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The Toronto World

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 23 1918—SIXTEEN PAGES

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VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,646 TWO CENTS

GERMANS CONTINUE HEAVY ATTACKS SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN FAIL TO BREAK THRU THE BRITISH LINE

HAIK EXPECTS FIGHT TO GET MORE SEVERE

Greatest Courage is Being Shown by the British Troops.

SOME GAINS ARE MADE

But Enemy Has Been Repulsed in Repeated Counter-Attacks.

London, March 22.—The Germans on Friday along almost all of the battlefront continued their attacks in great strength. At several points the enemy made gains against the British, but at others he was repulsed in counter-attacks, according to the British official communication issued tonight. The statement says the British losses inevitably have been considerable, but not out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle. The enemy's losses continue very heavy, all his advances being made at great sacrifices. The greatest courage is being shown by the British troops. The communication says: This morning the enemy renewed his attacks in great strength along practically the whole of the battlefront. Fierce fighting occurred in our battle positions, and is still continuing. The enemy made some progress at certain points. At others his troops have been thrown back by our counter-attacks. Our losses inevitably have been considerable, but they have not been out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle. From reports received from all parts of the battlefront the enemy's losses continue to be very heavy, and his advance everywhere has been made at great sacrifice. Our troops are fighting with the greatest gallantry. When all ranks and all units of every arm behave so well it is difficult, at this stage of the battle, to distinguish instances. Exceptional gallantry was shown, however, by the troops of the 24th division in a protracted defence at Longueval, and by the third division, which maintained our positions in the neighborhood of Croisilles and to the north of that village against repeated attacks. A very gallant fight was made by the 51st division in the neighborhood of the Bapaume-Cambrai road against repeated attacks. Identification obtained in the course of the battle shows that the enemy's opening attack was delivered by forty divisions, supported by great masses of German artillery, reinforced by Austrian batteries. Many other German divisions have since taken part in the fighting, and others are arriving in the battle area. Further fighting of a most severe nature is anticipated.

WILL FOLLOW NEW YORK

Montreal Stock Exchange to Open at Nine o'clock in the Morning.

Montreal, March 22.—Members of the Montreal Stock Exchange appear to be pretty well agreed that, even if the Canadian daylight saving bill does not go thru, the stock exchange will probably observe daylight saving hours in unison with the New York market, and will open at 9 o'clock in the morning.

SIXTEEN THOUSAND MEN CAPTURED BY GERMANS

Enemy's Official Statement Also Says Two Hundred Guns Taken in First Fighting.

London, March 22.—(British Admiralty, per Wireless Press).—Sixteen thousand prisoners and 200 guns have been captured by the Germans, according to a German official communication received by wireless tonight. The text of the communication follows: The successes of yesterday in the fighting between Arras and La Fere were extended in the continuation of our attack. Sixteen thousand prisoners and 200 guns so far have been reported captured. Before Verdun the artillery duel continued. From other theatres of the war there is nothing new to report.

BIG GUNS VIOLENT IN FRENCH SECTORS

Three German Attacks in Champagne Region Gain No Results.

ACTIVITY MARKS BALKANS

Artillery Shells Enemy Batteries in Cerna Bend—Aviators Busy.

Paris, March 22.—Violent artillery engagements are reported from various sectors on the French front in the official statement issued by the war office tonight. The statement reads: Great activity by the artillery early today became most violent this afternoon at diverse points north of Chemin des Dames, in the region of Courcy and Pompelle and in the Champagne south of Maronnivillers. Three attacks made by the enemy north of Souain and east of the Teton were without result. Two German airplanes were destroyed and four badly damaged in a series of combats with our air squadron. Three enemy machines were shot down by our special artillery.

PROHIBITION ACT HAS BEEN AMENDED

Liquor Shipped Before April May Be Delivered Up to First.

Ottawa, March 22.—It is officially announced that the order in council bringing prohibition into effect on April 1 has been amended by the government in respect to its provisions governing the shipment of liquor from one province to another. The amendment provides that intoxicating liquor actually shipped before April 1 may be delivered in prohibited areas by common carrier in such period of time as is required to such common carriers under ordinary business conditions, but not to extend beyond May 1. It is also provided that prohibited areas within the province where the sale of native wines is permitted.

WILL NOT AMEND LORD'S DAY ACT

Government Will Not Interfere With Operation in Interests of Production.

