

FRANCE CONSIDERS SCHEME UNTIMELY

Temporary Military Advantage in East Seems Unfavorable Time for Peace.

MACHINERY GONE

Loot From Devastated Regions Would Prove Economic Advantage to foe.

Paris, Aug. 17.—The impression gathered in well-informed circles here is that the peace proposal of Pope Benedict has not modified the situation from the viewpoint of the allies, who have no reason to depart from the attitude they outlined in reply to President Wilson's peace note.

HAMILTON NEWS

Hamilton, Ont., August 17.—Four heroes returned home this afternoon. Mayor Becker, Controllers Robinson and Jutten, Secretary Kaye of the soldiers' aid commission, Col. Chandler, U. E. Lee and Mr. Wells extended the civic welcome.

Leut.-Col. G. D. Fearman has taken over his old command of the 13th Royal Military Regiment. Lieut.-Col. R. A. Robertson, chief recruiting officer, will become second in command.

The death occurred here tonight of Alexander Vatch at the age of 75 years. The remains will be shipped to Galt tomorrow morning for burial.

Major Chester S. Walters, ex-mayor of Hamilton, has been appointed second in command of the 13th Canadian Reserve Battalion.

J. F. Mountain has left for New York on route to England, where he will act as military secretary of the Canadian National Council of the Y.M.C.A.

Miss Jennie Waddell Mowat, 21 years of age, was found dead in bed this morning. She was born in Toronto.

Six months in jail without the option of temporary behavior was responsible for the taking away of three children belonging to Mrs. John Hempestock, 31 New street by Magistrate Jell in a closed court case today.

The question of who will be appointed in the position of high constable of the city, which will become vacant after September 1, is a live issue here.

The applicants are Sergt. Walsh, who was on the local police force for many years, and Inspector Behrman, who has been in the force for years.

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SEAMEN TO SHUN HUNS AFTER WAR

Allied and Neutral Sailors May Try Germans for Murder.

London, Aug. 17.—"To consider the crimes committed by Germany and seamen of German U-boats" was the official description of the purpose of the gathering here today of representatives of the seamen's organizations of several allied and neutral countries.

J. Havelock Wilson, head of the British Seamen's Union, presided, in his speech, Mr. Wilson said:

"It is not worth while calling on the government to protect us, but the people of the world must do something for themselves. The war will not last forever, but after the war the seamen will have to come among the seamen of the civilized world. Then there will be a great many accounts to settle."

"As seafaring men we should express no uncertain language, our opinion of German brutality, suppose the seamen of the world made up their minds that they were going to war, they will independently of all governments, show the Germans that the seafaring men of all nations will not permit themselves to be disgraced by working in a boat in which Germans sail? Not only will we punish our own men, but German shipowners as well."

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ALLIES IMPROVE THEIR POSITIONS

Canadian officer examining graves of men who fell in action and were buried on the field.

ing quantity of concrete. Hoops of cellars were often ten feet thick. "A feature of the recent fighting is the much greater part of the fighting is in attacks. The Germans have been lavishly using smoke barriers with the idea of baffling our guns. These sometimes resulted in our men losing touch and also reports of casualties that had not occurred."

"One case is reported of a private leading a little bunch of men who met an officer of another battalion and asked him to take over the command. The officer replied that he had other work to do and the private 'carry on.' It is the ready initiative of our men which is standing them in good stead amid the turmoil of the battle. Experience shows the German method of training stiffens this quality."

"The weather continues fine. Judging from the time the guns and the activity of the airmen, the battle continues to rage."

"Down around Lens the Canadians followed up Wednesday's success and are still close to the smoking town."

Canadian officers repel assaults.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 17.—There was little change this morning along the front of the new British offensive begun yesterday morning in Belgium. Several German counter-attacks were repulsed last night and fighting is continuing, with the entente allies holding their positions and the Germans seeking yesterday, and carrying out consolidations.

German troops last night made determined attempts to recover a small section of ground taken by the Canadians yesterday afternoon, northeast of Lens, but three successive counter-attacks were driven off with heavy losses to the Germans.

The first counter-attack on the Canadian centre, made in the early evening, was an absolute failure. About midnight the Germans again surged forward and succeeded in pushing back a few advanced posts, but the Canadians subsequently moved forward and recaptured the positions.

Again the Germans came back, but they were repulsed and appeared to be satisfied so far matters remain as they were for the time being.

Falling Counter-attack.

On the north of the salient the Germans put down a heavy barrage yesterday morning, but the British artillery replied with such a quick and offensive barrage that no infantry action followed.

