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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 12 1918

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BRITISH TAKE PRIZES NEAR EPEHY FRENCH WIN BATTLE AT LAFFAUX

BRITISH LINE NOW ADVANCED NEAR VERMAND

Successful Local Operation is Carried Out North of Epehy.

COUNTER BEATEN

Machine Gun Fire Repulses Attempts to Gain Gouzeaucourt Posts.

London, Sept. 11.—The British in local operations have further advanced their line north of Epehy and in the neighborhood of Vermand, west of St. Quentin, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication, issued tonight. The text of the communication follows: "We carried out a successful local operation early this morning north of Epehy, advancing our line in this locality and capturing a number of prisoners. Some progress has been made by our troops during the day on the southern portion of the battlefield in the neighborhood of Vermand. "An attack attempted by enemy troops against one of our posts west of Gouzeaucourt was repulsed by machine gun fire.

"Local fighting also has taken place northwest of Hulleuch and south of La Bassee Canal, as the result of which we captured a few prisoners and established posts in the enemy's former position. "The hostile artillery has developed considerable activity this evening in the Havrincoourt Wood sector."

SUBMARINE CAUGHT IN ATTACK ON SHIP

U-Boat Sunk Off Marseilles by French Trawler, Saving British Vessel.

Paris, Sept. 11.—The exploit of a French trawler, the Automne, which succeeded in destroying a submarine which was attacking a British steamer in the Mediterranean, is described in a despatch to The Mail from Toulon. The trawler was patrolling the Mediterranean when it received a wireless call from the British vessel which was attacking a British steamer in the Mediterranean, is described in a despatch to The Mail from Toulon.

STAND ON HINDENBURG LINE TO BE TEMPORARY

Germany Are Burning La Fere and Removing Everything From Douai and Aviation Centres.

Paris, Sept. 11.—That the Germans do not intend more than a temporary stand on the Hindenburg line is inferred from the fact that they are burning La Fere and are removing everything from the Douai arsenal and the aviation centres at La Brayelle and Lecelles, near St. Armand. The last named airbase is that from which the Gothas have flown to London.

ALL COUNTER-ATTACKS REPULSED BY FRENCH

Six Attempts to Reach Positions Near Laffaux Are Beaten Off. Paris, Sept. 11.—German counter-attacks around Laffaux were repulsed by the French today, according to the war office announcement tonight. The statement says: "A German counter-attack southeast of Roupuy (near St. Quentin) was repulsed. "In the region of Laffaux and Celles-sur-Aisne six enemy attempts to reach our positions were repulsed."

STATE-OWNED RAILWAY PLAN BEING HELD UP AT OTTAWA

Reorganization of C. N. R. and Consolidation of All Government Lines Will Not Take Place for Some Time.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Sept. 11.—The reorganization of the Canadian Northern, disincorporate with the proposed consolidation into one system, under one management, of all the state-owned railways of Canada will not take place for some time at least. No order-in-council to that effect has been passed; but various members of the government talked quite freely today on the subject. One of them, who is in a position to know, said that it would only be a short time until the government took over the Grand Trunk and the Grand Trunk Pacific railways. He, therefore, thought it would be best to wait until the Grand Trunk lines had been acquired, and then appoint a board to manage all the railways in possession of the government.

"If we appoint a board of directors now for the Canadian Northern," he said, "that board will have to be reorganized to some extent as soon as the Grand Trunk and the Grand Trunk Pacific are included in the national system of railways. It would, therefore, be better to make one of the three directors now in office, in regard to Mr. Hanna as a most competent official and have no doubt the result will be well marked with him in charge."

No Harm in Waiting. Another minister, in this view up to a certain point. He said that negotiations were now going on by cable with the Grand Trunk management, and he was hopeful that an agreement would be reached within a short time. He saw no harm in waiting, say for a month, if by that time the deal for acquisition of the Grand Trunk had not been consummated, the government should proceed to reorganize the Canadian Northern directorate and place under its control the National Transcontinental, the Intercolonial and all the other roads owned by the government.

Still another member of the government was even more guarded. He admitted that there would be some delay in appointing the new directors, but denied that the reorganization and consolidation of the government railways were to be postponed until the Grand Trunk lines were acquired. He said the delay was due to the fact that the government wanted to get the best available men to manage the national system. So much depended upon their selection that the greatest care should be exercised.

It seems to be understood that some change has occurred in the railway situation since the delivery of the prime minister's speech at the Toronto Exhibition. The Grand Trunk management since then has a disposition to reopen negotiations. The plan now is for the government to take over the Grand Trunk and pay an annual rental in perpetuity to the Grand Trunk Railway Company. The amount of this rental is a subject over which the negotiations are being conducted.

