

ITALIAN ARMIES TAKE INITIATIVE
Launch Strong Offensive at Threatened Point in Their Line

London, May 17.—Among the rugged peaks of the Asiago Plateau, east of the Brenta River, the Italian front has again flamed up into violent action. The aggressive has been taken by the Italians, however, and the Austro-German forces, instead of launching their long-expected assault on the Italian lines, have been compelled to fight hard to maintain the positions where they have stood since last November.

The fighting seems to have centered on the comparatively short section of the battle-line between Monte Asolone and Monte Pertica. These two heights, about three miles apart, rise to an altitude of about 5,000 feet, while between them there is a sort of "saddle" on which the Teuton forces have taken up strong positions. Both the Vienna and Rome officials' statements tell of bitter fighting on this particular front, the latter stating that the Italian soldiers have entered Austrian trenches on Monte Asolone in two places.

The fact that the Italian armies have taken the initiative in the fighting would seem to indicate that they have sought to carry the fighting to the enemy in such a way as to break up any arrangements for the launching of a strong Teutonic assault.

While the fighting has been fierce east of the Brenta, the whole Italian line from Lake Garda to the Piave and thence to the sea has been marked by patrol engagements, in which the British participated. They appear to be isolated actions, but which may be component parts of a plan of campaign in that theatre of the war. Nowhere have the Italian lines been reached by attacking parties of Austrians.

NEWS NOTES

Rev. J. G. Miller, prominent member of Stratford Presbytery and pastor of 1st Presbyterian church St. Mary's, has received a call to Brandon, Man.

At a public meeting at St. Catharines, addressed by M. D. Tadhope, of Orillia, and Miss Constance Boulton, of Toronto, a branch of the Navy League was formed.

The U. S. Government has fixed a standard price for cement.

Ineligible medical men across the border are to be organized into a volunteer corps.

Woodchucks are being exterminated on New York farms by means of dynamiting their burrows.

The U. S. Attorney General urges every citizen to be his own detective in a nation-wide traitor hunt.

The Du Pont Company has declared a 2 per cent common stock dividend totalling \$1,777,084 in aid of the Red Cross.

A church for all creeds has been opened in Boston which will be patronized by priests preaching in 20 different tongues.

The District of Columbia contemplates standardizing rents by placing a fixed limit on the return on all kinds of real estate.

Two U. S. destroyers have been named after two U. S. sailors who have given their lives in action during the present war.

The board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian church in the States reports that much "Americanization" work has been done amongst foreigners in the past year.

Dr. J. J. Billingsby, of the American Red Cross, suggested that William Randolph Hearst should be placed in a box called the "Pit," and sent as a gift to the Kaiser.

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Brave Young Aviators Make Up Cloud Patrol
Fighting Against Huns

JUDGING by his actions, one might have thought he was at home in an old-fashioned armchair rather than that he was poised above the German lines, with two miles of thin air separating him from the ground, says Lieut. R. Johnson, in an article on "The Cloud Patrol." Below him were the lines, brown and white ribbons, around which the ground was pitted with countless shell holes. He saw the result of hundreds of days' work in the untiring munition factories of both combatants—so many thousands of pounds dead loss to the world, as far as practical purposes were concerned.

Here and there a cluster of shell holes, sometimes crowned by a crater of a mine, marked the scene of some terrific combat, a spot that never would be forgotten in history. Behind him, winding away from the scene of action and out of range of enemy guns, were the roads, on which a motley swarm of transports of all sizes and descriptions brought up necessities to the trenches, and to the immediate reserves. Before him, on the German roads, little white clouds of smoke were seen, for the enemy was continually harassed by British aircraft. The British transport worked daily without any fear from the Germans, such was the advantage of the mastery of the air.

Around the pilot, rising and falling, as if on the bosom of some vast restless sea, other machines were engaged on a like mission. They were of a similar type and came from the same squadron and aerodrome. Altogether there were six of them, holding together like a flight of ducks in a sky of the palest blue. Crossing the lines always infused new life into the pilot. There was something definite for which to work and there was the spur of ambition, a little personal, but above all for his country. His inspiration gave him a margin of courage which might, in the future, prove fatal to some opponent, as it had done in the past.

Except for the six machines, the air was undisturbed. It was early, as the pale sky proclaimed, and the harassed German had reckoned on at least another hour's sleep. The sun was still drowsy, but it served its purpose. The visibility was good, except for the customary slight haze of dawn, which had not yet been dispelled. The pilot had been dreaming his ambitious dreams, and they had taken his attention momentarily from his work. The time for action had arrived, and he found he had lost position in the flight. He corrected himself in the formation by a series of turns, and prepared himself for serious work. He glanced along the sights of his machine gun, and at his bombs. All was in order as it was bound to be. Everything had been overhauled before the machine started out on its perilous mission.

