

## Week's War Summary

Since the writing of last week's summary, the German offensive on the West front has reached its most serious and menacing stage, was finally checked, and is now almost quiescent. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, the news from the British lines on the west front was the most depressing that has been received since the beginning of the war. In spite of the valiant resistance of the British forces between Ypres on the north and LaBassee on the south, the Germans progressed in waves of mass formation, aided by a terrible artillery fire, until they had captured Merville, Neuve Eglise, Balbeul, Meteren, Walverghem, Wytchaete and practically the whole of Messines Ridge. The German drive developed into a direct attack in a northwesterly direction towards the coast of north France. After taking Messines, the Germans proceeded towards Mont Kemmel, at the same time pressing northward. The British were finally obliged to retire from Ypres and Paschendale in order to preserve the united strength of their line. The fighting was bitterly contested at every point, and the energies of the Germans were wholly absorbed in this battle, which will be known to history as the Battle of the Lys, the Germans having advanced through the course of the Lys valley. By Friday, the force of the German attack had been spent, and the British, reinforced by bodies of French troops from farther south, were able to repel the enemy at every point. For three days now, very little activity has been reported from the battle zone.

The net result to date of the fierce battle of the Lys last week has been to give the Germans a gain in territory represented in the dangerous salient from which he may be driven at any time. The enemy also suffered extremely heavy casualties. The situation at the week-end, though still serious, gives the allied countries grounds for confidence. The German attempt to break through the British line in the north and make a way clear to the coast has been frustrated, and while continued heavy fighting must be expected so long as the German staff is willing to hurl his reinforcements against the French and British lines in an endeavor to bring about a decisive conclusion to the war in the next few months. But General Foch, the generalissimo of the allied armies on the west front, has given the assurance that his army of manoeuvre is still intact, and will be launched upon the enemy at the proper time and at the right point in the line, to defeat the enemy.

### Canadians to the Front

To the Canadians, through the effect of the past ten days' fighting, has fallen the distinguished duty of maintaining the most important portion of the allied line on the west front. The fifteen miles or more, between Lens and LaBassee, which includes Vimy Ridge and Hill 70, is the one part of the line between LaFere on the south and Ypres on the north, that the Germans have not attacked. For a time it looked as if the Canadians occupying that foremost position, would be completely "pocketted," and be forced to retire from their hard-won positions on Vimy Ridge and Hill 70. But the breaking of the German attack on the solid line of defence which guarded the northerly part of the Canadians' salient, at Givenchy, has enabled the Canadian divisions to retain their strong positions. When Foch's counter attack is finally launched, it is thought by many of the critics that he will strike through the line at Lens or near LaBassee, where the Canadians have held their ground so advantageously.

Until a few days ago, the British troops for nearly a month did the bulk of the fighting against the German army which obviously has been directed first to wipe the soldiers of Britain off the soil of France, and then proceed to conquer the French themselves. The arrival of French reinforcements in the north field, the prospect of the immediate arrival of troops from Italy in North France, and the constantly increasing numbers of the Americans promise not only to hold the enemy

effectively, but also to wear him out completely before long.

### Americans Engaged

The Americans were engaged in a sharp encounter on Saturday, when the German high command, having been unsuccessful in piercing the British front in Flanders and separating the French and British armies, tried to batter the French and the Yankees at a point just northwest of Toul. Although the Germans attacked in waves of mass formation, and in superior numbers to the opposing line, the French and Americans held their positions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The Berlin official report says that in the drive 183 American prisoners and 25 machine guns were captured by the Germans, but no substantiation of this report has been heard.

That the British fleet is active and vigilant was demonstrated on Sunday, when British cruisers in the waters off

Heligoland chased several enemy warships and forced them to take refuge behind their mined fields. One German cruiser was injured, while the British ships sustained no casualties.

Another new feature is the landing of British and French troops on the Kola peninsula which projects into the Arctic ocean. They are co-operating with the Bolshevik troops to protect the Moorman coast against the Finnish White Guards. This is being done, it is stated, to protect Russia's chief northern port, Archangel.