Some critics of the government are saying that all this is camouflage. They assert that influences are being brought to head off government ownership and operation. They point to the squabble over the chairmanship of the board which is dividing the government. Hon. Frank Cochrane says he was promised the chairmanship. There is also a sharp division of sentiment over the proposal to make the minister of railways and canals a member of the board. Some of his colleagues would personally prefer not to have any member of the government on the board, but will abide by the decision of his colleagues. One of his colleagues was quoted today as saying that while he had no objection to Dr. Mackenzie King being on the board, he would prefer to have a member of finance instead of the minister of railways should be the member of the government to serve on the board. B. B. Cahill, Liberal member for Pontiac, and railway critic for the opposition, is quoted as saying that the government should not have pursued a line of having a million dollar railway without having first decided how they were going to run it.

ALLIES MOVE ON DESPITE STORMS

French Gains Outflank St. Quentin and Threaten St. Gobain Massif.

MANY ENEMY RAIDS

Germany Try Hard to Find What Foch Will Do Next.

Paris, Sept. 11.—Bad weather continues over the battlefield, hampering the operations from Rheims to Ypres. Nevertheless the allies have kept moving in the teeth of the storm and despite the stiff German resistance, and today are at several points appreciably nearer the Hindenburg line. The French have made notably useful gains, as the result of which they outflank St. Quentin from the south and threaten the St. Gobain massif from the rear. Numerous raids are reported to have been made by the enemy in Champagne, the Argonne forest, the Woivre, Lorraine and Alsace, which indicates that he is trying extremely hard to find out what Marshal Foch is going to do next. It is evident that he realizes that Foch, with the ever-growing American reserves behind him, is able to strike at several points simultaneously, or in quick succession.

FRESH GERMAN TROOPS USED FOR DEFENSIVE

Hindenburg Line is Held by Men Who Have Not Appeared in Fighting So Far.

With the British Army in France, Sept. 11.—There are indications that when the retreating Germans reach the Hindenburg line they will pass through the same corps and divisions, to whom the defenses have been entrusted. In such tactics is found one of the principal reasons why the German "bobby" traps have been encountered. They had once been withdrawn because the men were temporarily exhausted. There is evidence that the Hindenburg line is already being manned by troops who have not appeared in the fighting so far.

GERMANS URGE BRITISH TO GO ON ATTACKING

Also to Take as Many Prisoners as Possible, and Thus End War Quickly.

London, Sept. 11.—The effect of the continuous fighting upon the German troops is plainly shown by the cases of prisoners from the second gas division. The men first captured from the regiment Franz were distinctly pleased during the fire intervals, and after further fighting prisoners have been taken from the regiment Alexander and regiment Augusta, who have not only exhibited the greatest pleasure at being captured, but actually urged the British to go on attacking and take as many Germans as possible so as to end the war quickly. Then as each fresh batch of prisoners arrived at the cages the Germans previously captured cheered the British success.

U. S. GETS TWO-THIRDS OF WORLD'S PIG TIN

Washington, Sept. 11.—Two-thirds of the pig tin supply of the world is to be received by the United States under a pooling arrangement made at a recent conference in London between representatives of this country, Great Britain, France and Italy. This was announced by the war industries board, which said that all shipments of pig tin and tin ores to this country would be consigned to the American Iron and Steel Institute, which will distribute it at regular prices. Quotations of pig tin already have fallen 140 a pound.

FORMER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA AND 4 DAUGHTERS MURDERED

AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS LAND AT ARCHANGEL TO ASSIST ALLIES

United States Soldiers to Participate in Campaign for Re-establishing Order in Northern Russia.

Washington, Sept. 11.—American troops have landed at Archangel to assist the other allied forces there in their campaign to re-establish order in northern Russia. This announcement was authorized tonight by General March, chief of staff. For military reasons, the number of soldiers landing was not revealed, nor was it made clear where they had embarked. It was assumed that the soldiers had been sent from English camps, where Americans are training.

MILK MEN WON'T PAY PRICE SET BY FARMERS

Refuse to Give More Than Amount Paid Last Winter for Eight-Gallon Cans.

Toronto milk dealers won't pay \$2.80 a can for milk. They so decided at a meeting held in Foresters' Hall last night, at which nearly every milkman in Toronto was present. All they will pay is \$2.50 a can, delivered, the same as they paid last winter.

FIVE LOSE LIVES IN HOTEL FIRE

More Dead Are Thought to Be in Ruins of Iroquois Falls Building.

BODIES RECOVERED

Two Are Children, and it is Believed Parents Perished in Attempt at Rescue.

Iroquois Falls, Sept. 11.—Five known dead and probably several others whose bodies are still in the ruins is the death list of a disastrous fire which entirely gutted the Iroquois Falls Hotel here early yesterday morning. The bodies of Frank Martin and James Lester, his wife and two young children, have been recovered, and gangs of citizens are searching the ruins for the remains of others whose bodies may be still there. The outbreak was discovered about 4:20, and the local fire brigade were soon on the scene. By this time all the guests had been aroused, and had made their escape, except Martin, who was thought to be out of town. Mr. and Mrs. Lester were among those who got out safely, but it is believed that they were attempting to save their children, who may have been overlooked, or some valuables. In any event they never returned.

TWO KILLED, ONE HURT AT BEAMSWIDE CAMP

Machines Collide and Occupants Are Burned to Death in Wreckage.

