralded grand earmarks of being the beginning of the enemy's much heralded grand ifensive.

ard to Gauche Wood, just below Gouzeaucourt. The attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment from guns of all calibres, and the duel between the pposing heavy batteries has been rocking the countryside for hours. The Germans have employed gas shells freely, and a constant stream back of the British lines.

The bombardment began in earnest at five o'clock this morning, and about 5 hours later the enemy forces hurled themselves on the British front line trenches north of Lagnicourt and Louvreal, the latter place lying due west of Boursies.

SMOKE BARRAGE.

At the same time other German forces advanced behind a smoke barrage along the ridge running northward from Gouzeaucourt.

It may be said that the attack in this region was by no means unspected by the British and that they had made great preparations to meet he onslaught. The two vast forces have been locked in a bitter struggle this wide front for hours.

The bombardment was of a most terrific nature and finally the inantry drove forward against numerous points in the Cambrai sector. The preliminary bombardment had extended from a point below St. Quentin the nature of a surprise about the north to the River Scarpe, and at last reports sanguinary fighting was in attack. rogress as far south as the region of Hargicourt and as far north as ullecourt.

ras trying to drive a wedge on both sides of the Cambrai salient and pinch formation so far did not lead to the need have no cause for anxiety." it off. A keen struggle has been proceeding in the neighborhood of Bullecourt and Lagnicourt and south of the salient near Hargicourt and Ronssoy. The British had been looking for this attack today. Not only have prisoners declared that yesterday or today would mark the beginning of the offensive on this front, but there were abundant signs of an enemy smash against this sector, which was the scene of the last great battle in the British theatre. That the Germans were as thoroly prepared as possible was well known and, as a consequence, the British had taken extensive steps to meet the blow.

BRITISH ARE WELL PREPARED.

It is too early to predict the outcome of the first few hours of the struggle, in which vast forces and every conceivable engine probably were employed. On general principles, however, it may be stated that the great soncentration of attacking forces will probably result in the defensive line being pushed back in places. This would merely be history repeating itself

This much is certain. At no period has the British war machine been in such perfect condition, never before has there been higher morale or optimism among the British troops. The general impression on the front is in agreement with that of the Germans-that this is the decisive contest of the war. But on the British side there is no doubt that the deciion will eventually be in the allies' favor.

Germany is staking everything on this play, and if the great attack ails to break clear thru, it is believed that the Germans will be finished, or they have nothing further to offer, except a gradually weakening defense.

MOST INTENSE BOMBARDMENT.

The bombardment today was one of the most intense seen along this front. As had been generally expected, the Germans depended on short machines returned safely." heavy artillery work to carry their troops forward. Large quantities of gas were used at various places and extraordinarily high velocity shells The Best have been whining across the back areas since daybreak. The Germans had made a great concentration of guns for this attack, and every one of them was brought into play at the outset. It is reported that one German tank

prise if true. The sky was heavily overcast all day, rendering aerial observation

was seen in action, but this is not verified, altho it would cause no sur-

Hard fighting is proceeding from a point north of Lagnicourt, south-IS GREATEST IN HISTORY The German

> and War Council Knew of the Attack and Urges People Not to Be Alarmed.

London, March 21 .- The German at- | belief that anything beyond that had tack against the British lines today happened. "I am sure that with the knowledge

was on a larger scale than any made was on a larger scale than any made thus far during the war on any part similar attacks on either side," conof the western front, Andrew Bonar tinued Bonar Law, "the house and Law, spokesman for the government, country will not be unnecessarily alarmed by information of that kind told the house of commons today. Our staff and the Versailles counci "Our outpost troops," he added, naturally have been considering what "have been withdrawn on one part of might happen in the event of an atthe line which was very lightly held. tack. And I may tell the house that this attack has been launched on every This was nothing more than was ex- part of our line we were informed pected, and was in accordance with instructions. There was nothing in undertaken at all

"I may say that only three days ttack." ago we received information at the Bohar Law reminded the house that cabinet from headquarters in France he had given warning a week ago that that they had definitely arrived at the if such an attack occurred the attack- conclusion that an attack would be ing party would gain a certain amount launched immediately, and as they British front line at certain points converging attacks upon the two The early stages of the battle would seem to indicate that the enemy of ground, and the government's in- were prepared to meet it the country between the Scarpe and Vendeuil, flanks of the Flesquieres salient, in

blocks.

the Soldiers.

