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PROBS

Fresh to strong westerly winds a few local showers, but mostly fair and mild.

SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 21 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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FRENCH HOLD 19,000 PRISONERS AND 100 GUNS TAKEN IN A WEEK

Further Progress is Made by Gen. Nivelle North of the Aisne, in Champagne and the Argonne Forest; Village of Sancy Taken

FRENCH ARMIES SLOWLY CLOSE UP LAON SALIENT

Relentless Pressure Against Germans Results in Extension of Positions in the Dip Towards Rheims—Enemy Attempting Counter-Attacks is Hewn Down, Making Costly Sacrifices Without Compensation.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, April 20.—Battling all along the wide front from Soissons to Auberville in the Champagne, the armies of Gen. Nivelle continued today to close up the Laon salient, pressing the Germans relentlessly up the Craonne Plateau, extending their positions in the dip toward Rheims, and to the eastward thrusting out upon the hillsides around Moronvillers. The continual increment of prisoners expressed the French success as well as the steady gain of territory. Over 19,000 Germans have been captured since April 16, and more than 100 guns.

Berlin admits that Hindenburg has given up the defence of the north bank of the Aisne from Conde, occupied by the French yesterday, to Soupir. However, it is intimated that this second victorious Hindenburg retreat began a month before the French offensive commenced. The Siegfried positions, which had been under construction since March 16, were occupied today, says the official German bulletin, "and the enemy follows hesitatingly." Presumably this second line of defence runs east and west across the Craonne Plateau somewhere between Laon and the now famous Chemin Des Dames, the road which the French have already crossed in several places. Near Courtenot, for instance, which marks approximately the half way point of the front held by the first French army, the territorial gain reaches slightly more than four miles in depth.

600,000 French Troops. Some idea of the masses of men engaged in the present struggle may be gleaned from the Berlin day statement, which declares that the French have used up on the battlefield six divisions more than thirty divisions, "carefully reformed after the battle of the Somme." This would mean over 600,000 troops. But that the French have by no means reached the point of exhaustion at which reorganization becomes necessary was indicated by their consistent progress today. The angle

marked by the villages of Laffaux, Chivres and Jouy, all of which the French had conquered, was definitely closed with the capture of Sancy, which lies midway along its base. Following the capture of Fort-de-Conde the Germans evidently executed a hasty retreat from the dangerous salient last night. Anixy-le-Chateau is the immediate objective of the French pressure in this direction. At six o'clock tonight, west of Condeux in the neighborhood of Hurtebise Farm, which the French took yesterday, and Ailly, the Germans launched a heavy counter-attack with what the Paris night report describes as "large effective." The artillery preparation was as violent as any German bombardment of the past, but the French guns have achieved distinct superiority and the attacking masses were mowed down without being able to reach the first French redoubts. Nivelle's gains in this region menace Craonne and the duel of the big guns here is growing in intensity as the French drag their pieces up to the heights.

German Trenches Carried. Toward Coucy, north of Rheims, French detachments carried several lines of German trenches in close proximity to the French lines. East of the neighboring town of Louvre a brilliant French dash established a new front line and accounted for 300 prisoners. The French pressure in the Champagne sector has excited the Germans to violent reaction. Last night Hindenburg again hung in strong counter-attacks against the nose of the wedge the French are driving thru the Moronvillers hills and woods and carried out with determined energy these assaults all melted under the French barrage. In the afternoon the French offensive started has a German counter-attack, even the pressed home with a full army corps, been able to gain or maintain a foot of ground reconquered by the French. The initiative remains absolutely with Nivelle, and the morale of Hindenburg's forces is undoubtedly shaken by their costly sacrifices without compensation. Progress in Champagne. The repulse of the Germans in the Champagne last night enabled the French to record further progress there

today. Against stubborn enemy resistance the police overran several hostile points of support in the Moronvillers Grove, from which they had begun to clear the Germans' machine gun nests yesterday. In the last few days there have been several official reports of reprieved fighting in the Argonne, and today French detachments drove thru the German lines up to the second line trench system. "They found a great number of German dead," says Paris. Presumably this is, merely, objective pressure to prevent the re-entrenching of the deeply bitten German line further west.

