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Situation Better Today For The Allies; German Hope of Invading Armies Gone

Powerful Assaults Against French Desperately Resisted

Associated Press Reports General Conflict Less Intense But Likely To Set In Again When Germans Get Guns Up; Strong Forces Take Mezieres and Maison Blanche

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 30—(By the Associated Press)—The situation today, from the Entente viewpoint, is reported more satisfactory. Along the British section of the battle-front last night was comparatively quiet.

Paris, Mar. 30—French troops, supported by reserves, are offering desperate resistance to powerful assaults of the enemy. The war office so announces.

Paris, Mar. 30—The battle, which was resumed with renewed violence during the night, is progressing on a front of forty kilometres (about 25 miles), from Moreuil to beyond Lassigny.

WILL NEVER GET WEDGE THROUGH

Hinge Between English and French Armies Protected

CHANGE OF TACTICS

German Now Strike at Estimated Weak Spots to Get as Far Ahead as Possible Before Definitely Halted—Fine Tribute to British Troops

London, Mar. 29—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—Telegraphing from French army headquarters this evening, Reuters' correspondent says: "The situation is now clearer than at any time since the beginning of the offensive. The enemy, arrested in its course, has abandoned marching straight up to objectives, and breaking down resistance by overwhelming numbers. He is now striking at estimated weak spots in order to drive us back as far as possible before he himself is brought to a standstill. This the enemy drive down the Oise Valley is finally arrested. Attempts to cross the Oise farther north failed, and the bridges are now destroyed. The village of Pont Requet, below Noyon has been recaptured and the enemy driven from the heights above Sures, northwest of Noyon.

"The enemy's capture of Mont Didier was just too late for him to profit by it, as French forces were able to engage the Germans to a standstill, thus nullifying their efforts to pierce the junction of the Anglo-French armies. The hinge between the English and French armies will never be broken, as the junction is now covered by French forces strong enough to meet all eventualities.

"Eighty-seven enemy divisions have been identified on fifty miles of battle front, comprising the pick of the German troops. The French steadily engaged three German divisions, the famous Brandenburgers, and some of the best Bavarian divisions. Before the offensive the Germans had 109 divisions in line on the British front, and seventy-six divisions in reserve. The enemy, therefore, has already engaged more than the whole of the reserves in France in the present battle, and has also denuded certain sectors of his best troops. To replace the wastage the enemy possesses about twenty divisions, and conceivably forty of inferior material, useful for filling gaps but not for winning battles.

Describing the fierce fighting at the Anglo-French junction the correspondent says: "French troops were brought up on the 22nd in motor lorries, and thrown in without artillery support. Successive enemy thrusts necessitated fresh reinforcements, and troops were thrown northwards on the 23rd in order to maintain the liaison with the British right."

"French cavalry on the 25th were also thrown in for that purpose, and there were moments when the French were hard put to it to foil the German thrusts. "A French officer, paying tribute to the British troops, described how the Germans crossed the canal at Jussey at a twentieth attempt, the canal being choked with German dead."

IN WALL STREET.
New York, Mar. 30—(Wall Street)—Trading was extremely dull at the opening of today's stock market, with minor fractional changes. Steels were lower, while rails and coppers hardened.

LENT OVER.
This is the last day of the Lenten season. Under Catholic church regulations this year the season ended at noon today, Holy Saturday.

SLACKENING OF COMBAT

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 30—For a brief space the tides of conflict have slackened, but any moment they may set in again. When the Germans have brought forward their artillery and overhauled their fighting machines the struggle undoubtedly will be renewed, perhaps with greater ferocity than before.

Yesterday afternoon the enemy had a small success south of the Luce river, on the British right flank. Strong German forces, attacking there, captured Mezieres and also Maison Blanche, north of that village. The British organized a counter-attack immediately and pushed forward determinedly against the invaders.

PRESSED BACK A BIT MORE

London, Mar. 30—The Germans, attacking yesterday at Demain and Mezieres, pressed back the British from Mezieres. The war office so announces. All the enemy's attempts to capture Demain broke down after sharp fighting which lasted throughout the afternoon. The statement follows:—"North of the Somme only local actions have taken place. South of the Somme the enemy's attacks yesterday at Demain and Mezieres succeeded in pressing back our troops from the latter village. We secured prisoners in our counter-attacks. At Demain all the enemy's important attempts to capture the village broke down after sharp fighting which lasted throughout the afternoon."

"During the last week our cavalry have fought with great gallantry, both mounted and dismounted, and repelled the enemy, inflicting heavy losses on him in numerous engagements."

RETARDED BUT NOT FULLY ARRESTED

London, Mar. 30—The heavy continued pressure of the enemy's covering movement has brought the Germans to within about twelve miles of Amiens. The British line is now west of Marcel Caves and Demain, but despite this the situation is still regarded as hopeful. While the enemy advance has not been arrested, it certainly has been retarded.