Only small groups of night work-

many as cause for war.

London, March 22 .- Long lines of



British Monitors and Seaplanes Long Lines of Ambulances at Charing Cross to Receive Destroy Enemy Aircraft and Gain Success on Coast.

London, March 21 .- Ostend was bombarded by British monitors today and Heligoland was attacked by seaplanes, according to the official anfrom channel port trains. nouncement tonight.

The admiralty statement says: 'Ostend was bombarded this afternoon by British monitors with successful results. Prior to the bombardment four enemy aircraft were destroyed by our naval air squadron. Enemy aircraft attacked the British machines while spotting for the bombardment, with the result that an other enemy machine was destroyed.

GERMANY MAY DECLARE "British seaplanes engaged reconnaissance in Heligoland Bight, attacked enemy, mine sweepers with machine gun fire. There were no

casualties on the British side. All our London, March 22. - Despatches

Local Paper

The Toronto World yesterday pub-lished 47 purely local news items. The Mail published 36. The Globe published 38. The World had 11 more local items restrictive clauses in its shipping ly set in motion than The Mail and Empire, and 9 loan terms would be regarded by Ger. than The Globe.

The statement made by Andrew Bonar Law in the house of commons was circulated in the hotels and other public places. That is the last news the majority of the people will have of the great struggle before they see the morning papers, but Mr. Bonar Law's words have carried dred debenture holders and depositors

HH

The attacks at Verdun and Rheims, however, may be considered for

DECIDE WHOLE WAR

London, Reassured by Bonar Law, Calmly

Awaits News of Battle's Outcome ----

Tremendous British Preparations

Create Confidence.

ONDON, March 21.-Altho a battle is being fought which is likely

to develop into the greatest struggle of modern history, and perhaps

THIS BATTLE MAY

many people thought they were making a feint to conceal some other policy; in Osgoode Hail yesterday to listen to some looked for a campaign against Salonica, instead of a big attack in the tale of the operations which caused of high velocity shells has been breaking with frightful concussion far Bonar Law Tells House of Commons That Government France. Reports have been circulated that the Germans have built a large the collapse of the institution on Feb. number of tanks and super-tanks, but the British, who first launched this 11. They came from all parts of the weapon, are not likely to be stopped by these, nor is it conceivable that province. Poverty, with the tear of

they will be behind in numbers of tanks or improvements. Extensive preparations have been made by the English hospitals to of heart-feit sorrow and loss in its throat, struggled for seats. Wealth receive the trains of wounded from the channel ports, which follow every arrived in motor cars, holding up a dainty dress of smoking a cigar, only battle. The first of them is expected tomorrow.

MASSES OF TROOPS EMPLOYED WITH GREAT WEIGHT OF GUNS

Germans Appear to Have Penetrated British Front Line at Certain Points Between Scarpe and Vendeuil.

"Our counter measures have not London, March 21 .- By employing masses of troops supported by a adds, "therefore it is difficult to degreat weight of artillery, the Ger- fine the position. Apparently the ene mans appear to have penetrated the my's purpose has been to launch says Reuter's correspondent at Bri- the hope of cutting it off. tish headquarters, telegraphing this There are unconfirmed rumors that the enemy has employed tanks." evening.

AMERICAN MILITARY OBSERVERS

They Are Waiting For Full Scope of Enemy Action Against Both British and French Fronts.