A recrudescence of activity in the north is foreshadowed in the increasing pitch of both the British and Belgian artillery. During the day the British made a little progress toward the St. Quentin-Cambrai road in the neighborhood of Villers-Guilain. Tonight the British war office reported nothing of interest along the whole line held by Field Marshal Haig. But for two days the Berlin bulletins have commented on the growing big gun fire east of Arras. And the Paris night communique reports that "artillery activity has been great in the region of Dixmude and Steenstraete." Another British Drive. Observers here expect an early report of service immediately instituted by the allied command. The French armies keep up their progress. Many points of the first few days, and the British, meanwhile, have had plenty of time to bring their batteries up to the new lines. Probably the drive will extend northward toward Arras. Almost surely it will be renewed toward Douai. The town and Laon are the two supports of the Hindenburg line and the two objectives of the British and French legions.

WIDER GRAFT INQUIRY DEMANDED BY COWPER. Investigation of Several Charges Against Attorney-General Called For. Special to The Toronto World. Victoria, April 20.—In order that the whole question may be inquired into at one time, J. S. Cowper, sixth member for Vancouver, this afternoon introduced his charges against Hon. M. A. Macdonald. A few days ago Cowper alleged that \$25,000 of Canadian Northern Pacific campaign funds had been accepted by the attorney-general, Premier Brewster has announced that an inquiry will promptly be held. It is understood that the court of appeals will be at the head of the commission. In an amendment he presented this afternoon, Cowper asked that three other indictments be investigated at the same time. They refer to amounts of \$50,000, \$15,000 and \$1000 respectively. He alleges that all these came from the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, which is now under investigation by a committee of the house.

Sarah Bernhardt Likely To Recover, Say Doctors. New York, April 20.—While Sarah Bernhardt still is in a serious condition, her physicians said tonight that there is every reason to hope for her recovery. The doctors held a consultation early tonight and announced afterwards that there had been no change in her condition since the afternoon, when some improvement was noted. Food Controller Has Power To Seize British Factories. London, April 20.—The food controller is empowered by an order-in-council to take possession of any factory or other premises where food is manufactured.

UHLANS FIRE UPON GERMAN DESERTERS

Five Hundred Men Attempt to Escape Over Dutch Border.

STRIKE ON AT KRUPP'S

Grave Labor Troubles in Various Muniton Factories Reported.

Amsterdam, April 20. Via London.—More than 500 German fusiliers, sailors and landworkers on Monday evening tried to cross the Dutch-Belgian frontier from the environs of Knokke to near Gadsand, Holland, says the Handelsblad, but the attempted desertion was frustrated after the party had been pursued and attacked by Uhlans. The deserters were fired on by the Uhlans with machine guns and in a fight which lasted half an hour 25 of the deserters were wounded. The wounded guards along the frontier, the newspaper adds, have since been brought to the front.

BRITAIN MOBILIZES ALL MEDICAL MEN

Government Will Establish Many Hospitals in Various War Theatres.

TO AVOID ATROCITIES

German Campaign Against Hospital Ships Causes Taking of Action.

London, April 20.—The war cabinet decided today that every physician and surgeon and every man with medical training of military age must be called up for service immediately. In reference to the calling up of the physicians and surgeons the following official explanation is given: "The enemy in total disregard of the accepted tenets of civilized warfare, has deliberately instituted a submarine campaign against hospital ships, and it has, therefore, become essential that a large number of hospitals should be established overseas in order to allow this to be done with great rapidity it is essential to secure the services of every doctor that can possibly be secured from the United Kingdom."

Foster Will Leave Today For Washington Conference

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, April 20.—Sir George Foster will leave tomorrow afternoon for Washington to join the allied war conference as the Canadian representative. He stated tonight that he had decided to leave for Washington in the American capital. Asked as to the visit of Hon. A. J. Balfour and Marshal Joffre to Ottawa tonight, he stated that the details would be arranged at Washington. The acting premier is going alone to Washington, but one of the other ministers may follow later.

ATROCITIES AT DINEEN'S

Today will be a big day at Dineen's. It is drawing to the last days of the fire sale and the remaining stock has been re-priced to hurry forward the final absolute clearance. Store open at 10 o'clock. Come early and shop to advantage. Furs, millinery, raincoats for ladies and gentlemen, and men's hats. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

CANADIAN LEFT BEAT ENEMY THE BESET ON THREE SIDES

Official Story Tells How Victory of Vimy Ridge Was Won—Germans, Emerging From Tunnel, Make Attempt to Cut Off Part of Storming Force and Fail—Dominion Troops in Centre and on Right Reach All Objectives in Few Hours.