Ottawa, March 22.—From the number of letters and telegrams reaching the prime minister's office, it would appear that an impression has gone abroad that it is the intention of the government to amend the Lord's Day Act in the interests of greater production. It is authoritatively stated that there is no intention on the part of the government, either to amend the act or to interfere with its operation. As a matter of fact, under the provisions of the act its enforcement is largely a matter of provincial administration.

BRITISH AIRCRAFT GIVE GREAT AID TO INFANTRY

Kill or Wound Many Germans With Machine Guns While Flying Low and Bomb Important Positions.

London, March 22.—British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France Thursday aided materially the infantry forces below, killing or wounding many Germans with their machine guns while flying at low altitudes, according to a British official communication issued tonight dealing with aviation. In addition British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the line and aviators accounted for numerous German airmen in battles in the air. The text of the communication follows: The mist over the whole front Thursday morning cleared locally later, but at most places the weather was unsettled for low flying. The enemy's attacking troops and reinforcements on the battlefront offered excellent targets to the pilots of our low-flying machines, which poured many thousands of rounds into them, causing innumerable casualties. "Our bombing machines also attacked these targets, in addition to bombing important railway stations on the battlefront, over 100 bombs being dropped. "A great deal of fighting occurred at low altitudes, in which 16 hostile machines were downed and six driven down out of control. A hostile balloon was destroyed by one of our pilots. One of the enemy's low-flying airplanes was shot down in our lines by infantry. Three of our machines are missing. "During the night, night-flying squadrons in the southern area of the front were unable to leave the ground owing to the mist. In the northern area, where the weather was clear, our airplanes dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs on the dockyards at Brugge and 1 1/2 tons of bombs on rest billets northwest of Tournai. All of our machines returned."

According to the correspondents the British withdrawals, where they were necessary, were carried out in good order from advanced positions which, in the nature of the fighting of these days, it had been expected would be given up. These are generally believed to have been lightly held. It had been intimated that the Germans would claim the capture of several villages, but the despatches gave no hint of their names, saying only that it was inadvisable to indicate the present British line, because this would be giving information to the enemy. All the despatches emphasize the heavy cost to the Germans of the first capture of the line, and the ground from which the British have withdrawn as being littered with German dead.

OFFENSIVE SUMMARIZED

In a battle that has rivaled in ferocity any that has preceded it during three and a half years of warfare, the British, on a fifty-mile front, have withstood a great German offensive in its initial stages. At some points the British line has been bent back, but not as much as had been expected by military experts acquainted with the forces the Germans had brought up and the power of the guns they had up on and behind the line.

As the result of the struggle on that part of the front just west of Cambrai, where the fighting apparently was hottest, the British line nowhere has been broken, and Field Marshal Haig's men have inflicted frightful casualties on the enemy. As an indication of the sanguinary nature of the fighting, the Berlin foreign office states that 16,000 men and 200 guns have been captured. This may be compared to the British losses in the German counter-offensive on Dec. 4, 1917, when 6000 men and 100 guns were captured.

The first reports of infantry fighting were indicative of an attempt on the part of the Germans to drive wedges into both sides of the Cambrai salient, isolate the British troops further east and regain the Hindenburg line, from which they were driven on Nov. 22, 1917, by General Byng's sudden blow. Subsequent despatches have proved that this was, indeed, the plan of the German general staff. The fighting on the rest of the fifty-mile front was but a side issue to the terrific onslaught aimed at Gauche Wood and Lagnicourt, the south and north bases of the salient.

There are no data upon which it is possible to estimate the success attained by the Germans to the south, but names of towns where the armies were battling on Friday show that on the northern side of the salient the Germans bent the British line back about two and a half miles. It was reported that St. Leger was the scene of a hard struggle and that Doignies had been retaken by the British. These points are about four kilometres, or 2.48 miles, back of the British lines as they stood before the attack began. Berlin claims that British first line positions from Arras to La Fere were captured.

The concentration of men and artillery on the British front, as shown in official reports, demonstrates that the Germans are making a determined effort to smash the British front. Forty divisions, or about 600,000 Teutonic troops, are in the fight. The total number of cannon the Germans are employing cannot be estimated, but unofficial reports say that there were 1000 guns on one small sector. Austrian and Bulgarian troops have made their appearance on the British front.

The attack was launched under the eyes of Emperor William, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, the three guiding spirits of the German war machine. The French report fighting in various sectors, especially in Champagne and Lorraine.