It would not be long before the enemy was upon them, for they had been hanging over a German aerodrome for the last ten minutes, waiting to see if he had the courage to attack. For three hours they would hang over the lines, attacking and being attacked by the hostile aircraft. The engine roared and the wires sang in the wind with a high pitched note. The pilot had been rising too quickly and the machine gathered additional speed as he put it into a slight compensating decline. The enemy evidently did not intend to attack, and the British flight commander led the patrol well over the lines, until the brown of the shell-swept area passed behind. Smiling green fields, as yet unmarked by war, lay below them; how long they would remain so depended upon the rapidity of the British advance. At the present rate, perhaps in a few weeks, perhaps in a few days, the fields below would be scarred by German trenches.

The air-speed indicator quivered at 120 miles per hour when the pilot first became aware that other machines than his own squadron were in the air. Far above the flight, almost out of sight, hung three hostile machines, hesitating to attack. "Must be Germans," he thought, and he looked to the leader for the signal. Since the enemy had the advantage in height, the only thing to do was to wait the dive, which would come sooner or later for a certainty. In a few minutes it came, and the pilot was not unprepared. The hostile planes dived like a flash, firing their machine guns. Like a flash they sped through the formation, earthward. They did not intend to fight to a finish.

But the pilot did not wait for the leader. He dived before the hostile planes were through the formation and followed them down to where they had reckoned to be out of harm's way. They were unprepared for his fierce counter-attack, and, taken unawares, one of their number fell slowly to earth in that spin, which ends in a nose dive. The crippled machine crashed to earth in a field, like a stricken eagle. The pilot climbed to his formation and followed them heavenward. Undisturbed, he continued his musings. Idly he scratched a mark beside three others on the framework. It was his record of fame.

Out of His Misery.

Wilson (who has met his friend whom he hasn't seen for some time)—Let me see, you know poor old Jackson, didn't you?

Johnson—Yes, I knew him well.

Wilson—Then you will be pleased to hear he is out of his misery at last.

Johnson—You don't say so. Poor old fellow; but I always thought he would drop off suddenly. When did he die?

Wilson—Oh, he's not dead; it's his wife.—Pearson's Weekly.

NEWS FROM NORFOLK COUNTY

ONLY TWO CHANGES IN ASSESSMENTS

Court of Revision Dismisses Majority of Appeals Submitted

OTHER SIMCOE NEWS

Simcoe, May 17.—(From our own correspondent)—The court of revision on the assessment roll sat last night to hear appeals.

Kerr and Thompson's assessment for the Norfolk House property was lowered from \$15,800 to \$13,800. Mary A. Chanda's back lot on Metcalf street, near the "Titanic" was reduced from \$300 to \$200.

The Norfolk Milling Company's assessment on the mill property was sustained at \$11,475.

R. N. Smith's residence on Talbot street, sustained at \$2,440.

Martha Yeager's residence on Colborne St. sustained at \$550.

G. W. Wilson's vacant lot, sustained at \$100 each.

The court rose at 10 o'clock, leaving the total assessment for 1918 \$2,498,429, or about \$12,540 higher than that of 1917.

Ye Klotak "Fiends."

Take a shot at the Campbell memorial just completed in Lynnwood Park. Cross your own time, light and view point. We want a

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good snap of the memorial and one of the tablets only for an insert. The bowlder is no longer. It was found on the original Campbell farm and was presented to the council last year by the general manager of the L. E. and N. railway. It blends harmoniously with the surroundings and we desire to publish a cut of it that former Simcoians may have some idea of its appearance. Do not be the last to submit a print. Only amateurs need submit a print. Only amateurs need submit a print. Only amateurs need submit a print.

Only One Guest

There is at present but one guest at Castle Robertson—a young able-bodied man who is serving six months.

Narrowing the Roadways

For some days past the grader has been working on various streets adding to the boulevards instead of heaping on the centre of the roads

all the loose material that the grader lifts.

Supt. Fiddin tells us that the streets can be put in repair more easily in this way and that in residential districts, where the property holders look forward to something more permanent than gravel, they are turning out and touching up the additions to their boulevards.

Press Photographs

Mrs. C. A. Chadwick and daughter went to St. Thomas yesterday to be present at a reception tendered a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott and his bride on the eve of the groom's leave-taking for overseas.

Mrs. I. McNally is reported as being quite ill.

OTTAWA CLEARINGS.