The explanation for the movement on Arras, according to French critics, is that the Germans felt that the shape of the salient driven into the British line exposed them to flank counter-attacks and they extended their offensive toward Arras. However, although the enemy achieved some local successes, including the capture of a British battalion which fought courageously until surrounded, the attempt to capture Arras failed.

French military authorities feel very hopeful over their success in halting the enemy design to drive down the valley of the Oise, and declare that the German attempt to break through at the junction of the British and French armies in the Mount Didier region also was a failure.

STILL SERIOUS BUT CONFIDENCE GROWS.
London, Mar. 30—Although the London newspapers regard the situation on the western front as still serious, there is noticeable a tone of greater confidence in their discussion of the battle now in its tenth day. The Daily Mail devotes particular attention to the fighting in the direction of Amiens, which it regards as the most important. It says: "Until Mount Didier is recovered and the Germans are beaten back from recent positions east of Amiens the situation remains serious. French reserves continually are arriving and entering the battle, but as yet the German advance cannot be said to have been stopped."

The Daily Graphic believes that today's news is distinctly encouraging, while the Daily Telegraph says: "The week ends fairly well. It has been the most breathless and anxious time for the Allies since the opening days of the war, but the enemy has been slowed up and every day that passes strengthens our confidence the more."

HAIG FULLY IN FAVOR OF FOOT AS GENERALISSIMO.
London, Mar. 30—The French and British governments, according to the Morning Post, have decided to appoint General Foch commander of the Allied armies on the western front during the present offensive.

The step was taken, the paper says, to obviate the difficulties due to the mixing up of British and French troops on various parts of the line. The Post adds: "For some time past one of our armies has been placed under the command of a French general in order to secure complete coordination of effort."

TURKS PLAN INVASION OF THE CRIMEA

London, Mar. 30—A telegram from Copenhagen reports that an official statement issued by the Turkish authorities announces that Turkey is preparing an expedition to restore order in Crimea.

Turkish newspapers have recently been asserting that on the basis of the right of self-determination, Crimea should be bound to Turkey.

STEEL SHIPBUILDING OUTLOOK IN ST. JOHN

S. E. Elkin, M. P., Says Contract Coming If Local Company Can Handle the Work

The establishment of the steel shipbuilding industry at St. John, as well as in other places, has been made possible by the contract which the federal government has made with the steel plant at Sydney for an output of steel plates sufficient to meet the requirements for five years.

S. E. Elkin, M. P., who returned yesterday from Ottawa, said today that St. John will be one of the places where government contracts for steel vessels will be placed, provided it can be shown that a local company can handle the work. There has been some talk of two companies commencing operations here but Mr. Elkin said he did not consider it at all likely that a contract would be given to more than one company at this port.

JAPAN AND SIBERIA.
London, Mar. 29—Premier Terauchi and Foreign Minister Motono of Japan, according to a Daily Mail dispatch from Tokyo, dated yesterday, have announced that Japan is friendly to the Bolshevik government and sees no reason at present for armed intervention in Siberia.

ON SAD MISSION.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Willard Smith are to leave today for Fredericton, called there owing to the death of Mrs. Smith's sister, Miss Annie Hanson, which occurred yesterday in the Victoria Hospital. Her funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at Nashwaak.

Dog-Tired British, Sent To New Attack, Go At It Singing Tipperary And Score A Splendid Success

London, Mar. 29—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—Late this evening Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters telegraphed:—"On the whole British front, from Albert to the Ancre to the Somme at Sailly-le-Sec, and thence southward to where we join the French above Mont Didier, our line has held magnificently throughout the day.

At one point only, where the Germans got across the river in force, about Cauchy, this taking our troops in the rear in the neighborhood of Breuvart-Brebecourt, we fell back. But that retirement was a gallant and conspicuously well conducted operation. One man was taken in the rear before they knew it and in the disordered area there were guns to be withdrawn. Both infantry and guns faced round, and for a time the field guns were fired with open sights, while the infantry, charging in the most dashy manner, succeeded in driving back to the river bank an enemy far outnumbering themselves, while all the guns were being withdrawn. Then this section of the line was swung back to new positions by Hamel-Lemotte, before they knew it, and in the disordered area there was sharp fighting at La-motte since it was proceeding this afternoon west of Gillancourt, where the Germans are reported in great strength.

"As an evidence of the spirit of the British troops, some of the most tired of them, after terrible fighting for three days, were ordered to make a new attack, which was a serious job for fresh troops twice their number. They attacked singing Tipperary, and scored a splendid success."

FIVE CANDIDATES PERHAPS MORE

There will be at least five and possibly more candidates for the two vacancies among the city commissioners to be elected this evening. The candidates will be received until noon Monday and until that time has passed it will be impossible to tell whether there will be any last minute surprises.

Mayor Hayes' nomination papers have been filed by James V. Russell, present commissioner of harbors and ferries; E. J. Bollock, a former alderman, and mayor, and John H. Thornton, who is making his first appearance as a candidate. J. H. Frink, who has served the city as mayor and alderman both under the aboriginal and commission forms of government, will file his papers for nomination as commissioner on Monday. E. J. Bollock, a new man in the election field, has completed his papers and will file them on Monday.

