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SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Operations On Wider Scale

That Is Indication On the Somme Front

COMBLES IS ENCRICLED

French Cut Into Outer Defences of Rancourt—Heavy Task At Mont St. Quentin Before Persons Can Be Taken

Paris, Sept. 15.—(By Fred Pitney in the Toronto Mail and Empire)—The French have reached positions in the Somme which encourage the hope that the tactical struggle of two years can develop into strategic work in the near future. The battering that has crumbled the German trench lines may give way to operations on a wider scale. Still pressing forward in the direction of the Somme, the French threaten the towns of Comblès and Rancourt. Already they have cut their way through the outer defences of these strongholds. By capturing Rancourt yesterday, they encircled Comblès completely except for two roads leading to the northeast. The British advance today was controlled of these.

Foch's troops pushed forward today to the outskirts of Rancourt in the Bapaume-Peronne road. The Germans, in an effort to save the rest of the high-way, delivered a heavy counter-attack from Clercy, but this was hurled back with heavy loss to the Teutons.

Fine Piece of Work

The capture of Prize Farm was a notable work. This position was honey-combed with underground passages and redoubts and fortified with six separate lines of trenches. These were cleaned up completely by the French troops, to whom detailed information had been furnished through patrol troops and photographs taken by aviators.

German counter-attacks against the two hills which had been the immediate objectives of this offensive failed utterly, showing that the French are masters of these positions. The length of the front, the fact that the way had been cleared for more important work on the front north of the Somme.

Mont St. Quentin

These two hills—180 and 76—face Mont St. Quentin, with only the Toron river and a canal blocking the way. It is Mont St. Quentin that Foch's must assault before Peronne can be taken, for on that height the greater part of the German artillery is massed. Opposing Foch's troops are the forces commanded by Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, who now has 100,000 troops including the last division brought hurriedly from Verdun. The fierceness of the German counter-attacks indicates the obstinacy with which the Germans intend to defend the remaining defences of Peronne. But despite this determination and despite the five divisions massed in this sector, Prince Rupprecht's tactics are falling. Foch's repeated blows and it is to be imagined that they will prove still more insufficient for the task set them in the offensive opens up into the strategic phase when the French descend the slopes of the hills they occupy.

BURIED TODAY

The funeral of Mrs. Smith, wife of Dr. J. M. Smith took place this afternoon from her late residence, 21 Chipman Hill. Services were conducted at the house and the grave by Rev. R. P. McKim. Interment was made in Fernhill. Members of the family acted as pall-bearers. The many floral offerings presented to the respect with which Mrs. Smith was held in the community and to the sympathy of friends for those bereaved.

SIXTEEN DEATHS

Sixteen deaths were reported to the Board of Health this week as follows:—Pneumonia, apoplexy, gastro enteritis, two each; scurvy, marasmus, meningitis, convulsions, heart disease, premature birth, natural cause, carcinoma of bladder, congenital syphilis, cerebro spinal meningitis, one each.

THROUGH TRENCHES, BARBED WIRE AND SHELL CRATERS GOES NEW BRITISH ARMORED CAR

London, Sept. 16.—The reference in Thursday's official communication to a new type of armored car, is the first official mention of a development which has been much whispered about recently in army circles. Those who have seen the new vehicles refer to them as "tanks," while the soldiers have given them the nickname of "Willies."

The designers sought to render a heavily armored motor car, capable of being operated in the shell torn and roadless wilderness of trenches, where a vehicle mounted on ordinary wheels could not be used.

The Times says:—Our inventors have not hesitated boldly to tread unbeaten paths. We may imagine the feelings of German infantry in shell battered trenches when, in the uncertain light of dawn, they saw advancing upon them an array of unearthly monsters cased in steel spitting fire and crawling laboriously, but ceaselessly over trenches, barbed wire and shell craters.

HAL CHASE NOW TAKES THE LEAD

Daubert Steps Down to Third Place

THE SLUGGING BATSMEN

Tris Speaker Increases His Lead Over Ty Cobb—The Situation in the Big Leagues Today

Chicago, Sept. 16.—Hal Chase has taken the lead in the race for the National League batting championship, according to figures published here today, which include the records of last Wednesday's games. Ty Cobb, long the leader, has dropped to third place into a tie with Hornsby, while Wheat went into second place. Carey of Pittsburgh, leader in stolen bases, now has fifty and Chase fifty. Brooklyn is first in team hitting with .358.

