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# The Toronto World

SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 21 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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VOL. XXXVII—No. 13,310

# 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 Cham-  
pagne, the armies of Gen. Nivelle  
continued today to close up the Laon sal-  
ient, 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 Moron-  
ville. The continual increment of  
prisoners expressed the French suc-  
cess as well as the steady gain of ter-  
ritory. 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. How-  
ever, it is intimated that this second  
victorious Hindenburg retreat began a  
month before the French offensive  
commenced. The Siegfried position,  
which had been under construction  
since March 16, were occupied today,  
says the official German bulletin, "and  
the enemy follows hesitatingly." Presu-  
mably 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 al-  
ready crossed in several places. Near  
Courtecon, for instance, which marks  
approximately the half way point of  
the front held by the first French  
army, the territorial gain from the  
banks of the Aisne now reaches slight-  
ly more than four miles in depth.

### 800,000 French Troops.

Some idea of the masses of men en-  
gaged in the present struggle may be  
gathered from the Berlin day state-  
ment, which declares that the French  
have used up on the battlefield ex-  
actly 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 nec-  
essary was indicated by their con-  
stant progress today. The angle

marked by the villages of Laffaux,  
Chivres and Jouv, 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  
Craonne in the neighborhood of Hurle-  
beek Farm, which the French took yes-  
terday, and Aulieu, 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 with hand grenades. East of  
the neighboring Town of Louve a  
brilliant French dash established a  
new front line and accounted for 300  
prisoners.  
The French pressure in the Cham-  
pagne sector has excited the Germans  
to violent reaction. Last night Hin-  
denburg again hung in strong coun-  
ter-attacks against the nose of the  
wedge the French are driving thru  
the Moronvilliers hills and woods  
and carried out with determined  
energy these assaults all melted un-  
der the French barrage. In a single  
instance since Nivelle's offensive  
started has a German counter-attack,  
even the pressed home with a full  
army corps, been able to gain  
ground. The French have been re-  
formed 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 resis-  
tance the potent overran several hostile  
points of support in the Moronvilliers  
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 renewed  
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 effective  
comment on the growing big gun  
pressure to prevent the reinforcing of  
the deeply bitten German line further  
west.

A reconnaissance of activity in the  
north is foreshadowed in the increas-  
ing pitch of both the British and Bel-  
gian artillery. During the day the  
British made a little progress toward  
the St. Quentin-Cambrai road in the  
neighborhood of Villers-Guislain. To-  
night the British war office reports  
nothing of interest along the whole  
line held by Field Marshal Haig. But  
for two days the Berlin bulletin has  
commented on the growing big gun  
fire east of Arras. And the Paris  
night communique reports that ar-  
tillery activity has been great in the  
direction of Douai. This town and Laon  
are the two supports of the Hinden-  
burg line and the two objectives of  
the British and French legions.

Another British Drive  
Observers have expected an early re-  
turn of the "rhythmic warfare" in-  
stituted by the allied commands.  
The French armies keep up their  
progress on many points, and the Ger-  
mans have lost the momentum of the  
first few days, and the British mean-  
while, have had plenty of time to  
bring their batteries up to the new  
lines. Probably the drive will ex-  
tend northward toward Arras.  
Almost surely it will be renewed  
toward Douai. This town and Laon  
are the two supports of the Hinden-  
burg 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  
presented a resolution in the House  
of Commons. A few days ago  
Cowper alleged that \$25,000 of Cana-  
dian Northern Pacific Canadian  
funds had been accepted by the at-  
torney-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 con-  
dition, her physicians said tonight that  
there is every reason to hope for her  
recovery. The doctors held a consul-  
tation early tonight and announced  
afterwards that there had been no  
change in her condition since the af-  
ternoon, when some improvement was  
noted.

## Food Controller Has Power To Seize British Factories

London, April 20.—The food con-  
troller is empowered by an order in-  
council to take possession of any fac-  
tory 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 Munition Factories Reported.

Amsterdam, April 20.—Via London.—  
More than 500 German deserters  
were today reported to have  
attempted to cross the Dutch-  
Belgian frontier from the environs of  
Knokke to near Gadsand, Holland,  
says the Handelsblad, but the attempt-  
ed 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 a half-hour  
30 of the deserters were wounded. The  
wounded guards along the frontier, the  
newspaper adds, have since been re-  
inforced.

## 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 war-  
fare, has deliberately instituted a sub-  
marine campaign against hospital  
ships, and it has, therefore, become es-  
sential that a large number of hospi-  
tals should be established overseas in  
the various theatres of war for the  
treatment of sick and wounded. 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 spared 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 con-  
ference as the Canadian representa-  
tive. He stated tonight that he had  
no idea how long he would be in the  
American capital.

Asked as to the visit of Hon. A. J.  
Balfour and Marshal Joffre to Ottawa  
last night, Sir George said 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.

