

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

The News

VOL. LIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1915

NO. 86.

NEW GERMAN DRIVE NORTH OF WARSAW GAINS MOMENTUM; BRITISH LEADER REPORTS CAPTURE OF TWO TURKISH LINES

PRZASNYSZ IN HANDS OF GERMANS

Von Hindenburg Suddenly Assumes Offensive and Launches New Drive North of Warsaw

Russians Obligated to Concentrate on Defence of Lines From Baltic to West of Warsaw—Little Change in Argonne Despite German Claims—Allied Victory at Dardanelles.

London, July 15, 10.50 p.m.—Abandoning for the moment their attempt to outflank Warsaw from the south the Germans, probably under Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, who is reported to have said a few days ago that he would shortly astonish the world, have renewed their attack on the Polish capital from the north.

They have not only captured a large number of prisoners south of Kalno, according to the report issued by Berlin today, but have occupied Przasnysz, a fortified town fifty miles north of Warsaw, which was taken by Von Hindenburg in his great drive from East Prussia last winter but was re-taken by the Russians in their counter-offensive.

This claim is partly confirmed by the Russian official report issued yesterday which stated that the Russians in the face of strong German forces withdrew to their second line of entrenchments.

This move on the part of the Germans has taken the military critics completely by surprise. It was generally supposed that Gen. Von Mackensen would, after being reinforced, continue his effort to reach the Lublin-Cholm railway thus forcing the evacuation of Warsaw. But as in all their operations the Germans have done the unexpected. The new offensive will probably be general and extend from the Baltic around the East Prussian border to the Vistula, west of Warsaw for all the Russian troops in this section but be kept busy to prevent them from concentrating at the point where the Germans hope to break through.

This is the second time Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has tried this. His last effort, while it freed East Prussia of the Russians, cost the Germans an immense number of men and very nearly involved them in disaster, owing to the muddy condition of the ground. Now, however, there are only bad roads or lack of roads to contend with, but it is possible that the Germans have built railways to their northern front, as they have done in Central Poland.

NO MARKED CHANGE ON ARGONNE

In France, the Argonne continues to be the scene of the hardest fighting, but of the operations here as elsewhere in the west the official accounts are a contradictory as usual. At any rate no great movement had been undertaken and no change in the line that could be recognized on an ordinary map has occurred.

Confirmation was received tonight from General Sir Ian Hamilton of the success which for some days the Allies were reported to have achieved on the Gallipoli peninsula. According to this report two lines of Turkish trenches were captured, together with 400 prisoners. The Turks, on the other hand, claimed to have repulsed the Allies' attacks.

As anticipated progress against the Turks is very slow owing to the natural and strongly fortified positions which they hold. But British military authorities express satisfaction at the gain of an occasional line of trenches, relying on breaking the morale of the Turks and on the exhaustion of their supply of ammunition. Germany's eagerness to have Roumania allow the passage of ammunition through that country to Turkey is taken to mean that the supply is running short.

TWO GERMAN ATTACKS REPULSED

Paris, July 15, 10.30 p.m.—The following official statement was issued by the war office tonight:

"The day has been relatively calm. In the Argonne there was a struggle with hand bombs and petards in the region of Marie Therese. Two German attacks against Haute Chevauchee and Bourcelles were repulsed.

"There is nothing to report on the rest of the front except artillery actions, notably in the region to the north of Arras, in the sector of Quenneviers, on the right bank of the Aisne, near Troyon, on the heights of the Meuse, around the trench of Calonne, and in the Vosges, near Wissembach.

"In the Dardanelles, July 12-13, the expeditionary corps of the Orient and the right wing of the British troops attacked the Turkish positions, and carried several lines of works. A first line was occupied along the whole of that front on the morning of July 12, and a second towards the close of day through a magnificent charge of the Zouaves and the Foreign Legion.

"The following day further progress was made at several positions and the lower valley of Kereves was occupied. We captured more than 200 prisoners, and our allies 150. The losses of the enemy, surprised frequently in massed formation by the artillery, were extremely heavy.