The same thing happened east and southeast of Monchy early this morning. The Westhoek and Frezenberg ridge sections which had seen such hard fighting, were heavily shelled by the Germans through the night. The British and French were proceeding satisfactorily with the consolidation of their new positions all along the line.

Evidence continues to multiply from both the prisoners and British officers of a wonderful efficacy of the British attack yesterday morning on the north end of the British line, where the advance was so successful. The correspondent visited the casualty clearing station for the Langemarck region and talked with a British artillery observation officer, who was wounded in the fighting near Langemarck. He said: "The artillery here has done a very heavy work, but frankly, I never dreamed there could be such perfection achieved in a barrage fire as we accomplished Thursday morning."

"I tried to say something to a companion standing beside me, but could not make him hear my loudest shouts, so deafening was the thunder from the breaking shells. The barrage moved forward with such accuracy that our infantry was able to keep quite close to it without danger, for there was no more than thirty minutes from the start before we were in the town itself. It was eight o'clock when our gun-fire finally rested on German positions far to the rear, and there they continued to hammer away while the fighting went on about Langemarck."

"The Germans undoubtedly were expecting our attack, for they counted

knocked about units on various parts of the front.

"The French are mainly employed in digging in. Their ground, if possible, is worse than ours, since the advance skirts an inundated country, and has been largely over water-logged country. They have gone ahead magnificently and their casualties are actually less than the total of prisoners. The famous 'T's', which they had a great concentration, have given the Huns a terribly bad time. Their creeping barrages are marvellous in accuracy and intensity. Their drumfire has broken up several attempted counter-attacks."

Redoubt Pinned Out.

A curious situation existed this morning at Lens, where a strong redoubt held up yesterday's advance thereabout, but the French infantry swept past and every cellar, ditch and place pinched out. A little local battle is proceeding there.

The French counter-battary was extremely effective. The airman led the infantry advance, flying to the lowest possible point and fighting off Boche planes attempting to approach. The Stenbeck River was flooded, but the French engineers bridged it with remarkable promptness.

French encountered such determined resistance as we did, because the ground was not so tactically important.

Although the British had to cross a water-logged area, they were largely tenable for snipers and machine gunners. All the farms in the district were turned to the best possible advantage. Every hedge was swept past and every cellar converted into a regular fort. The outer defences of Langemarck consisted of a sort of concrete mat, blocked in many places and heavily shelled.

The Irish troops fighting towards Poligny Wood encountered some of the toughest fighting. After holding on long enough to establish posts, they were compelled to fall back. Later they were attacked and improved their positions. Owing to the most difficult character of the ground and its adaptability to stubborn resistance, this part of the attack was not carried as far forward as the lines northward.

The correspondent relates that a couple of nights ago, a hundred German infantrymen, organized for a surprise attack, but of them refused to go over to the attack. The attacking party surrendered after a dozen had been brought down by machine guns. On the other hand, he recalls the exhibition of French audacity by the Fourth Prussian Guards, counter-attacking against the Canadians at Lens, when they continued to march forward in fours until they could have scarcely been an unscathed man in the ranks.

Substantial Progress.

"Substantial progress towards the liberation of Belgium was made yesterday. Although the gain of territory was not great, it was all to the good. But what is of much more importance is that there are now fewer Germans in Belgium than previously. The Anglo-French have now probably got two thousand prisoners in their collecting cages, whilst we know for a certainty that the enemy's dead and wounded must form an appalling total.

"Counter-attacks in dense masses, which are still the favorite tactic of the German high command, are terribly costly even when successful. The price our gunners exacted before the enemy's retreat was well worth the high ground yesterday was such that the prisoners admit every bolt of this kind of fighting must weaken the power of resistance of the whole German army in the west."

I refer to this somewhat obvious point because it forms an answer to the price our gunners exacted before the enemy's retreat was well worth the high ground yesterday was such that the prisoners admit every bolt of this kind of fighting must weaken the power of resistance of the whole German army in the west."

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KEMP PAYS TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BISHOP

Record of Intrepid Airman's Exploits Goes on Pages of Hansard.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Aug. 17.—On the orders of the day in the House, Sir Edward Kemp, minister of militia, said he desired to place on Hansard an appreciation of the splendid record of Captain William Bishop, of Over Sound, of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, who, during the present war has been decorated by his majesty with the distinguished order of the military cross and the Victoria Cross. He then briefly recounted the exploits of Captain Bishop, which have already been published in the press.

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