Speaker Gains

In the American League, Tris Speaker ran his margin over Cobb to thirty points, a gain of eight in the week. Runnel, a Southern League slugger now with the Browns, is outstripping Cobb, with 266, but has taken part in only one game. Jackson of Chicago leads in total bases, with 271, and Detroit in slugging percentage.

Major Hubert Stohman, who was general staff officer of the New Brunswick Command previous to coming to camp as brigade major of the 1st Brigade, will probably return to France soon after the conclusion of camp. He will either rejoin his unit, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, or take up a new position.

SEA FIGHT IN GULF OF BOTHNIA REPORTED

Russians and Germans Engaged, Says Despatch From Stockholm

New York, Sept. 16.—A special cable to the New York World from London says: "A Morning Post despatch from Stockholm says a sea fight has taken place between the Russian and German fleets in the Gulf of Bothnia, near the island of Aland. On account of darkness and fog, it was impossible for the Swedish coast to see the fighting clearly, but salvos of heavy guns were heard. Detailed reports are expected."

CAPT. STURDEE DETAINED IN ENGLAND BY WIFE'S ILLNESS

Louis Ritchie to Commission in the Imperial Navy

Fredericton, Sept. 16.—Capt. E. A. Sturdee of St. John, who is to return to the Kilties Battalion, has been delayed in England by his wife's illness.

Leut. G. A. Hubbard of this city and Louis Ritchie of St. John, who enlisted in the ranks of the 28th Battalion here accepted commissions in the imperial army and will report at Halifax.

SISTER OF PRESIDENT WILSON DIED TODAY

New London, Conn., Sept. 16.—Mrs. Anna Howe, sister of President Wilson, died at 6.40 a. m.

THE MARKET

Moose steak is meeting with a demand today in the local market. It is none too plentiful yet and is selling for 22 cents. Venison is also 22 cents. Usual prices are prevailing in other lines with beef 12 to 20c; veal 12 to 18c; lamb 16 to 24c; chickens \$1.50 a pair; fowl 28c a pound; eggs 40 cents a dozen and butter 80 to 85 cents. There is an abundance of vegetables.

GIVEN A HINT

In the course of Magistrate Ritchie's remarks from the bench this morning, he said that last week, Lieut.-Col. Beer came here to get seventy odd men to fill up his unit. He got one. In Fredericton the recruiting committee had secured twelve men for the 140th battalion. In glancing over the court room roll, His Honor said he could see thirteen eligible young men that would look good in khaki and advised them to enlist right away.

JUVENILE COURT

At a sitting of the juvenile court this morning a small boy arrested last night by Sgt. Sullivan of the North End division, for the alleged theft of some articles from the house of Robert Colwell, Victoria street, was allowed to go home with his father after a warning.

New Dignity for Mexico

Copenhagen, Sept. 16.—Rafael Zubaran, Mexican minister to Berlin, has arrived here to establish legations in the Scandinavian capital, where Mexico has not been represented hitherto. He hopes to promote commercial relations between Mexico and Scandinavia.

BRITISH HOLD COURAGELETTE, Serbs Pursue Beaten Bulgars

A Further Drive Ahead by Haig's Doughty Fighting Men; French Beat Back Attacking Germans

London, Sept. 16.—As a result of their offensive north of the Somme, begun yesterday morning along a six mile front north of Comblès to beyond the Posters-Bapaume road, the British hold in their entirety the villages of Courcellette, Martinpuich and Flers.

Paris, Sept. 16.—German counter-attacks were made on the French lines both north and south of the Somme last night. They were unsuccessful. The assaults were delivered to the east of Clercy on the north bank of the river and east of Bény, to the south of the stream, below Peronne. During yesterday's fighting the French took 400 prisoners. In a single trench the bodies of eighty-six dead Germans were picked up.

Gallant Work by Canadians

Acquitted Themselves With Credit During the Last Week; Some Details of Fighting

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Sept. 15.—The ordinary activities of trench warfare, with which the Canadians are now so well acquainted, continued to occupy their attention during the last week. The steady training of specialists which had been proceeding for several months is bearing fruit. Our snipers showed their skill and ingenuity and were able each day to claim some of the enemy.

Sniper Dillon of a Winnipeg battalion lay twenty-five yards in front of our own trenches the whole of one day and although the Germans made efforts to locate him he was too well concealed. He secured three direct hits and pierced several loopholes.