Washington, March 21 .- Even word the general staff to risk such a venfrom London that the drive launched ture. They believed, too, that a Ger-man assault in the west now would today by the Germans on the west bring ultimate triumph of the allied ambulances began forming at the front is on a larger scale than any cause closer, because their conf in the resisting power of the allied Charing Cross railway station early undertaken there since the war began armies is unshakable. this morning to receive wounded men has failed to convince American mill-

tary observers that the long-heralded Scenes not unlike those during the German grand offensive is at hand. battle of the Somme were enacted. They are waiting for the full scope. the line of ambulances stretching of the enemy action against both away from the station for four city British and French fronts to be made

clear, and still believe that the logic of the situation points away from a ers and railway employes greeted the first arrivals from the front. German offensive in the west at this time. There was a distinct feeling to-

WAR ON HOLLAND NOW WAR ON HOLLAND NOW to desperate onslaughts against the Abandonment of Remaining Restrict-ed Clauses in Shipping Loan Terms May Lead to Action.

shock characterized the expressions from The Hague report that a local of all officials here.

a special display of High Grade Engnews agency says that Germany con-Some high army officers, heretofore confident that the German posi- lish Hats for men-comprising stik siders her relations with Holland altion on all fronts made a defensive tered by the attitude of the Dutch hats, soft and stiff hats, opera hats, Government toward the entente and attitude in the west almost mandatweed hats and caps, all the latest the United States and publishes a re-port that the abandonment by the sibility that a great thrust at Paris production from Christy Co. and Henry Heath of London, England. Dutch Government of the remaining or the channel ports had been actual-Prices for these exclusive styles and shipping ly set in motion. They believed only meyerre that would

Humor, pathos, sarcasm, anger, all found expression from some four hunof the defunct Dominion Permanent The Germans had talked so freely about their great offensive that Mortgage Corporation, who gathered

useless anger in its eye and the sob

mild concern written on his features Old age, on a cane or crutch, gasped for breath in the stuffy room, while youth pressed forward to better hear, much to the annoyance of those in

the middle span of life. The story was another such as Tor-ronto and the rest of Canada has severail times heard before. False information, failse statements, improper investments and improper management were shown as the reasons why the corporation assigned with a lia. bility of \$4,298,000, and assets of \$4, 770,314, altho nothing like the latte sum can be realized on the assets. People who have been victims in othe bank smashes were caught again. They met at the door, in the hallways, and recognized each other from other

and recognized each other from other financial wind-ups. They shed tears or uthered curses, and declared they would send somebody to jail for "this," and finally concluded with the old-time "What's the use?" Sue Dead Directors.

The unfortunates seemed to enjoy only one thing during the afternoon and that was the declaration by G. T. Clarkson, official liquidator, that suit would begentered against the es-CANNOT SEE GRAND OFFENSIVE tates of the directors dead or allve and it was hoped that \$2,000,000 might be It was hoped that \$2,000,000 might be recovered in this way. That and loud cries of "Hear, Hear!" "Hang him, I say!" 'He has ruined me in my old age," and "Send him to jail for life," all following the mention of the name of the general manager, F. M. Holland, featured the meeting. At times it appeared as if the chairman, Col. J. T. Atkinson, M.L.A., would be unable to keep the crowd in check, but there was no serious disturbance. The explanation for the corporation's failure, as given by G. T. Clarkson, was that the directors in 1898

advanced money on western securi-tles, altho up till that time the busi-**Barring Hereditary Titles** ness had been carefully carried on in. second mortgages. In all between one and a half and two million dollars was entered on the company's books as having been loaned on western real estate and on the Spokane and B. C. Railroad.

The total value of the Spokane and from conferring any hereditary titles B. C. Road debt was given as \$4,389,-000. The amount actually loaned was \$3,384,000, and during the 20 years the loan has been out only \$981,000 was paid back. But the company compounded interest at eight per cent. and brought the value of the investment up to \$4,389,000 in this way, altho no money was being turned over to pay it off.

How It Was Done. By showing the \$4,389,000 "investment" on the credit side of the books the company's directors were able to declare a dividend. The money for extra quality \$7 to \$10; eaps. \$150 this dividend was secured annually Discon's, 140 Tongs street. selling debentures or by using mo selling debentures or by using money

Ottawa, March 21 .- W. F. Nickle, member for Kingston, will move a resolution in the house declaring that an address be presented to His Majesty the King, asking him to refrain upon British subjects residing in

Canada.

Will Move for Address to King