Beamside, Sept. 11.—Second Lieut. R. L. Jacks of Los Angeles, California, and Cadet James Bousfield of McGregor, Manitoba, were killed and Cadet F. Fuller, a passenger, was injured in an accident at the aviation camp at 11 o'clock this morning. The machines were a short distance in the air when they struck and fell to the ground in flames. The victims were so badly burned that identification was impossible until the list of cadets had been checked off. The R.A.F. first aid rushed to the scene of the accident, but could only render aid to Fuller, who was unconscious as the result of severe burns. How the collision occurred is a mystery, as there was no wind blowing and the air was clear.

LITTLE AIR WORK DONE.

Owing to Bad Weather British Machines Limit Activity to Reconnaissance.

London, Sept. 11.—The communication on aerial operations tonight says: "Owing to continued heavy rain, storms on Sept. 10, aerial observation was very difficult. In spite of a very high wind some work was accomplished during the fire intervals, which occurred from time to time. Several reconnaissances were carried out by our machines, and some photographs were taken. One of our airplanes failed to return."

FRENCH HARVEST CROPS IN RECOVERED REGIONS

Allies Have Already Reaped Thirty-five Thousand Acres.

Paris, Sept. 11.—The harvest in the evacuated regions along the Aisne, begun by the French armies on Sept. 3 is now almost completed, according to information furnished by Premier Clemenceau to the budget committee of the chamber. Two armies reaped 35,000 acres and there remain 6000 acres with crops still standing. More than 8000 men have been employed as well as 11,000 horses.

LATEST INSTRUMENT OF FRIGHTFULNESS

With the American Army in France, Sept. 11.—The latest instrument of German frightfulness in the way of gas is a small shell containing phosphorus and phosphagen. The shell is projected by a rifle. According to French investigators, the combination of pumice, stone with the gas greatly increases the length of time that the phosgene remains in the vicinity where the shell bursts.

TO RECORD OUTRAGES

Paris, Sept. 11.—The French Government has resolved to confide to an international committee on which all the entente powers will be represented, the task of authenticating all violations of the law of nations which the Germans have been guilty of on the western front, says The Echo de Paris.

Bolsheviks Attacked Late Emperor's Family and Killed Them All, But Dowager Empress is Safe.

London, Thursday, Sept. 12.—The Daily Express claims to have unquestionable information that the former empress of Russia and her four daughters have been murdered by Bolsheviki.

The paper prints the following: "The Express understands from a source which is beyond doubt that the empress of Russia and her four daughters have been murdered by Bolsheviki. The whole immediate family of the late czar has thus been exterminated."

It is further understood that the dowager empress, who with her daughter and son-in-law, the Duke of Oldenburg, has been staying at Yalta, was recently attacked by red guards, who sought to kill all three. Sailors of the Black Sea fleet intervened and fought the red guards.

A later despatch from London continued, until the red guards were beaten. It is now understood that the dowager empress is safe. "The four daughters of the former Emperor and Empress of Russia are: Grand Duchess Olga, born in 1895; Grand Duchess Tatiana, born in 1897; Grand Duchess Marie, born in 1899, and Grand Duchess Anastasia, born in 1901.

The former Empress Alexandra was born Princess Alix of Hesse, in 1872. Recent Rome advices reported that the Pope had taken steps to assist out of Russia the former empress and her four daughters, who had made pressing appeals for their liberation.

GERMANS DESTROY SOISSONS CHURCHES

Systematic Demolition of Architectural Masterpieces by Distant Gunfire Proceeds.

With the French Army in France, Sept. 11.—Since their defeat by General Mangin, the Germans have undertaken the destruction of the architectural masterpieces of Soissons. With the same method as they have previously employed in burning or blowing up every structure in the regions out of which they have been driven, they are proceeding with the demolition of churches and other edifices in this town, rich in specimens of the best work of the architects of the thirteenth century.

The cathedral of St. Gervais is now the principal target. Enormous breaches have been made in the splendid facade; the upper gallery is three-quarters destroyed, while the lower gallery has been wrecked. The statues fall one by one from the tower.

The ancient abbey of St. Jean-Vaast, in which Thomas a Becket spent several years, is also gradually crumbling. Both towers have been decapitated, while the facade has been pierced in many places; the vault of the facade has fallen in and the rich ornamentation of the left tower has disappeared, with the exception of the statues of two saints that remain facing the enemy.

GERMAN WOMEN SERVE AS MILITARY AVIATORS

American Airmen Discover Sex of Enemy Pilot Brought Down.

With the American Army in France, Sept. 11.—That the Germans are using women as military aviators is indicated in a report that in a machine recently brought down by the Americans the pilot, who was killed, was a woman.

The captain of the company of the 167th infantry says the pilot of a German plane brought down near Serzy, Aug. 28, by Lieut. Miller Thompson of the American air force, was a woman. The discoverer of the sex of the aviator was made, the German pilot, when his men saw the enemy pilot and her co-pilot.