"The warships co-operated efficaciously, shelling Achil Baba and the Asiatic coast."

Germans Capture Przasnysz.

Berlin, July 15, via London, 9.38 p.m.—Przasnysz, a town of Russian Poland, 50 miles north of Warsaw, has been captured by the German forces, according to the official statement given out today by the German army headquarters staff.

The Germans also announce that they have captured the village of Komawa, to the south of Kolno, and have stormed the heights of Olszauka, to the northeast of Suwalki.

The text of the statement follows: "In the western theatre: In South Flanders, not far from Yperghaste, we blew up a number of mines yesterday with good results.

"In the neighborhood of Souchez the trench attacked in several places in some cases with strong forces. They were everywhere repulsed.

"Northeast of Beausjour, in the Champagne district, an enemy hand-to-hand attack could not be carried out on account of our mining operations.

"The French made repeated attempts yesterday which lasted into the night, to recapture the positions we took from them in the forest of Argonne. Notwithstanding the employment of large quantities of ammunition, and of strong forces recently brought up, all their attacks broke down. In many places there was bitter fighting with hand-grenades and encounters at close quarters.

"The enemy paid for his unsuccessful efforts with extraordinarily heavy losses. The number of French prisoners has been increased to 68 officers and 9,688 men.

"The success of our troops was all the more remarkable, as, according to corresponding statements made by prisoners, the French had prepared for a great attack against our positions on the Argonne front on July 15, their national festival day. To the east of this zone of fighting activity was more lively yesterday.

"In the forest of Malmequer attempts of the enemy to make an attack were frustrated by our fire. In the forest of Le Pretre a French advance broke down in front of our position with heavy losses.

"A French aeroplane near Souchez was hit and descended behind the enemy lines in a burning condition. A second aeroplane was shot down at Henin-Letard.

"In the eastern theatre: "In the course of minor fighting on the Wisnau, below Koltary, 425 Russians were taken prisoners. South of the Niemen river, in the neighborhood of Kalwary, our troops captured several Russian outposts at Frankiskowa and Osowa and maintained them against three counter-attacks.

"To the northeast of Suwalki the heights of Olszauka were taken by storm.

"South of Kolno we captured the village of Komawa and the enemy positions east of this village and south of the Tartak line. Two thousand four hundred prisoners and eight machine guns fell into our hands.

"Battles in the neighborhood of Przasnysz are being continued. Several enemy lines were captured by our troops and the city of Przasnysz, for which we were fighting hotly in the last days of February and which was strongly fortified by the Russians, have been occupied by our troops.

"In the southeastern theatre the situation generally is the same."

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION COMES OF CAPTURE OF TWO TURKISH DEFENCE LINES

London, July 15, 8.10 p.m.—Two strongly held Turkish lines defending the Dardanelles have been captured by the Anglo-French forces on the Gallipoli peninsula, according to an announcement given out this evening by the British official press bureau.

The announcement is as follows: "General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander of the allied forces at the Dardanelles, reports that on the 12th instant the forces under him made an attack at daylight with their right and centre. After heavy and confused fighting, lasting all day, the troops engaged, including a French corps, succeeded in carrying two strongly held and strongly fortified lines of Turkish trenches opposed to them, the ground covered by the advance varying in depth from 200 to 400 yards.

"The second phase of the operation was then undertaken, and the right section of the enemy's lines was attacked. As in the former phase the first line of trenches was easily carried, a preliminary bombardment having been very successful. Following up this success, our troops took the second line of trenches, capturing some eighty prisoners, and by nightfall the line was consolidated some 400 yards in advance of our original position.

"In this part of the field, in the course of the night of July 12-13, two counter attacks were successfully repulsed. During the hours of darkness, however, it was found that the British right had pressed too far, and the Turks made a successful bomb attack and captured a section of the trenches.