### TO YIELD 30,000 MEN

The recent amendments to the Military Service Act by which exemptions of men in Class I of the ages of 20, 21 and 22 are cancelled. Thus, all unmarried men and widowers who were of these ages when they claimed exemption will be required to join the

## Formalin is Reliable

Rumors That it Had Been Tampered With Were Without Foundation

A few days ago western farmers were given a serious scare in the report that the stores of formalin for seed-treating had been probably tampered with by enemy agents and its use not only destroyed but the germinating power of the grain probably also seriously injured or destroyed. The probability of this happening was exceedingly small at any time and the report is now shown by tests to have been entirely erroneous. Tests were made by the Alberta Department of Agriculture and by Prof. A. J. Galbraith of the Manitoba Agricultural college. Professor Galbraith's report reads as follows:

April 17th, 1918. Analysis of samples of formalin obtained from the Standard Chemical Company of Winnipeg, and from several sources throughout the province, have disclosed no attempt at adulteration of any kind.

Any injury to germination, if indeed there has been any, has been in all probability due to improper methods of treatment, as it is well known that if the formaldehyde solution is too strong, or if left in contact with the grain for an undue length of time, will result in injury to germination.—(Signed) A. J. Galbraith.

### Tests of Seven Different Samples

The following additional information on these tests has just been handed out by President Reynolds:—

Altogether 200 tests of treated grain have been made by the Seed Testing Department to determine the effect of 1918 formalin on germination. The results indicate that the formalin solution may be safely used by observing the following:

(a) Make a correct solution, strength 1 lb. of formalin to 35 gallons of water.  
(b) Sprinkle or pickle and cover with blanket for two hours, the period of covering not to exceed 6 hours. Where the period of covering exceeded six hours, the formalin did damage very materially the germination quality of the seed. After removing the covers, spread out to dry immediately.

(c) Where the samples were treated with overstrength solution, or left piled in a large pile for a considerable time before being thoroughly dried, the solution killed a high percentage of the seed germs. Therefore, I would say that where farmers have had losses, the above figures would indicate that it was bad treatment and not the fault of the formaldehyde that brought about these losses. It will, however, be understood, that where a poor sample of grain is being treated greater care should be exercised in treating.

The samples of formaldehyde, used for the above experiments, were gathered from different points in the Province, seven different lots being subjected to the test.

There is nothing unusual in these results. Formalin treatment has the effect of reducing the rate of germination. As this test was conducted for four days only, it is probable that a longer time would have brought the treated samples up more nearly to a level with the others.

It was a grave misfortune that this

report regarding the formalin ever went forth. If enemy agents wanted to do any harm in this way the thing that happened was one of the most effective, because doubtless many farmers have been frightened by this report into not treating their seed at all, which is a real misfortune. Formalin is diluted nearly 400 times before being applied to grain and the possibility of mixing anything with it which could destroy the germinating power of the grain was so small that investigation of the matter first and publication later would doubtless have been much better.

### Investigation in Alberta

H. A. Craig, deputy minister of agriculture for Alberta, in answer to a request from The Guide, wired the following statement under date of April 20:—

Rumours from unknown sources began to reach the provincial department of agriculture, about April 11, that formaldehyde had been tampered with by alien enemies with the object of destroying seed. Immediately the department secured about 30 samples of formaldehyde from various parts of the province, seed was immediately treated and placed in germinators at the university and at the three schools of agriculture. Farmers were advised in the meantime to treat with bluestone and await results of the tests. Prof. C. H. Cutler, of the department of agronomy of the university reported as follows, on April 16:—

I beg to advise that 42 samples of formalin coming from widely separated points in the province have been received by the department of field husbandry, University of Alberta. These samples have been tested to determine their effect upon germinating qualities of wheat. Nineteen tests have been completed to date. From the result of these 19 tests there is not the slightest evidence of anything unusual on the part of the formalin. The average percentage germination when quadruplicate tests were made on each sample shows 98 per cent. as against 99 per cent. for untreated wheat of similar kind and origin. These results are, if anything, a little better than the average. The remaining 23 samples all appear at this date to be germinating equally well and there appears to be little doubt but that the final result will be quite as good as from the 19 mentioned above. From these tests there is positively no occasion for uneasiness on account of the grain growers in the province where the usual proportion, namely one pound to 40 gallons water are taken in employing the formalin treatment.

