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OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

FRENCH

The following official communication was issued last night:

"We have gained some ground along the front at the north of the road between Ypres and Menin."

"The British troops have advanced slightly in the region of Arras."

"Our artillery has destroyed two heavy batteries in the region of Verdun."

"There is nothing of importance to report from the other parts of the front."

"The day of Dec. 17 was marked, as we said yesterday, by an advance on our part in Belgium, where every counter-attack undertaken by the enemy failed."

"In the region of Arras a vigorous offensive made us masters of several trenches."

"These are located at Auchy, La Bassée, St. Laurent and Bligny. At this last-mentioned place we occupied, on a front more than one kilometre (3.5 or 4 miles) long, almost all the first-line trenches of the enemy."

"In the region of Tracy-Le-Val, on the Aisne, and in Champagne, our heavy artillery won distinct advantages."

"In the Argonne the Germans blew up one of our trenches to the north of Four de Paris, and endeavored to move out from their position with three battalions of troops. This infantry attack, as well as the one they undertook at St. Hubert, was repulsed."

"To the east of the Meuse and in the Vosges there is nothing to report."

RUSSIAN

The following statement from the general staff of the Russian army was made public last night:

"On the left bank of the Vistula an almost complete victory was achieved by the Russian army in the course of the past few days. All of these attacks were repulsed."

"In connection with the advance of part of our troops towards the Bzura River (Russian Poland), and in view of the fact that the Austrians are continuing to receive reinforcements in the Carpathians, we have thought fit to rearrange the positions of some of our armies."

"We checked the offensive of the enemy yesterday in Western Galicia. On the front between Sanok and Lisko we have succeeded in our offensive and have captured 3000 prisoners, several guns and machine-guns."

AUSTRIAN

VIENNA, via London, Dec. 18.—(10.05 p.m.)—The following Austrian official statement was issued last night:

"The beaten Russian main force are being pursued on the entire front, from Kresno (Galicia) to the mouth of the Bzura River (in Poland, where it empties into the Vistula)."

"The enemy yesterday was driven from his positions north of the Carpathians, between Kresno and Zolotyyn. On the lower Donajec River we and our allies, doing battle with the enemy's rear guard, have been made without important fighting. Plotkowsky, day before yesterday, and yesterday, however, were successful."

"The heroic garrison at Przemyśl has continued further fighting in front of the fortress with success."

"The situation in the Carpathians has not yet substantially changed."

GERMAN

"The fighting in Nieuport continues favorable, but no decision yet has been reached."

"The French attacks between La Bassée and Arras and on both sides of the Somme have resulted in failure with severe losses to the enemy. On the Somme the French lost 1500 men in our losses were under 200."

"In the Argonne forest our successful attacks resulted in the capture of some 750 prisoners. In addition to war material, there have been no important developments elsewhere on the western front."

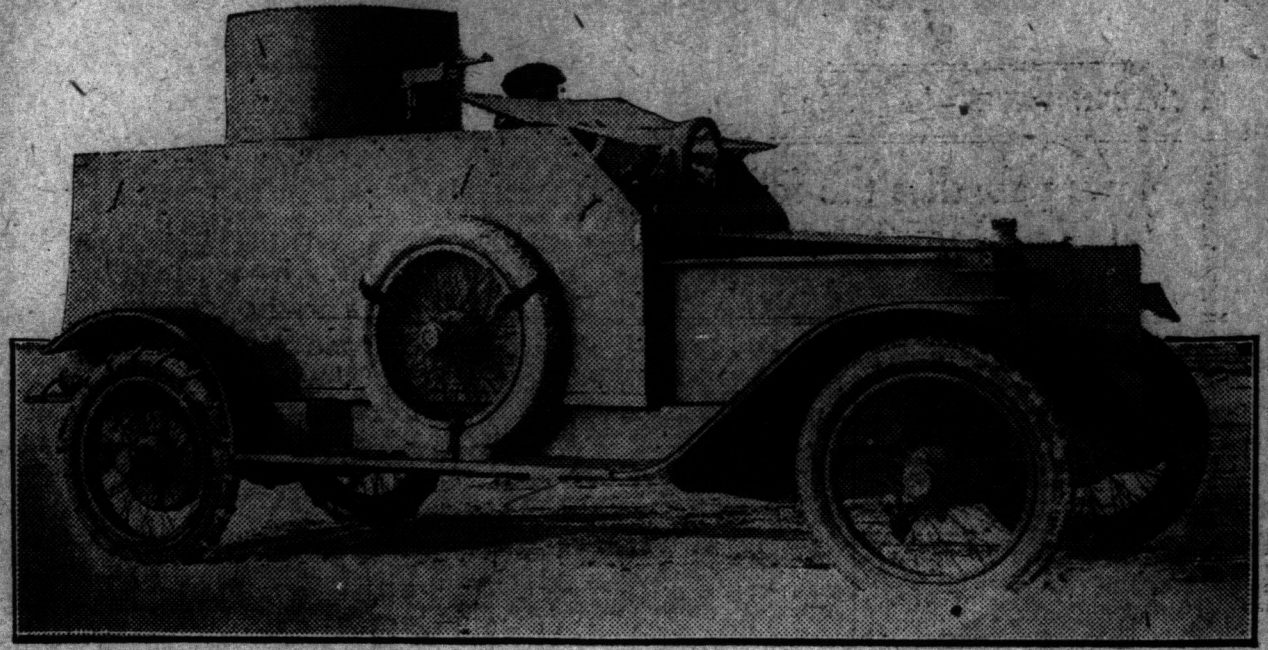
"On the frontiers of East and West Prussia the situation is unchanged."

