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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1918.

THE WAR TODAY.

The Germans are attempting to bring their retreat from the Soissons-Rheims salient to a stop, and as a result the fighting yesterday was of a most bitter character.

time for at least 300,000 American troops already in France, but not yet ready for the combat, to finish their training.

Automatically Foch would thus acquire another strategic reserve materially larger than that which he used with such deadly effect south of Soissons the other day.

But if Ludendorff attacks now he must attack the British, since the armies of the Crown Prince, fighting disastrously between the Argonne and Soissons, are in no condition to undertake an offensive.

Their supplies have been exhausted, their transport disorganized and their reserves consumed in the recent unsuccessful battle and subsequent retreat.

It is one thing to draw a great army out of a bad hole skillfully, and another to throw this army into another vast offensive in a period of days. The thing was possible in the old war movement, when the question of munitions and transport was not so important.

It is well-nigh inconceivable under existing conditions. If Ludendorff elects to strike the British, however, he can employ little more than twenty-five divisions of reserves, so great has been the consumption of shock troops in recent months.

Four months ago he brought off his Pleadry success with forty divisions, followed immediately by another forty. But the British have now at least ninety full divisions on the west front, equal in strength to at least 100 German divisions.

They almost certainly outnumber the Germans before them and the mass of their divisions are in better condition than those of the enemy.

On the other hand, Foch is in no position to let loose a general offensive, such as the Germans have been indulging in. Should he undertake this and fail, the Germans would be able to pass to the offensive again with far better chances of success than they now have.

As far as one can see, the waiting game, with certain clear modifications, remains the best game for the Allied commander-in-chief. His numbers are growing, he has mastered the new German method of attack, he has pulled down both the strength and the confidence of his foes enormously, and he is in a position to profit instantly by miscalculation of theirs.

If the Germans try a new offensive and fail, then may come the moment for the general offensive of the Allies. This will depend upon the extent of the German failure and the effect of the defeat upon the morale of their army.

SEEK TO DECEIVE PEOPLE AT HOME

Paris, July 31—Information reaching Paris from Swiss sources tends to show that the Germans are still trying to keep from the German people the fact that American troops are now engaged in battle with the Germans on the Soissons-Rheims sector.

These advices say that the Germans recently stripped the uniforms from a number of Americans they had made prisoners and gave them other clothing to wear.

GERMAN EXCUSE FOR THE FAILURE

Paris, July 31—The newspaper Echo De Paris said today that a semi-official note emanating from Hindenburg and Ludendorff declared the German command had been compelled to postpone for some time the decisive blow against the French and British, owing to the new situation.

SPLENDID SPIRIT CANADIAN BOYS

London, July 31—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The Canadian Journalists, in an interview given upon their return to London, said that they were most impressed by the wonderful spirit of the men.

Along the whole front, amongst all ranks, from general to private, there is absolute confidence, said Mr. G. Penny, of the Quebec Chronicle. "There is no sign of faltering, no depression, no doubt whatever as to the result."

Another member of the party said: "The organization behind the lines is almost miraculous. Everywhere are signs of coming victory and the optimism of the men is wonderfully stimulating. What they are yearning for home, they show everywhere determination to see it through, whatever the time or cost."

FIRE DESTROYED RAILWAY SHOPS

Quebec, July 31—The workshops of the Canadian National Railway at St. Anne De Beaupre, were practically destroyed by fire last night. The blaze broke out in the old shops and spread to the round house, which was also destroyed.

CARBONIZATION OF CANNEL COAL

London, July 31—(Via Reuters Limited)—The best method of obtaining fuel from domestic sources is by the carbonization of cannel coal, according to a report just issued by a committee under the chairmanship of the Marquis of Crewe.

The committee was appointed by the Minister of Munitions to investigate the question. Cannel coal could be carbonized in existing vertical retorts at gas works, although no very large increased quantity of oil can be obtained from this source during the war owing to the difficulties of obtaining coal and transport.

The report indicates that other sources of supply will be available in the future. They include drilling for oil in Great Britain, further development of the Scottish shale oil industry and increased carbonization of raw coal. In the latter connection it is declared that not only have the advantages of this method been demonstrated, but that 2,000,000 tons of coal carbonized.