### SATURDAY 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 remain-  
ing 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 THO 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 of-  
ficial communique is issued by the  
Canadian war records office, on the  
capture of Vimy Ridge:  
"Again the Canadians 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 quali-  
ties in victorious advance as they have  
displayed in earlier days in desperate  
resistance on many stricken fields.  
Preparations for Easter Monday's  
attack had been extensive and thor-  
ough. The actual infantry assault and final  
deluge of shells were but the logical  
and irresistible conclusion of an of-  
fensive which had been maintained  
against Vimy Ridge for months by the  
Canadian troops. The tactical impor-  
tance of this position had increased re-  
cently as the Germans were beginning  
the withdrawal of the enemy before the  
third army, to the south."  
At half-past one on Monday morn-  
ing, April 9th, the great attack was  
launched with terrific fire from one  
massed artillery and from many field  
guns 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 despatch by  
our fire, were smashed to useless-  
ness. An intense barrage of shrapnel  
from our field guns, strengthened by  
the indirect fire of hundreds of in-  
fantry guns, was laid along the front  
of the enemy. At the same moment, the Canadian  
troops advanced in line in three waves  
of attack.

Flurries of snow drifted over the  
battlefield as the Canadians left their  
jumping-off trenches. Behind the roll-  
ing barrage the light was sufficient  
for manoeuvring purposes, and yet ob-  
served enough to obstruct the range of  
vision and lessen the accuracy of fire  
of the German riflemen and machine  
gunners.  
The first stage of the advance was  
made over ground indescribably  
great. The enemy, many of which  
were impassable with thousands of  
shells which had churned the  
whole field into a vast puddle of mud  
and debris. This advance included  
hedge of torn entanglements of barbed  
wire. But over this difficult ground,  
over and around gaping holes and  
clawing trenches, and under the  
fire of the enemy, the long lines of  
heavy-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  
and constantly strengthening op-  
position. 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 avenged  
of 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 al-  
ready advanced now disgorged Ger-  
mans, who promptly reoccupied their  
old front line and opened fire on our  
rear.

The enemy at these points fought  
with unusual vigor and tenacity.  
The troops on the extreme left fought  
all day and by 10 o'clock at night  
succeeded in disposing of the enemy  
portion of the enemy trenches in  
their centre.

The Pimple to the north still re-  
mained to the enemy, but by the  
snow was falling heavily, and it was  
decided to consolidate the hard won  
gains and prepare for a counter-  
attack rather than to undertake  
further assaults that night. The  
Pimple would keep for the morning.  
Many Brisk Encounters.  
In the meantime the other troops  
fought forward to the first and second  
lines of objectives, but 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 bar-  
rage to lift at the ordained minute  
and leapt them on. The enemy's ar-  
tillery fire, their counter-barrage and  
bombardment of our gun positions  
was not strong as strength in such  
things is considered today.

Prisoners were already hurrying to  
our rear in hundreds, pathetically and  
often ludicrously grateful to the  
forces of war that saved them alive  
from capture. They surrendered promptly  
and willingly.

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 unslacken-  
ing barrage for a distance of about  
300 yards. This advance included  
covered and captured several vil-  
lages, hill 140, a number of fortified  
woods, and several trenches and belts  
of wire and still the enemy sur-  
vived by hundreds and scuttled rearward  
to safety. Their resistance grew  
feebler, their hands more eager to re-  
linquish their weapons and ascend  
high 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  
continued to develop with rapidity and  
precision. 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 ad-  
vanced strong patrols. From their new  
positions they commanded a wide  
view of enemy territory to the east-  
ward. They reported a massing of  
Germans on a road in their new field  
of vision and our heavy guns im-  
mediately dealt with the matter.

Three Counter-Attacks.  
By noon one of our battalions of this  
division had received and dealt drasti-  
cally with three counter-attacks. Its  
new front remained unshaken. Short-  
ly after this the Canadian corps was  
able to state that the prisoners al-  
located to hand numbered three bat-  
talion commanders, fifteen other officers,  
and 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 sweeps 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 Par-  
bus, Vimy and Petit Vimy at their  
feet, and beyond the Hamlets of Wil-  
lervall, Bailleul, Oppy and Mercourt.  
From that distance the little clusters  
of houses and gardens showed not  
of the devastation and ruthless occu-  
pation they had known so long, and  
the wide and quiet fields displayed no  
sign of battle.

The hearts 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-  
thing of the fatigue of the long strain  
of the day's perilous action slipped  
away from them; this sight of a new  
country-side, all them more good than  
the sight of dead Germans, prisoners  
and captured guns, but they pressed  
on to Parbus Wood and Gontro 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 eve-  
ning 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 infan-  
try, the energy of our artillery and the  
discretion of the enemy, these counter-  
attacks did not materialize. Through-  
out the day the most courageous and de-  
voted co-operation was rendered to the  
Canadian corps by a brigade and  
squadron of the Royal Flying Corps.  
The night was clear and fit by a full  
moon and the work of patrols, carry-  
ing parties and working parties went  
on without interruption. The night  
report of the Vimy Ridge with the  
exception of a few trenches on Hill 140  
secure in Canadian hands.  
And so the first day of this greatest  
of Canadian advances came to a suc-  
cessful 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 in the scheme from 1st Janu-  
ary to 28th last month. The agri-  
cultural section provided sufficient  
plowmen to meet all the associated  
requirements of the farmers; with the  
trade section ordered restrictions in the  
use of labor in certain trades of least  
national importance; 55,000 women regis-  
tered 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 im-  
portance 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 con-  
centration of German troops exceeds anything known during the war. That  
concentration is being intensified now that Field Marshal von Hinden-  
burg'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 Allies and  
Hurlebeek. In the Champagne they carried several points of support in  
the Moronvilliers 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 German 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.)