"In Poland we continue to pursue the retreating enemy."

"The coincidence of the expedition to the English coast and the victory in the East continues to cause general rejoicing. Of details there is general expectation that the Russian defeat will prove to have been complete. From details already available, however, it seems safe to say that the victory has freed Germany from east for a long period. The Austrians appear to have done their work quite as well as likely to be advantageous as regards certain powers whose attitude might depend on the course of the events of the war."

"While nearly the whole press is disappointed to consider Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's victory in the light of an utter defeat of the Vorwärts speaks in a more moderate tone."

THE MOTOR CAR MOBILIZATION



The armored motor which headed the parade of 600 cars used in the mobilization test yesterday afternoon.

THIRTY MINUTES IN MOBILIZING

Motor Car Test a Great Success in Every Way.

A SPLENDID RECORD

Whole Scheme Was Carried Out on Time Without a Hitch.

Number of men, 3000.
Number of cars, 600.
Average per car, three men.
Average time to reach Queen's Park from loading point, 20 minutes.
Average time from Queen's Park to High Park, 30 minutes.
Time for parade of motors to pass King and Yonge, 10 minutes.

In just fifty minutes yesterday—thanks to the aid of the motor cars—two thousand men, supposed to be Toronto's defenders against an enemy in High Park, were collected and taken to the supposed battle-ground. It was a demonstration of the worth of the automobile in case Toronto ever had to defend herself. Meanwhile Toronto saw a procession such as it had never seen before. There was none of the gay music we were at one time accustomed to associate with military processions. The bright colors of the peace-time uniform were lacking. The men were in their service dress, all ready to fight, and the perfect order of the occasion was well to the head of the parade. Yet everyone who watched the mobilization and the procession must have experienced a thrill. No one could see the large body of well-set, well-equipped and well-drilled men without his patriotic enthusiasm being aroused and his martial spirit excited.

It proved that the motor corps organized by the Ontario Motor League is an effective organization and that the men whom Gen. Leasard must have under his charge at the Exhibition grounds have developed into competent all those who had charge of the arrangements, and those co-operating out, if not quite on time, quickly and without any confusion.

To understand what was being done one had to imagine that word had been received that the enemy was

approaching from the west and that the city militia was being assembled to withstand the attack. To save the men of the city corps from being taken from their work, two battalions from Exhibition grounds were divided into forty detachments and scattered all over the city. Had it been the city corps the men would have been ordered to report at these points instead of at the armories. The first task of the motor corps was to gather up these detachments and to bring them to the point of general assembly, which, for this test, was set at Queen's Park instead of the armories. For this purpose the motorists had been divided into four sections, each section having been allotted a certain district. Each section was divided into ten squadrons, each squadron being responsible for the transport of the troops assembled at one of the primary assembly points.

The dispatching of the men from the Exhibition grounds was under the charge of Gen. Leasard and his staff, and was done in a very business-like way. The detachments were formed up ten minutes before the time for departure. For those going to the more outlying districts special street cars had been provided and they left by the Dufferin street gate. These marching out left by the east and west gates. Each assembly point had been distinguished by a combination of letters which had been given to the motor squadrons, the detachment itself and the street car which was to carry the detachment. As the street car drew up at the Exhibition gates a street railway superintendent announced its letter. This was called back into the park by relays of officers and that particular detachment marched out and boarded its car.

As each detachment arrived at its appointed station it found its motor squadrons waiting. Just here it may be said that the motorists went inside the test with line spirit and not a single squadron was short. Its appointed number. In some cases the allowance of cars was too generous, a reserve having been provided in each squadron for four squadrons would not turn up or would turn up late. Getting up to the motors was also a business-like manoeuvre.