On one part of the line held by a Montreal battalion the Germans began a bombardment with heavy trench mortars and threw about thirty bombs. In one trench the explosion of one of our own mortar batteries resulted with 200 bombs of all sizes, and effectually silenced the enemy.

A large earthwork, which the Germans had constructed after a labor of several weeks, was completely demolished by the accurate shooting of one of our own machine gunners. The Canadian field artillery were very active in disposing of working parties and in night shooting upon the enemy lines of communication. In each battery one gun is set aside as a "sniper" which is ready to shoot at the slightest sign of movement in the enemy's lines. These "snipers" are a cause of great annoyance to the Germans.

As usual, offensive patrols were constantly in front of our trenches at night. Two encounters with the enemy took place. In one case Lieut. Matthews with three scouts from an Edmonton battalion surprised a party of five Germans who were hiding in a large shell crater. Lieut. Matthews threw two bombs among them, killing one German and mortally wounding another. He then jumped into the crater with a knobby and had brained still another of the enemy when he was himself struck through the shoulder by a bayonet. Scout Vernon came to his assistance and shot the fourth German. At the same time the remaining member of the hostile patrol fired a revolver point blank at Private Lindsay, wounding him in the head, and then attempted to escape. Lieut. Matthews, however, was not deterred and he bayoneted him just as he reached the German wire.

Lance-Corp. Petherington of a Montreal battalion, under command of Captain Leframboise, encountered some Germans in the dark. Each at first mistook the other for French. A hand-to-hand struggle then took place, resulting in the capture of one German and the killing of one of the rest of the enemy escaped.

Further south a battalion from Regina, recently arrived in France, made a magnificent defence of a holy crater. Despite a heavy hostile bombardment a forward company under command of Captain Carleton, who was killed, and repelled two enemy attacks with rifle and machine gun fire.

VOTING TODAY ON MATTER OF SYMPATHY STRIKE

The New York Situation—One Man Killed and 34 Hurt in Accidents

New York, Sept. 16.—Several trade unions voted today to determine their response to a call for a sympathetic strike to back up the street car employees. Labor leaders expect to learn the sentiment of the longshoremen, teamsters, tidewater boatmen, coal bargemen and stationary engineers and firemen to whom the carmen have by Monday they assert, 70,000 men will be called out "to protect the very life of union labor in New York."

THE UNION LEAGUE

The union leaders announce that the majority of the members of machinist unions, having a membership of 25,000, have voted to strike at munition plants in this city, as a protest to the financial interests controlling the subway, elevated and street car lines.

One man was killed and thirty-four persons were injured in accidents on the elevated and surface car lines within the last twenty-four hours.

BRING MONKEYS TO STATES IN RESEARCH WORK IN THE INFANTILE PARALYSIS PLAGUE

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 16.—Fifty monkeys, the survivors of 100 brought here from the Orient to be used in connection with infantile paralysis research work, were on the way today to Rockefeller Institute in New York. Lung trouble killed fifty of them after their arrival here.

The monkeys are a precious lot. There was much difficulty in keeping the larger ones from killing their smaller companions.

Kaiserin to Eastern Front

London, Sept. 16.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam says: "German newspapers announce that Empress Augusta Victoria has been summoned to the eastern headquarters by Emperor William, and passed through Breslau yesterday on the journey from Berlin. It will be her first visit to the eastern front."

Take Many Prisoners And Much Booty

ENEMY LOSSES ENORMOUS

Saloniki, Sept. 16.—A Serbian headquarters statement says:—"After two days of artillery preparation and the occupation of the enemy advanced posts, our troops carried out a decisive attack in the principal Bulgarian positions in the direction of Florina, which was crowned with complete success. The Bulgarian position at Malkandice and Malacka are now in our hands and General Boyadjeff's army is retiring in disorder toward Monastir, pursued by our victorious troops."

"We made a large number of prisoners and captured twenty-nine guns, including several of heavy calibre, a great quantity of munitions, city limbers, and some rifles. Several of the captured guns are now turned against the Bulgarians, whose losses are enormous. The field of battle is strewn with enemy corpses, and prisoners say that one Bulgarian regiment lost 1,200 men as a result of our bombardment. Our troops have already descended into the plain of Florina."

British Hammer Bulgars

London, Sept. 16.—British troops are engaged in active operations along the Struma front on the right flank of the allied positions at Saloniki, but apparently are not making any forward thrust in force in this region. Today's War Office announcement on the fighting in Macedonia reports raids on villages east of the Struma occupied by the Bulgarians.