London, April 20.—The following official communique is issued by the Canadian war records office, on the capture of Vimy Ridge: "As the Canadian Corps have acquired credit in the capture of Vimy Ridge on April 9. As in the lesser action of Courcellette in September of last year they have shown the same high qualities in victorious advance as they have displayed in earlier days in desperate resistance on many steepled fields. Preparations for Easter Monday's attack had been extensive and thorough. The actual infantry assault and final deluge of shells were but the logical and irresistible conclusion of an offensive which had been maintained against Vimy Ridge for months by the Canadian troops. The tactical importance of this position had increased steadily as the German lines were withdrawn to the enemy before the third army, to the south.

Charge in Three Waves. At half-past six on Monday morning, April 9th, the great attack was launched with terrific fire from one massed artillery and from many fields in hidden advanced positions. Our "heaviest" bombarded the enemy positions on and beyond the ridge and trenches, dugouts, emplacements and roads, which for long had been kept in a continual state of disrepair by our fire, were smashed to uselessness. An intense barrage of shrapnel from our field guns, strengthened by the indirect fire of hundreds of howitzers, came into play along the front. At the same moment the Canadian troops advanced in line in three waves of attack.

Flurry of snow drifted over the battlefield as the Canadians left their jumping-off trenches. Behind the rolling barrage the light was sufficient for our machine gunners to take the range of vision and lessen the accuracy of fire from the German riflemen and machine gunners. The first stage of the advance was made over ground "indiscribably tangled with obstacles and with great mine purposes, many of which were impassable with thousands of shell holes which had churned the whole field into a vast puddle of mud and with crumbling craters and barbed wire. But over this difficult ground, over and around gaps and under the lawing tangling and under the fire of the enemy, the long lines of heavily-laden infantry moved forward steadily on the fringe of our rolling curtain of shrapnel fire.

Trouble for Left Wing. The troops on the extreme left made a start under conditions as favorable as those in the centre and right, but they were soon confronted by a strong enemy, constantly strengthening opposition. The advance of these troops was checked between its first and second lines of objectives by heavy fighting, which was more formidable against the centre of the line than against the flanks. A dip in the ground caused a change of direction, which swung the troops off their central objectives. They reached their goals on the flanks only to find themselves subjected to heavy close range fire of machine guns and rifles.

To be enfiladed from the centre and the north was bad enough, but to add to the situation caves or a tunnel of the hostile line over which we had already advanced now disgorged German troops who promptly recaptured their front line and opened fire on our rear.

The enemy at these points fought with unusual vigor and resolution. The troops on the right left fought in their rear and capturing the major portion of the enemy trenches in their centre. The Pimple to the north still remained to the enemy, but by the snow was fairly heavily and it was decided to consolidate the hard won gains and prepare for a counter-attack rather than to undertake the further assault of the morning. The Pimple would keep for the morning.

Many Risk Encounters. In the meantime the other troops fought forward to one line after another without serious check, but with many brisk encounters and not without casualties. Many of these were the result of shrapnel fire. Only a small percentage were fatal, and

the majority of the wounds were of minor character. From the fall of the first man our battalion stretcher-bearers and every grade and unit of the Canadian Army Medical Corps were on the alert. The work of the officers and men of the "Twining Serpent" was one of the splendid, outstanding achievements of this great day. On the German second line the troops drew breath and consolidated their gains. Our barrage was laid before them steady as a wall. Fresh troops came up and deployed into positions. They waited for the barrage to lift at the ordained minute and led them on. The enemy's artillery fire, their counter-barrage and bombardment of our gun positions was not strong as strength in such things is considered today.

Carry German Third Line. The barrage lifted and the troops on the right followed it forward to the German third line. Here again they paused for a time, then advanced again behind the ever-ready and unslackening barrage for a distance of about 200 yards. This advance was well covered and captured several villages, hill 140, a number of fortified woods, and several trenches and belts of wire and still the enemy surprised by hundreds and scuttled rearward to safety. Their resistance grew feebler, their hands more eager to relinquish their weapons and ascend the heights above their heads at each stage of our advance.

At 10 o'clock snow fell heavily from black clouds sweeping low across the ridge. Half an hour later the snow ceased, the clouds thinned and the sun shone fitfully over the shattered and clamorous battlefield. Word was received at the advanced headquarters that the British division on our immediate right was enjoying a degree of success in its operations equal to the Canadian success. Events above their heads with the matter. By one o'clock every point in the enemy third line had been reached and secured.

By this time the troops on the right had consolidated their gains and advanced strong patrols. From their new positions they commanded a wide view of enemy territory to the eastward. They reported a massing of Germans on a road in their new field of vision and our heavy guns immediately dealt with the matter. Three Counter-Attacks. By noon one of our battalions of this division had received and dealt drastically with three counter-attacks. Its new front remained unshaken. Shortly after this the Canadian corps was able to state that the prisoners already to hand numbered three battalions commanders, fifteen other officers, more than 3,000 non-commissions and men with plenty more in sight making for our cages as fast as their legs could carry them.