"This position being vital to the safety of life a further attack was organized, and a brigade of the Royal Naval division, supported by French artillery, was sent forward, and with the support of 75's retook the trenches. In the meantime, the French had pushed their extreme right down to the mouth of the River Kereves Dere, where it runs into the sea. This position was maintained without difficulty.

"During the night of July 13-14, as on the previous night, the enemy counter attacked, but without success. "Thus, in these successful operations, the whole of the original objective of the attack was attained, except on one small portion of about 300 yards, which still remains in the hands of the Turks.

"Four hundred and twenty-two prisoners were captured, of whom 200 were taken by the French in the first attack."

NOTE A FEELER FOR MEDIATION?

Count Bernstorff to Tell U. S. Secretary of State That Germany Desires Discussion With Great Britain Over Rights of Neutrals on Seas—Answer to Austrian Note May Be Delayed.

Washington, July 15.—Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, will present to Secretary Lansing tomorrow an official German statement, which, it is placed on a statement given out by the Overseas News Agency, an official agency in Berlin yesterday. They declared the statement should have had the sanction of the German government. It recited the number of British, Russian, French and Belgian ships sunk during the war, and added this comment: "The loss of human life was remarkably small, the submarines using every precaution and giving ample warning and time for crews to leave their ships, if no resistance were attempted."

Count Bernstorff is confident that his government emphasized in the last note its willingness to work "hand in hand" with the American government for the establishment of the freedom of the seas principle, with the express purpose of entering into negotiations now on the entire question of maritime warfare. He sent the suggestion through Dr. Meyer-Gerhardt, that the note should contain such an intimation. Having followed his suggestions the ambassador is sure his government will accept a tender of good offices for the mediation of the dispute. This would involve an acceptance by Great Britain of the services of the United States as mediator to bring about the termination of the British reprisal—the order-in-council—as well as Germany's submarine attacks upon merchantmen.

Officials of the American government in the last few days have heard the reports concerning possible mediation of the question, but have always indicated that negotiations along such lines could be begun only if there were assurances that the German submarine commanders would be guided by the principles for which the United States is contending—that Americans on belligerent ships which are unarmed and do not resist capture be held unharmed. In official German quarters here, emphasis is placed on a statement given out by the Overseas News Agency, an official agency in Berlin yesterday. They declared the statement should have had the sanction of the German government. It recited the number of British, Russian, French and Belgian ships sunk during the war, and added this comment: "The loss of human life was remarkably small, the submarines using every precaution and giving ample warning and time for crews to leave their ships, if no resistance were attempted."

Washington, July 15.—The United States probably will send within another fortnight a reply to the note recently received from the Austro-Hungarian government, which contended that the extensive shipments of war supplies from this country to the Allies was "not in consonance with the definition of neutrality."

Unofficially word came today that Turkey would follow Germany and Austria in making representations on this subject, and should a note from the Ottoman government arrive officials would delay the sending of their answer so as simultaneously to inform the Germanic allies of the unalterable view of the United States on arms shipments.

Details of the American answer have not been divulged, but it is understood that the United States will not only cite its rights under international law, but will recall precedents in previous wars in which Germany and Austria have been interested in which importations of arms were carried on in extensive proportions.

FOOD IN GERMANY PLENTIFUL; 7,000,000 NEEDED IN BELGIUM

French Socialists IN SYMPATHY WITH CAUSE OF ALLIES

Paris, July 15.—The National Congress of the Socialist party of France, at which all the Socialist members of the cabinet were present, today unanimously adopted extended resolutions which expressed the confidence of the party in the "unshaken confidence of the food supply in Germany shows no shortage, present or prospective, that in Serbia, where there is much destitution, there is considerable food shortage, but conditions are improving and the situation is encouraging generally throughout the war area.

"In Belgium," said Mr. Bicknell, "every man, woman and child of 7,000,000 has to be fed from supplies brought in from other countries. About 1,500,000 are unable to buy their supplies but all others buy them, under a systematic rationing of distribution at low prices."