Nomination papers for R. W. Wigmore, M. P., and at present commissioner of water and sewerage, have been circulated, but Mr. Wigmore has not yet announced whether he will accept the nomination. Mayor Hayes' nomination has been filed, and at present it appears that he will have no opposition in seeking a second term.

Under the recent amendment to the local election act, soldiers who are bona fide residents of St. John may have their names added to the voters' lists by application to the common clerk at city hall up to Monday evening.

The other amendment put through the legislature on Thursday gives the council the right to take a plebiscite by adding any question or questions they may wish to the election ballot. It is probable that advantage will be taken of this provision to secure an expression of opinion on the proposal to put the harbor in commission.

SPECIAL SERVICES ENDED.
Three weeks of special services were brought to a close in Portland Methodist church last evening. The pastor, Rev. Neil J. McLaughlin, delivered an eloquent sermon on the Crucifixion. Appropriate hymns were sung by the choir. The special services were considered a success, large numbers attending the devotional exercises.

WEATHER REPORT
Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturges, meteorological service

NICE AND FINE ON EASTER SUNDAY
Synopsis—Fair and mild weather prevails over the Dominion.
Forecasts
Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Fair and very mild today and on Sunday.
Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Fair and mild today and on Sunday.
Maritime—Moderate west to southwest winds, fine and milder today and on Sunday.
New England—Fair tonight; Sunday partly cloudy; warmer in the interior; moderate winds, mostly southwest.

Attacks Near Arras Failed

Quebec, Mar. 30—While Mayor Lavigne says that he did not read the riot act last evening in a new outbreak in which the premises of the Chronicle, L'Evenement and of the military service registrar at the auditorium annex were looted and the latter practically destroyed by fire, the population today is treated to the unusual spectacle of armed soldiers patrolling the streets and guarding the various newspaper offices and military offices.

QUEBEC POLICE ARE CRITICIZED

Ottawa Government Takes Up Matter With Mayor

WITNESS HAVE PRETTY FREE REIN

Quebec, Mar. 30—That the delegates of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, who had held their conference with Sir Robert Borden and several of his colleagues yesterday, regret inability of the government to meet their views in regard to enemy aliens, is indicated in a statement given out here last night. The statement, which covers the proposals made in regard to this matter, and a resolution expressing regret that the government was unable to accept them, says in part:

"We regret you cannot see your way to adopting any measures by which these people shall bear their fair and proper proportion of the burden of this war, as suggested by us, to you and your cabinet; the reason being, as you stated to us, that organized labor is opposed to any such action.

"Therefore, before dispersing for our own respective districts throughout Canada, we respectfully point out to you that such decision of our union government, elected, as it was, with a majority of seventy members, by the soldiers vote, the soldiers' women vote, and the patriotic people of this dominion, will be regarded as the greatest disappointment and with consequences to our communities and districts where such aliens are in undue numbers which we view with the utmost gravity."

The statement sets forth in conclusion that in the opinion of the delegates the government has been made to realize the danger presented by the alien and is seriously considering taking immediate action.

RED GUARDS BEATEN
London, Mar. 30—Finnish Red Guards have been defeated at Tammerfors north of Helsinki, by the government forces, according to a Reuters dispatch from Petrograd. The rebels are said to have lost 10,000 prisoners and twenty-one guns.

Dutch Grain Supply.
Amsterdam, Mar. 30—It is estimated officially that the supply of cereals in Holland is sufficient to supply the demand for about five months longer.

CANADIAN GUNS THUNDER ALL NIGHT

Ten Hours Terrific Bombardment of German Positions On Whole Front North of Hill 70

(By W. A. Willison, Correspondent of The Canadian Press.)
Canadian Army Headquarters, Mar. 30—From early last night until 6 this morning the noise of guns has been persistent upon the whole front from the south to Hill 70 in the north. Steadily for more than ten hours our heaviest field guns, trench mortars and machine guns maintained their fire on thousands of yards of front against the enemy trenches, support and assembly areas, communications and strong points. At 11 o'clock and again at 5:30 our artillery fire increased to battle intensity, the enemy assembly, concentration areas and communication roads being raked with creeping barrages. The intensity and duration of the fire was such that no enemy attack developed north of Oppy.

EXPECT DAYLIGHT SAVING TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CANADA BY APRIL 15

Ottawa, Mar. 30—The inconvenience at the border in connection with the train services due to the bringing of daylight saving into force in the United States on March 31, will, it is expected, continue for two weeks only. As soon as parliament reassembles, the daylight saving bill, which is now in committee stage, will be pressed to a third reading. When the senate resumes on April 8 this will be the first important government measure to be dealt with. It is anticipated that the bill will be through both houses and be assented to in time for daylight saving to become effective in Canada by Monday, April 15.

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