RED BANK SEES PRETTY WEDDING

Miss Bella Oshea becomes the Bride of William Power There on Tuesday.

Newcastle, N. B., July 31.—The Roman Catholic church at Red Bank was the scene of a very interesting event at the wedding of Miss Bella Oshea, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Shea of Boom Road, and William Power, eldest son of Councilor and Mrs. James Power, of Red Bank.

The Stock Market

By private wire to J. M. Robinson and New York, July 31.—Stock market outlook: Cross currents are expected in the market. Speculative sentiment is mixed.

The apparent failure of the German and the U. S. Steel dividends are favorable, but their stimulating effects may not go far. Professionals continue to work against prices on the money and tax conditions.

It would be difficult to find another industry that is in as strong a position today, all things considered, as copper mining, says a leading New England expert.

Only a moderate proportion of big profits have been distributed and immense amounts of quick assets have accumulated. Productions have been taken largely for purposes of war and industrial needs deferred and piled up.

Prominent interests are taking the position that non-essential business of the U. S. will begin to recover with the turn of the year, and the stocks of companies representing such lines should they decline materially in the next six months should be bought and held for "long profits."

Journal of Commerce makes cotton crop condition 77.4. Summary. Balance available for United States Steel common after taxes \$7.99 a share in second quarter against \$7.20 for preceding quarter and \$12.30 same time year ago.

U. S. Shipping Board asks for one million tons of steel in next three months, an increase of 250,000 tons monthly, purpose being to have reserve of 1,330,000 tons by Nov. 1st.

JULY CLEARANCE SALE AT EDGECOMBE'S OF Ladies' Summer Suits. STYLISH MODELS IN VARIOUS COLORS. You can have one in Silk, Satin, Serge, Gabardine, Tweed, Linen, and other Wash Suits.

Lipton's Celebrated Teas. CHICKEN HADDIE in tins. FLAKE COD FISH in tins. RASPBERRY VINEGAR. GRAPE JUICE, all size bottles. MONTERRAT LIME JUICE.

G. T. Whelpley. We have just opened a new lot of RECENT NOVELS. In the reprint edition. Among them: "The Harvester", by Porter.

C. W. HALL. Agent for Ladies' Home Journal Patterns. LUCY'S CORNER. Suitcases reg. \$1.40 at \$1.25.

GEO. R. THOMPSON. TO MY CUSTOMERS. Having sold my interest in the Queen Street Branch of the Fredericton Shoe Hospital, I wish to announce that I will conduct the Regent Street Branch as usual.

ORANGE DELEGATES. Charlottetown, July 30—About a hundred prominent Orangemen from various parts of Canada and Newfoundland arrived here last night to attend the Grand Orange Chapter which opened this morning.

OBITUARY. Mrs. Elizabeth Peters. The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Peters, widow of the late George Peters, of Kingsclear, occurred at Bangor, Me., July 26th.

AUTOMOBILE SPONGES AND BATH. Automobile Sponges, the kind that won't scratch. Bath Sponges. Rubber Sponges.

SPECIAL MID-SUMMER BICYCLE SALE. JULY 27—AUGUST 3. Only three more days of our Special Bicycle Sale left. Be sure and see our wheels and get our prices before purchasing a Bicycle.

Corona Dry Arsenate of Lead. Last year we sold to one of our customers 200 pounds Corona Arsenate. This year we did not sell him any.

VICTORY BONDS. ASK FOR QUOTATIONS. J. M. ROBINSON & SONS. THE GAITY BUILDING, QUEEN STREET.

GET IT AT HOLDER'S. Thursday Half Holiday. Colored Striped Voiles 15c per yard. For Thursday Morning Only.

Buzzell's Dye Works. Buzzell's Dye Works. Of calling on Buzzell's Dye Works when you have anything that requires cleaning or dyeing.

BRITISH LOSSES FOR MONTH JULY

London, July 31—British casualties reported during July totalled 67,291. This compares with total casualties reported in June of 141,147. The losses for July are divided as follows:

Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 51, men 4,474. Wounded or missing—Officers 1,537, men 66,758.