Washington, July 15.—Ernest P. Bicknell, national director of the American Red Cross, who has been directing the Rockefeller Foundation activities throughout the European war zone and returned here today, says a German inventory of the food supply in Germany shows no shortage, present or prospective, that in Serbia, where there is much destitution, there is considerable food shortage, but conditions are improving and the situation is encouraging generally throughout the war area.

"In Belgium," said Mr. Bicknell, "every man, woman and child of 7,000,000 has to be fed from supplies brought in from other countries. About 1,500,000 are unable to buy their supplies but all others buy them, under a systematic rationing of distribution at low prices."

St. Thomas, Ont., July 15.—The bog cholera outbreak in Elgin county is assuming alarming proportions, despite the putting forth of every effort on the part of the department of agriculture to stamp out the dread disease. The epidemic has now spread to Delaware township, seventy bog being killed on one farm there today by order of government inspectors.

Winnipeg, July 15.—Judge Prendergast this morning dismissed the application of Edward Anderson, K. C., counsel for Thomas Kelly & Sons, for an injunction to restrain the Maternity Commission from compelling the attendance of Thomas Kelly before the Royal Commission to give evidence in regard to the construction of the new parliament buildings and to produce documents. The case will be appealed.

Washington, July 15.—Denial of published reports that a German submarine used the American bark Normandy as a screen from which to sink the Russian steamer Leo was called by the state department today by the United States consul at Liverpool. The captain of the Normandy specifically denied the report. The bark was stopped by the submarine but allowed to proceed with some of the Leo's crew.

London, July 15.—Colonel J. J. Creelman, of Montreal, who was a victim of the Ypres attack at the end of April, and who has recently passed the medical board, is returning to the front tomorrow.

Major Hamilton Gault, of the Princess Patricia's, has been discharged from the hospital, and has gone with Mrs. Gault for a few weeks' rest in Somerset.

MINERS OUT BUT NATION HOPEFUL

Vote to Refuse Work Stood 180 to 113, But Settlement is Looked For

Admiralty at Once Takes Over Reserve Coal Supply—Hon. Mr. Runciman to Meet Delegates in London Today—Germany Faces Serious Labor Troubles at Krupp Works.

SOME RETURNING TO WORK.

London, July 15, 11.20 p.m.—Some of the miners of the western district of South Wales have agreed to resume work tomorrow.

London, July 15, 10.45 p.m.—With the exception of two small collieries in the Rhondda district, employing about 800 men, all the coal mines in South Wales, from which comes the coal for the navy, were idle today, the miners, despite the action of the government in bringing the industry under the Munitions of War Act, and the entreaties of the responsible labor leaders and their own executive council, decided by a vote of 180 to 113, not to accept the recommendations to continue work day by day until an arrangement could be concluded.

The delegates voting for the strike represented 88,950 men and those against the strike 41,500. Thus, although opinion is divided, the extremists are in the large majority. The conference, however, agreed to meet the president of the Board of Trade, Walter Runciman, tomorrow to discuss the situation.

General business on the Cardiff Coal Exchange has ceased, owing to the government requisition for all available coal supplies, while shipping and the railways which depend on the mines also had little to do today. There is a general impression, however, that the strike will not last long, but that the men, after a short holiday, perhaps over the week-end, will return to work.

All the responsible labor leaders of the country are opposed to the strike, and while it is hard to see how the government can enforce the penalties of the Munitions Act it is believed the men will be influenced by the fact that they are opposing an act which was passed for the safety of the country.

The strike has been forced by the men of the Aberdare Valley who are strong syndicalists and who have declared that the present was a good time to force the government to take over the mines. This policy has been advocated by the Independent Labor party, which is more extreme than the regular Labor party, and one of the leaders of which is J. Ken Hardie.

Asked in the house of commons today what steps, if any, had been taken to suppress the organs of the Independent Labor party, Premier Asquith replied that the question of increasing the power conferred by the Defense of the Realm Act was being considered.

RESOLUTIONS ON HIDES EXPORT.