By Counter Lease Wire
 Ottawa, May 16.—Bank clearings, \$6,104,714.

Telegraph companies across the border have been ordered not to discharge any union man.

Wages of farm laborers across the border have increased almost 25 per cent. in the past year.

The last German daily paper in Brooklyn has discontinued, as a patriotic act, after 55 years.

Dr. G. A. Williams, a New York surgeon, died as a result of a scratch from a rusty nail.

The U. S. Ordnance Department reiterates that every soldier is going overseas fully armed.

The Red Cross has bought \$7,000,000 worth of cotton goods in the States in the past few weeks.

U. S. Food Administrator Hoover states that the rising prices of corn, barley and oats are extortionate.

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Large Can Custard Powder	23c	Cherries, Can	23c
der	23c	Bodley's Cakes, per lb.	20c
4-lb. Pail Jam	65c	Cowan's Cocoa	24c
Catsup, large	20c	Fry's Cocoa	24c
Snider's Catsup	23c	Grape Juice, pint	23c
Pork and Beans, large	18c	2 Cans Vegetable Soup	23c
Small, 2 for	25c	H. P. Sauce	27c
Moxley's Oleomargarine	36c	Loose Raisins, lb.	15c
Bulk Sodas	15c	Vegetables Fresh Daily	
Large Can Baking Powder	20c	Pure Maple Sugar and Syrup	
Small Can	10c	A full line of the Best Fruits.	

TEA AT THE OLD PRICES
WM. SMITH
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New York School Board is now advocating a standard type of public school building.

The U. S. has abandoned the construction of the smaller models of liberty motor trucks.

U. S. soldiers have been declared immune from state court alimony orders.

Columbia University has awarded seven fellowships to women students.

GRAFTON'S

Planning for the Rainy Day!

Away down deep in the bosom of every normal man and woman is the desire to have something laid up for a rainy day—the "stocking" we sometimes speak of against the day of need. Whether measured by a savings fund, a bank account, or a Victory Bond, it is a comfortable feeling to have that Nest Egg laid away for the future. The Grafton Store offers money-saving opportunities not to be had elsewhere—we know we can help fill that rainy day socking. Nowhere in Brantford, quality considered, can goods be bought as low. Test it for yourself.

Men's Suits from \$18 to \$35

Men's and Young Men's Spring Suits for which others ask \$22.50	\$18.00	Men's and Young Men's Spring Suits, in belters, double and single breasted, for which others ask \$32.00 to \$35.	\$25.00
Young Men's Spring Suits, in Tweeds and Worsteds, belted and nobby two-button sacs, for which others ask \$25.00	\$19.50	Men's and Young Men's Spring Suits, in refined three-button model for the conservative dresser, and in the popular French model for the young man, for which others ask \$40 to \$45.	\$35.00
Men's and Young Men's Spring Suits for which others ask \$27.50	\$22.50		

You May Be Sure Everything is Right in Our Boys' Clothing Dept.

Styles are right, Tailorwork is right, Materials are right, and, above all, the Prices are Right. Factory to Wearer is our plan. Made in our own factory, and sold directly to you at one-third savings the year round.

Norfolk Suits \$6.98 to \$13.50 In very many different styles. Not every boy can wear the same, and that is where we excel in suiting your boy with just what he needs. Priced at from \$6.98 to \$13.50	All-Wool Blue Serge Norfolks \$7.95 to \$18.00 With eight Prices in between. Blue Serge is "always good"—that is if it is properly tailored and all wool. Of course these are, and the very best and in the very best and newest models! \$7.95 to \$18.00	Spring Reefers \$5.95 to \$9.50 In Trench Models of course. That is what little and big are wishing for. We consider these particularly smart. Made of the best material, and priced at from \$5.95 to \$9.50
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Novelty Suits for Little Chaps \$3.98 to \$9.98
In all the newest model and a wonderful range of fine fabrics. Specially priced at from \$3.98 to **\$9.98**
Complete line of Boys' Washable Suits. Prices range from \$1.68, \$1.98, \$2.48 to **\$2.98**

Men's Suits to Measure at Real Thrift Prices

Men's Suits to Measure at Real Thrift Prices. Fabrics have not only advanced in price since we bought in quantities months ago, but are still steadily growing scarcer.

Notwithstanding these conditions, we've kept our prices down to rock bottom figures—\$25.00 to \$45.00. An opportunity for you that may not last. Better get your order in now, or you may regret it later. A Suit that'll show style, character and quality all over. That'll express your individuality, fit you perfectly, or you needn't take it. That'll wear and keep its shape this season and next. Handsome Fabrics in up-to-date Patterns.

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