Hostilities are not limited to the front in France, but the Italian battle line is beginning to show signs of activity beyond the ordinary. An Austrian attack in the Frenzela Valley was checked by the Italians after an advanced post had been taken. The Frenzela River is a tributary of the Brenta and a drive there would be for the purpose of gaining a foothold on a road to the plains of northern Italy.

WITHDRAWALS MADE WHERE NECESSARY

British Moved From Advanced Positions Which Were Being Lightly Held.

GERMAN LOSSES HEAVY

Claim of Number of Prisoners Taken is Looked Upon as an Exaggeration.

London, March 22.—The news coming from correspondents at the front today that 40 German divisions were engaged in the fighting on the front of attack, and that the greatest concentration of artillery in the world's history was operating, gave the British public an idea of the tremendous struggle on the west front. But nothing in the despatches, either from Field Marshal Haig or from the newspaper correspondents, had prepared them for the German claim, which reached London late tonight, of the capture of 16,000 prisoners and 200 guns as the result of the first day's fighting in the new German offensive, and the disposition at the moment is to regard the claim as an exaggeration. According to the correspondents the British withdrawals, where they were necessary, were carried out in good order from advanced positions which, in the nature of the fighting of these days, it had been expected would be given up. These are generally believed to have been lightly held. It had been intimated that the Germans would claim the capture of several villages, but the despatches gave no hint of their names, saying only that it was inadvisable to indicate the present British line, because this would be giving information to the enemy. All the despatches emphasize the heavy cost to the Germans of the first capture of the line, and the ground from which the British have withdrawn as being littered with German dead.

MAY ISSUE LICENSES

Customs Collectors Empowered in Matter of Newspaper and Woodpulp.

Montreal, March 22.—In connection with the instructions by the railway war board to all railways to put an embargo on all chemical and mechanical pulp and newsprint for export to the United States, unless accompanied by the required license, A. L. Davy, secretary of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, said that the order will not mean that less wood pulp and newsprint will be exported, but that it is merely a formality. He says that arrangements have been made whereby local customs collectors are empowered to issue licenses as needed in the name of the war trade board.

TWO GERMAN VESSELS ADMITTED AS MISSING

Berlin Claims Only Outpost Craft Lost—Reports Bombarding French Coast.

Berlin, March 22.—Via London.—Extensive damage was done military establishments on the French coast at Dunkirk and vicinity thru a prolonged bombardment by German torpedo boat forces early yesterday, an official statement issued today declares. Enemy destroyers were engaged as the Germans were returning, but the hostile craft withdrew, the statement says, after having sustained several hits. The German craft which attacked the coast returned undamaged. It is added, but two small outpost vessels which had been cruising west of Ostend are missing.

The Best Local Paper

The Toronto World yesterday published 67 purely local news items. The Mail published 52. The Globe published 41. The World has 15 more local items than The Mail and Empiric, and 26 more than The Globe.

BRITISH ARMY ABLE TO REGAIN GROUND

Washington Experts Are Confident of Power to Hurl Back Germans.

INFORMATION MEAGRE

American Army Officers Refrain From Hazarding Opinion of Offensive.

Washington, March 22.—Lacking reports of an official character beyond the communiques issued by the British Government, American army officers tonight still were unable to formulate conclusive opinions to the scope and purpose of the German thrust against the British front in the Cambrai sector. As additional details came in the purpose of the German high command appeared to centre upon the capture of the most advanced portion of the British trench line in the Cambrai region. There was nothing to indicate, however, it was said, whether the German purpose was to use the territory it was thus hoped to gain as a vantage point from which to strike further blows, or was designed to protect from possible allied efforts the communication centres in the vicinity of Cambrai. No officer would hazard an opinion today as to the underlying motive of the German army commanders. All said the information thus far received was of too scattered a character to show conclusively whether operations at other points on the 50-mile front involved are mere covering enterprises or are elements in a scheme of grand attack. On the face of reports thus far seen, officers were well satisfied with the display of resisting power made by the British troops. They are more than ever confident of the ability of General Haig's men not only to check the German onslaught within reasonable limits, but to hurl it back when its initial force has been expended.

"SERGEANT BOYD, V.C." HELD AT BUFFALO

Suspected of Fraudulently Posing as a Victoria Cross Hero By Montreal Reporter.