Another Premier For Greece

Athens, Sept. 16.—King Constantine yesterday afternoon called Nicholas Callagyeropoulos, a lawyer and president of the board of directors of the Ionian Bank, to Telos to discuss the possibility of forming a cabinet.

M. Callagyeropoulos is a well known supporter of the Entente cause.

An Enemy Report

Berlin, Sept. 16.—A telegram from Emperor William to the Empress says: "Field Marshal Von Mackensen just informs me that the Bulgarian-Turkish German troops in Dobruja have gained a decisive victory over the Russo-Rumanian forces."

COMMISSIONER RUSSELL RETURNS

Commissioner J. V. Russell returned at noon today from Montreal where he was attending a conference of the Association of American Port Authorities, attended by harbor officials from all parts of the United States and Canada. Papers of value were read and matters of interest were discussed. Each port was shown to have its own peculiar problems, but the general discussion proved of great value to each delegate.

CAMPBELLTON MAN WOUNDED

Infantry

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—Wounded: John M. Sargent, Campbellton, N. B.; Frederick T. Stuart, Canadian government steno-grapher; Canada, Halifax, N. S.; Iva Henderson, Merigomish, N. S.; Joseph MacKenzie, Berth Hill, N. S.

AGAIN THE IRON HEEL PRESSES ON BELGIUM

Have, Sept. 16.—The Belgian minister of finance has issued a strongly worded protest against the action of the Germans in attempting to "extort" from Belgium, already so maltreated, her own financial resources to use in making war upon her." He says that the German commissary has demanded a loan of 1,000,000 francs, three-fifths to be furnished by the Belgian National Bank and two-fifths by other banks. All the directors of the national bank, he says, have been threatened with arrest and one has been arrested and placed in convict's garb.

BACK TO CANADA

Prince Rupert, B. C., Sept. 16.—Sir George E. Foster and the Dominion Royal Commission arrived here last night.

ACCIDENT

Thomas Stewart was admitted to the General Public Hospital last night suffering from the effects of a bruised shoulder, caused by falling from a team.

LITTLE ONE DEAD

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Waters, 112 Lancaster street, West St. John, will sympathize with them in the loss of their seven months old daughter, Helen, who died this morning.

PAY CHECKS ARRIVE

The first pay checks for the returned soldiers who are acting as recruiting officers and clerks throughout the province arrived today and will be distributed to the men this afternoon.

BOY'S LEG BROKEN

Bruce Hewitson, a small boy belonging to Fredericton, who has been staying at the Queen Hotel in Princess street, met with a painful accident this morning. He and another boy were engaged in the interesting pastime of coasting down Church street in a small express wagon. They came to grief at the foot of the hill, when they collided with a telegraph post. The other little chap escaped uninjured, but Hewitson had a leg broken. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

WASHINGTON ONCE MORE IN TROUBLED STATE

Washington, Sept. 16.—The state department today sought to learn through diplomatic channels precisely what commodities are included in Great Britain's latest blockade order restricting shipments from the United States to Holland and the Scandinavian countries.

The state department also is interested in ascertaining whether a reported arrangement between Great Britain and France for exchange of commodities whose importation from other countries is forbidden, does not violate the British-American commercial treaty of 1815.

RUSSIAN WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

A Russian was taken into custody about 4.30 o'clock this morning by Sgt. Sullivan who found him in Dr. Robert Vestibule, North End. The man had no card or coat on. This morning a kind-hearted gentleman called at police headquarters and offered to see that his Russian friend would leave the city and get work. To this the court was willing, and the man was let go.

REAR ADM'L STURDEE

Gallant Boy, Though Dead, is Awarded V.C.—Prince Albert Commended

London, Sept. 16.—(Toronto Mail and Empire cable)—Honour was awarded as a result of the Jutland battle are enumerated by the official Gazette yesterday as follows:—

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Order of Merit; Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Bath; Rear-Admiral Sir F. C. D. Sturdee, Companion of St. Michael and St. George; John Travers of Cornwall, a boy who remained at his post during the action, although mortally wounded, was awarded the Victoria Cross; Sub-Lieut. Prince Albert, R. N., has been recommended for commendation for service.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—Pressure is now highest over the central states and nowhere very low. Showers have been general in Quebec while they have occurred locally elsewhere except in Alberta and British Columbia.

Ottawa Valley—Fresh westish winds, fair and cool today and on Sunday.