London, July 16, 1.43 a.m.—The government has placed restrictions on the exportation of hides, says the Calcutta correspondent of the Central News. Exportation of hides to Sweden, Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria has been prohibited, and to other central countries greatly restricted.

UNEMPLOYMENT DISAPPEARS.

London, July 15, 7.05 p.m.—Unemployment having virtually disappeared throughout the United Kingdom, Edwin Samuel Montague, financial secretary to the treasury, asked and was granted leave in the house of commons today to withdraw the vote of £125,000 for works to be carried out in the relief of the unemployed.

Vote of 180 to 113.

London, July 15, 6.02 p.m.—A despatch from Cardiff to the Central News Agency says that the miners conference, by a vote of 180 to 113, decided not to accept the recommendations of the council to return to work.

Admiralty Takes Over Reserve.

Cardiff, July 15, 6.48 p.m.—The British Admiralty has taken over all the reserve supplies of coal.

Conference in London Today.

London, July 15.—Walter Runciman, president of the Board of Trade, today telegraphed to the conference of miners delegates in session at Cardiff, that he was prepared to meet the delegates in London tomorrow evening.

The presumption is that the purpose of the meeting is to resume negotiations looking to a settlement of the dispute, and the arrangement of the meeting is taken as confirming the impression that the prospects of an early peace in the coal strike are brightening.

Krupp Workers Threaten Violence.

Geneva, July 15, via Paris.—A report has reached Basel that a big strike is threatened at the Krupp works at Essen. Germany, the movement being headed by the Union of Metallurgical Workmen and the Association of Mechanics. They demand higher wages, because of the cost of living, and shorter hours because of the great strain under which they work, the report says.

The workmen, according to these advices, are in an angry mood and threaten the destruction of machinery unless their demands are granted immediately as they have been put off for three months with promises. Several high officials have arrived at the Krupp works in an effort to straighten out matters and calm the workmen, the advices add, and Bertha Krupp is expected to visit the plant and use her great influence with the workers.

The Frankfort Gazette, according to the news reaching Basel, has warned the administration of the Krupp plant of the seriousness of the situation, and has advised that the men's demands be granted. Meanwhile, the reports state, several regiments have been moved to the vicinity of the works in the event that trouble result in a strike.

Munitions Tribunal for Wales.

London, July 15, 7.50 p.m.—An official announcement made this evening says: "The minister of munitions has appointed a general munitions tribunal for Wales and Monmouthshire, as follows: Chairman, Robert Wallace, king's counsel; assessors, Sir Griffith Thomas, representative of the employers, and Councilor Griffiths, representative of the work people."

Cutting Down Cotton Trade.

London, July 15, 6.40 p.m.—The British government hopes very shortly to limit the export of cotton to neutral countries to the precise amount of actual need.

The Marquis of Crewe, lord president of the council and Liberal leader in the house of lords, made an announcement to this effect in the upper house this afternoon.

London, July 16, 8.05 a.m.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at British headquarters in France says: "The French are arming their troops with a short knife for use in trench warfare, thus replacing the bayonet, which, when fixed in the rifle, is too long a weapon to give a man free play in the narrow trenches."

PHILIP SAFE
PLYMOUTH WITH
MORE CANADIANS

London, July 10.—The White Star Northland with Canadian troops aboard, has arrived in Plymouth. The troops on board were the 1st University Company under George C. McDonald, going to serve in the Princess Patricia's. It included a number of men from the University, as well as graduates under graduates from Toronto, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary, Victoria, other Canadian universities.

A draft to reinforce the Canadian Artillery from the 27th battery, Lieut.-Colonel J. Bruce Payne, is now training at Valcartier, and drafts from New Brunswick and west.

Interest was created here by the despatch stating that in the Canadian troops which have reached Plymouth on the Northland are drafts from New Brunswick. This was at first thought to mean the draft that left the Battalion at Sussex but all that was on board the ship was the 1st arrived in England a week ago. A mistake had been made for it is known that any New Brunswick body, were on board the Northland.