Montreal, March 22.—The arrest of "Sergeant R. F. Boyd, V.C., of the Princess Patricia's," at Buffalo on suspicion of fraudulently posing as a Victoria Cross hero, was due to Major Phil McKenzie, M.C., assistant provost marshal in Montreal, on information given him by a Gazette reporter who had interviewed Boyd at the Windsor Hotel here, and who had doubts of Boyd's bona fides. Boyd, while in this city, claimed that he was a V.C. of the Princess Patricia, and among his possessions was a letter purporting to have been from Sir Sam Hughes, former Canadian minister of militia, commending him to the Red Cross Society. The letter was signed "Sir Sam Hughes," an unusual style of signature for Sir Sam. The "sergeant" told the Gazette man that King George had given him the V.C., and the Princess Mary had kissed him, and that this had occurred in France. He said he was going to the southern states on an extended lecturing tour under the auspices of the American Red Cross, and he wished the paper containing the interview mailed to him at a Buffalo hotel. The interview did not appear, however.

DINEEN'S MEN'S HATS

Get your good hats early this spring. There is always an advantage in buying early, even when you have so large a stock to select from as that at Dineen's. We specialize in English lines—sumous and exclusive makes—as popular prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

SHAREHOLDERS GIVEN NO HOPE OF ANY RETURN

Stockholders in Dominion Permanent Loan Meet to Hear Liquidator.

CIVIL ACTION STARTED

Two Million Dollars Are Sought From Estates of Directors.

Action to recover \$2,000,000 from F. M. Holland, manager of the defunct Dominion Permanent Loan Corporation, and the estates of the late Chas. Klopfer, Gueph; D. W. Karn, Woodstock; Thomas P. Coffee, Gueph; and J. R. Stratton, Toronto, one time directors of the company, was begun yesterday at Osgoode Hall by J. V. Bain, K.C., counsel for G. T. Clarkson, official liquidator. In the writ issued against Holland and the executors of the late directors' estates, the liquidator alleges that the said Coffee, Stratton, Klopfer, Karn and Holland were guilty while directors of the Dominion Permanent Loan Corporation, of conspiracy, breach of trust, misfeasance, and gross and willful negligence. He seeks judgment for two million dollars as damages, together with the return of all dividends received by the said directors, and the interest thereon, as well as the repayment of all sums of money received for services from the corporation. The writ is the result of Mr. Clarkson's promise to sue for recovery of dividends wrongfully voted by the directors, which he made to the depositors and bondholders at the meeting on Thursday. Mr. Bain is the liquidator's counsel in the winding up process, and therefore the action that he takes will be purely civil. Any criminal proceedings must come from the attorney-general and his crown attorneys on information which the liquidator may furnish from time to time. Bain Determined. When asked if any proceedings would be taken against the recent directors, Mr. Bain said that he had the question under consideration at present, and he reached no conclusion that there was ground for court action and some chance of successful suit he would not hesitate to act, no matter who the meeting was. "This is a case where I am acting for the liquidator, who is dependent on by hundreds of unfortunate people who have their all in this company," said Mr. Bain last night. "You can be assured that I will not let feelings or anything else interfere with what I regard as my duty. No matter who the men are, if I conclude that they are liable, they will have to defend themselves in civil action. That is as far as my power goes." Mr. Bain expected that the action begun yesterday would take considerable time despite the fact that a joint suit has been instituted against the estates of the dead directors and Holland, who is now out on \$20,000 bail, on a charge of conspiracy with others to defraud.

Attorney-General's Views

"I do not intend a separate probe by commission into the company's affairs. Mr. Clarkson, who is an expert on such matters and who has handled several cases of this nature, is making a very thorough investigation. He will advise me as to where the trouble lies. There is no disposition on the part of the attorney-general's department to neglect its duty in taking criminal action against all guilty parties."

Another class of the victims of the corporation, viz., the shareholders, gathered yesterday afternoon in Osgoode Hall on the invitation of Official Referee Cameron, to hear the same story told by G. T. Clarkson to the depositors and bondholders on Thursday.

The tone of the meeting was nothing like that which characterized the Thursday session. Things weren't so bad until Mr. Clarkson announced that with the most successful sort of negotiations and court actions the depositors and bondholders could only hope to get from 50 to 80 cents on the dollar. This seemed to be slowly sinking into the minds of the stockholders, and a few looked disappointed. Others tried to appear optimistic until Mr. Clarkson added that