Subsequent reports and tests from other points show clearly that there was no foundation in the rumours that formaldehyde had been tampered with. On the other hand a large number of tests made of individual samples of grain indicated besides that the grain being used was of good germinating strength and strong vitality.

Eighty-five per cent. of the wheat area of the province is already seeded.

colors, irrespective of any exemption from military service granted or pending.

The calling to the colors of the three years mentioned is expected to yield at least 30,000 men physically fit for combatant service overseas.

Decision to cancel the exemptions was reached at a meeting of the cabinet council on Saturday. Then the draft order-in-council authorizing further action under the Military Service Act, and approved by both houses of parliament on Friday, was formally passed.

Details of the procedure to be followed will soon be announced. In all probability district registrars throughout the Dominion will be instructed to notify all men affected that their exemptions are cancelled and that they must report for duty by a specified date. A week or ten days will, in all likelihood, be allowed each man to arrange his personal affairs. Notices will also be widely published, announcing the action of the government.

### ANOTHER LOAN THIS YEAR

The budget for the fiscal year 1918-19 will be presented to the House of Commons this week by the acting Minister of Finance, Hon. A. K. MacLennan. Plans for meeting Canada's direct expenditure this year on her own war and domestic accounts will be submitted. There will have to be new forms of direct taxation to meet the increasing burdens of war expenditures, railway financing, debt interest, pensions, etc. While taxation announcements are kept as government secrets until formally announced in the budget speech it is understood that the main new taxation to be imposed this year will be a substantial jacking up of the toll taken from the men of big incomes.

Canada will follow the example of Great Britain and the United States in this respect. The details of the new proposals are conjectural but it is pretty certain that the government will take the lion's share of anything over \$15,000 per year.

So far as the tariff is concerned, little or no change is anticipated. At any rate no change effecting the protective system has been hinted at. The duties on agricultural implements are unlikely to be touched this year. As a revenue producer the tariff is now up to or even past the limit of its taxation for revenue usefulness.

As a matter of fact a reduction in customs revenue for this year is predicted. Since the beginning of 1918 monthly decreases have been recorded. For March the customs revenue was nearly \$2,000,000 below March of last year. For the past fiscal year customs revenue totalled \$143,311,395 as compared with \$133,531,185 during 1916-17, but the increase was all made in the earlier months of the year. For the current fiscal year, unless, of course, tariff taxation on tea, coffee, or some other commodity of general use now on the free list, is resorted to, the customs revenue will probably be \$10,000,000 or more less than last year. Excise revenue will also show a drop of \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000 this year owing to the cutting out of the manufacture of liquor. Possibly this may be counterbalanced by increased excise on tobaccos.

A new domestic war loan of probably \$250,000,000 will doubtless be foreshadowed in the budget speech. The balance of the Victory loan available for this year's expenditures is about \$150,000,000 sufficient to tide the government along until July or August.

Another loan is a necessity for the autumn. The financial statement of the Dominion for March as just published, shows that the net debt of the Dominion has now risen to \$1,106,394,023, an increase of nearly \$300,000,000 as compared with the end of the preceding fiscal year. An increase in the per capita debt by about \$40 dollars in one year indicates both the increasing pressure of the permanent war burden on the taxpayer of Canada and the magnitude and complexity of the government's task in continuing to provide the sinews of war from Canada's own internal resources at a time when the pre-war inflow of money to Canada for loans and investments has been practically entirely stopped.



12W230

\$4.50  
POST PAID

Send for My  
Shoe Catalogue  
Children. I can



12W224

\$4.50  
POST PAID

## "CHAMPION"

These outfits are  
Your inspection  
"Champion" 10  
years and



Built in one size  
"Champion" Separator,  
with 22 H.P. "Ida"  
ders with high ton  
and high in power  
support is necessary

Waterloo Manf'g  
Regina, Postage 1  
Back. Ma

## To My

It affords me very  
pay you for IMMEDIATE  
prices:—  
No. 1, Springs  
No. 2, Winters, p  
No. 3, Falls and  
Shot, Spe  
COYOTES A  
No. 1, Cased  
No. 2, Cased  
No. 3, \$2.00  
RED and CROSS  
express charges of  
must be marked  
Forward everything

157 RUPERT A