The final stage of the attack of the troops on the right was now made. They passed thru the wide belts of enemy wire which fringed the plateau

by way of wide gaps torn by our heavy artillery at fixed intervals. So they issued on the eastern slopes of Vimy Ridge, the first allied troops to look down upon the level plateau of Douai since the German occupation in 1914. They saw the villages of Parbus, Vimy and Petit Vimy at their feet, and beyond the Hamlets of Willerval, Bailleul, Oppy and Mercourt. From that distance the little clusters of houses and gardens showed no signs of the devastation and ruthless occupation they had known so long, and the wide and quiet fields displayed no sign of battle.

The shouts of the Canadians were lifted by this sight. In this sudden widening of their horizon they felt and saw the fruits of their victory, some of the fatigue of the long strain of the day's perilous action slipped away from them; this sight of a new countryside, all them more good than the sight of dead Germans, prisoners and captured guns, but they pressed on to Parbus Wood and Goulot Wood for all that, and possessed themselves of several hostile batteries and much ammunition.

By an early hour of the afternoon all our objectives save those to the left of the attack were in our possession and the task of consolidating and strengthening our gains was well in hand. During the afternoon and evening many reports were received from various units of the massing of large forces of the enemy here and there as if to deliver counter-attacks, but thanks to the alertness of our infantry, the energy of our artillery and the discretion of the enemy, these counter-attacks did not materialize. Through the day the most courageous and devoted co-operation was shown by the Canadian corps by a brigade and squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. The night was clear and lit by a falling parties and working parties went on without interruption. The night requirements of the Vimy Ridge with the exception of a few trenches on Hill 140, were in Canadian hands.

And so the first day of this greatest of Canadian advances came to a successful and glorious close.

NATIONAL SERVICE PLAN SUCCEEDING IN BRITAIN. Thirty-Five Thousand Women Offer to Serve Behind Lines in France. London, April 20.—Thru Reuters Ottawa Agency.—An official report of the national service scheme for March shows that the number of volunteers enrolled increased from 92,000 in February to 288,000 last month. The agricultural section provided sufficient plowmen to meet all the ascertained requirements of the farmers; the trade section ordered restrictions in the use of labor in certain trades of least national importance; 55,000 women registered for service behind the lines in France; 12,450 enrolled for the women's land army, that is, for labor in agricultural, dairying and other rural industries. Good progress was made with the work of substituting national service volunteers for men withdrawn from trades of national importance for service in the army.

ENEMY CONCENTRATION EXCEEDS ALL IN PAST. Germans, Failing to Avoid Battle, Fight Stiffly and Work Feverishly at Defences—Morale Has Declined. London, April 21.—One of the correspondents at British headquarters in France in a despatch dated Friday says: The cardinal fact of the battle in France is that the intense concentration of German troops exceeds anything known during the war. That concentration is being intensified now that Field Marshal von Hindenburg's effort to avoid a battle is known to have failed. The German morale perhaps has fallen since the reduction in rations. There is great anger among the infantry against the artillery, but the enemy is fighting stiffly and working feverishly at his defences.

WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

FIGHTING in difficult wooded country, the French continued to make excellent progress yesterday on the front between Soissons and Auberville. North of the Aisne they persevered in their advance towards the Chemin des Dames, occupied Sancy Village, and beat off a German attack launched with large effective in the region of Ailly and Hurtebise. In the Champagne they carried several points of support in the Moronvillers Grove. This was after the repulse of violent counter-attacks, which came under French curtains of artillery and machine gun fire. In the Argonne the French launched an attack, reached the second German defensive position and found many Germans dead in the trenches. Since Monday last the French have taken in the fighting between Soissons and Auberville more than 19,000 prisoners and more than 100 guns.

It seems definitely established that the Germans during their recent withdrawal found themselves unable to complete it as planned. The object of their rearward movement was to straighten their line, and they could only do this by evacuating the Noyon salient—the immense elbow that projects into France between Lille and Verdun. Its base is a line drawn between Lille and Verdun. Its apex was Noyon and it took its name from this town. To straighten his line in the west the enemy would have to evacuate all of this triangle and to occupy positions between the Meuse and the North Sea, running in a straight line, covering Maubeuge, Valenciennes and Lille. When the allied commanders saw what the object of the enemy was, they produced a great force of cavalry and artillery

(Continued on page 2, columns 1 and 2.)