Some New Brunswick men were in the 1st corps, however.

London, July 11.—Major-General Samuels, Canadian minister of militia, and members of his staff arrived at Liverpool yesterday afternoon, and reached London late last night. He was met at Liverpool by Lieut. Colonel Garfield, Lieut. Colonel McHughes and Lieut. Colonel McHughes.

Major-General Hughes, who is staying at the Savoy hotel, where Sir Sir Borden is also a guest, informed Montreal Gazette representative that he had enjoyed a pleasant voyage, that all were well.

Edward W. Sumner, the new representative in London of the province of New Brunswick, also arrived today.

London, July 9.—The North Atlantic liner Minneapolis, before reaching Halifax, had an explosion in her forward hold on Wednesday last, at Halifax this afternoon to disengage part of her cargo and to investigate the causes of the explosion. That as a bomb was responsible for it was admitted by Captain Claxton, of the Minneapolis, who stated it was against the rules of his company to talk for publication.

VENUE DISTRICT BAPTISTS HEAR CHEERY REPORTS

George, N.B., July 10.—The seventh district meeting of the United Baptist Church in annual meeting yesterday at the United Baptist church at St. George. The session opened at 2.30 p.m. Rev. W. R. Robinson as chairman, delegation, owing to the severe weather, was small.

After the organization of the session, reports were read from all the churches in the district except two—Castala and Pitt's Mills. These letters showed that in the year twenty-six churches had over \$28,000; that seventeen of the fifty-seven churches reported additions of one hundred and forty-nine were added, the membership about 8,000.

Delegates were present from eleven churches, viz., St. John, Fairview, St. George, Grand Bay, Second Falls, Beaver Brook, St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Baillie, and Harbor, Seal Cove and Massena.

The home mission board was reported by Rev. Dr. Hutchison and Rev. B. Ganong, of St. John.

The devotional exercises of the second day were conducted by Rev. A. F. Wilson, of Beaver Harbor.

The evening was devoted to missions. Hutchinson, of St. John, spoke on the missions. After speaking of the work of the home mission board, the speaker proceeded to explain the work of the superintendent would try that choice, the speaker proceeded to give reasons which justified home mission enterprises.

The second speaker was Rev. W. S. Ford, of St. Andrews, who for a number of years was a missionary in India, who said, the needs of India are almost—only seven per cent of India's literature—economic, social and spiritual. The millions of India have no true knowledge of God, sin or salvation.

During the afternoon delegates were seated from Fair Haven and Wilson's Cove. The choir of the local church rendered much help.

This morning dawned bright and clear, delegates arrived from St. George, Fair Haven, Wilson's Beach and North Road. The pastor of the entertaining church, W. H. Johnson, conducted a conference meeting.

At the opening of the business session the report of the district was extended to Revs. Drs. Harrison, Presbyterian, of St. George, and Edwin Crowl, of Fairview.

D. C. Clark gave the report of the auditing committee. The following statistics show briefly the condition of the district.

Of the twenty-seven churches twenty-three reported. These are as follows: St. George, Fair Haven, Wilson's Beach, North Road, St. George, Fair Haven, Wilson's Beach, North Road, St. George, Fair Haven, Wilson's Beach, North Road.

The total value of property reported \$109,600. These churches and Sunday schools report a total of \$28,064.21 raised. The Sunday schools have an enrollment of 2,789.

The report on obituaries was prepared by Rev. A. F. Brown and showed that five members churches had lost efficient members none of the pastors had been called to their eternal reward.

The report of the Sunday school was presented by Bro. A. A. Hovey, revealed an increase in the enrollment, the finances and the average attendance.

During the year two new pastors have been called in the district, Rev. A. C. Currier at Wilson's Beach, and Rev. McKay at Deer Island.

St. John's approximate population is 650. That is the best estimate that can be made and is based on the issue of the St. John City Directory by the publishers, the E. McCall company.