At ten minutes to two the first motor squadron arrived in Queen's Park, only ten minutes after it had picked up its detachment on Broadview avenue. From that time they arrived in a steady line but all confusion had been eliminated here by the order, which set out how each squadron should enter the park and to what part of the park it should go.

General Leasard and his staff were on the north side of the Parliament Buildings. The general watched the discharging of the men from the machines and into the ranks. The bugle called the men to the pavilion, where General Leasard addressed the officers. His honor the Lieutenant-governor was an interested spectator.

In congratulating Dr. Doolittle and the members of the Ontario Motor League Corps on the results that had followed the formation of the Motor Corps, he said that the organization deserved special compliment. Every one who had been associated with the movement was worthy of the highest credit. It was evident that should the authorities could depend on the Motor League giving invaluable assistance.

Start for High Park.
At ten minutes past three the men were ordered back into the automobiles and the procession began towards High Park. The general and his staff were in the van, followed closely by the armored car. It took twenty-two minutes for the whole procession to pass out and along Bloor street. There was very little blocking except where a car would stall for a couple of seconds. About a thousand people were in the park to watch the proceedings.

The procession left the park by the Bloor street entrance, passed along Bloor street, down Jarvis street and along King street to Sunnyside, thence to High Park. In a couple of places groups of school children regarded the passing soldier-laden motors as splendid targets for machine and proved themselves fairly good shots. The men were warmly clad and perhaps were not as cold as they looked. They had started from the camp with their great coats "en bandeole" over their shoulders and had put them on in the park. The stiff service caps they were wearing, however, did not prove very seasonable headgear.

No Defence Work.
At High Park the men were again unloaded from the cars and formed up. It had been intended that they should take up a position of defence, but the hour of arrival was too late for the schedule and General Leasard decided that this part of the program should be omitted. The men marched back to the Exhibition grounds.

Motor League Commanders.
The officers of the Ontario Motor League Corps who took part in the mobilization are as follows: Chief commandant, Dr. P. E. Doolittle; assistant chief commandant, L. R. Howland; eastern division, commandant, A. R. Clarke; northern division, commandant, F. McGillivray; southern division, commandant, R. G. Gassett; western division, commandant, W. W. Dwyer.

A Splendid Record.
The motor division assigned to the Danforth avenue district was the last to arrive at the Exhibition grounds. They were exactly 30 minutes on the road. The others arrived on times varying from 5 to 15 minutes from points of start. The police arrangements were commented on very favorably. Chief Gassett had over 100 men scattered over the route of the parade. Some were stationed in front of the schools

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MAD LOVER STOLE DEAD WOMAN'S MAIL

Murderer of Mrs. Edith McFarland Intercepted Husband's Letters.

An inquest was opened by Coroner C. J. Currie at the morgue last night into the death of Mrs. Edith McFarland, who was murdered in the home of her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, 428 Crawford street, on Friday, Dec. 11, by Guy Argies, a boarder in the Hall home, who, after shooting Mrs. McFarland, committed suicide himself. After the evidence of several witnesses was taken the jury returned the following verdict: "That Mrs. Edith McFarland came to her death on the 11th day of December by being shot by Guy Argies, while temporarily insane."

Mrs. Hall, an eye-witness of the tragedy, had to be assisted into the room to give her evidence. She had not yet recovered from the shock, giving her evidence Mrs. Hall stated that Argies had been boarding at her house for six or eight months, and, to the best of her knowledge, never touched liquor, but had often complained of being nervous.

"A week before the shooting," she said, "Argies brought home a large revolver in a case, with a score card, and remarked to us that he was a very good shot. I became worried and ordered him to leave the house. He said he would, but kept putting it off until the night of the murder. He said he would leave the following Saturday."

Ate Little Supper.
On Friday night, the night of the murder, Argies ate very little at supper and at about 6.15 he went upstairs and got his hat and overcoat, which he was getting ready to take her four-year-old son to church when Argies approached her and asked her to stay on the route, to keep the children back.

General Could Not Come.
Owing to pressure of work General Leasard was not present at the dinner held in his honor at the National Club, immediately after the mobilization test. Major Bickford and Captain Reg. Pellatt represented him. A. R. Clarke was the host.

It was announced that a number of cars will be placed at the disposal of General Leasard for duty at manoeuvres in High Park, and general staff duties.

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The rotogravure process, being used by The Sunday World for the first time by any large Canadian paper, is far more expensive than half-tone printing, but the results, in clearness of detail and artistic appearance, more than justify the added expenditure.

In addition to this fine Art Section, there will be several magazine pages, illustrated stories of uncommon interest, and pages that reflect the Christmas season.

The Sunday World

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